

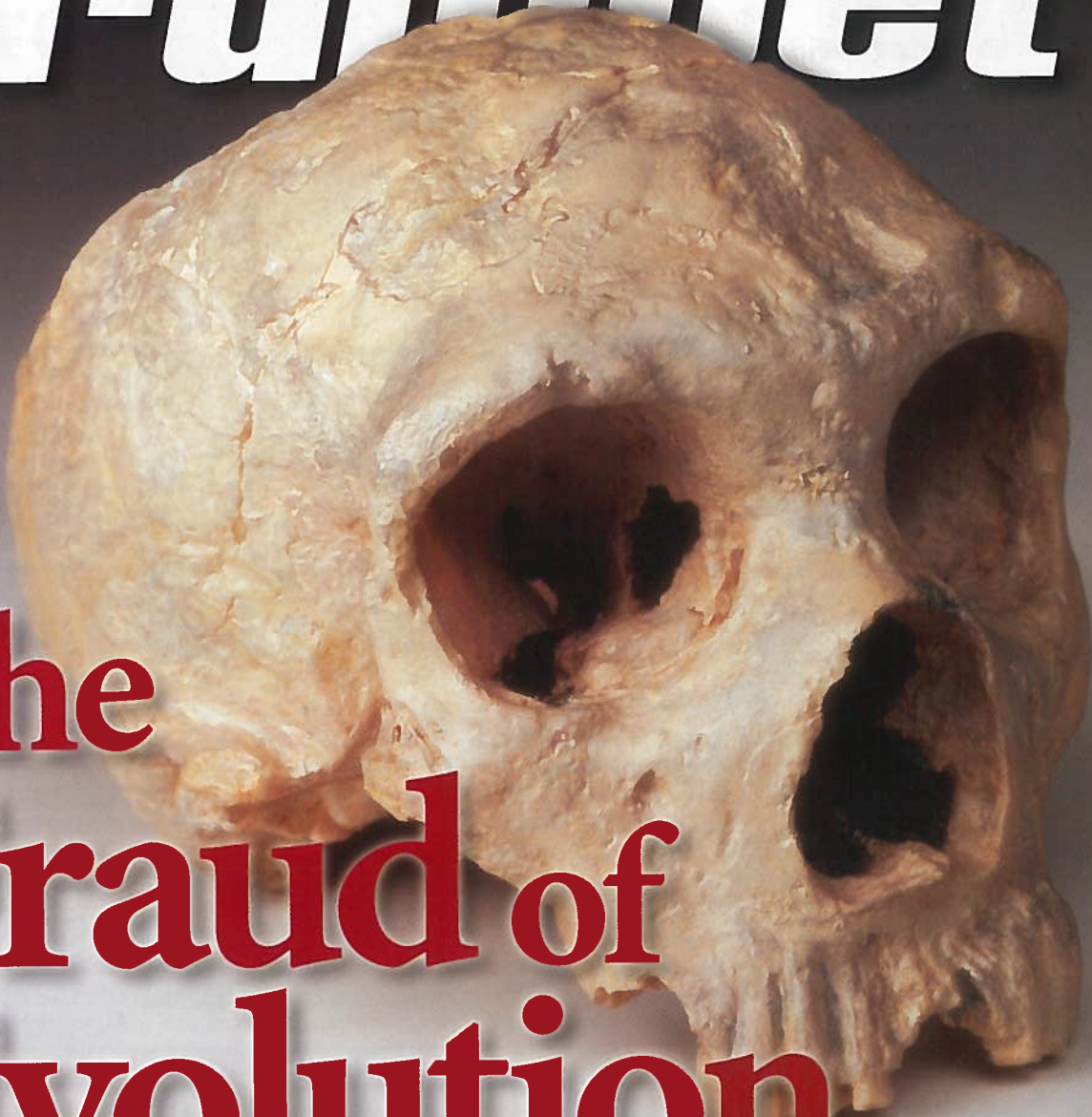
MARCH/APRIL 2002

ENRON'S DECEPTION

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The Philadelphia

Trumpet



The Fraud of Evolution

How science cheats at
proving its pet theory

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ON THE COVER: The skull of a Neanderthal, supposed predecessor of human beings. (Corbis)



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Churchill the Warrior

Winston Churchill had been a soldier for many years of his life. A warrior attitude was manifested in his political life also. He had the courage to withstand a most withering attack from his own people.

In the years leading up to World War II, everyone wanted to believe that Adolf Hitler was a man who could be reasoned with. Churchill knew that was a lie, and he committed himself to warning his nation in spite of the intense unpopularity of his message. Most leaders would have faltered in fulfilling that responsibility because of a weak will. The whole nation failed in this respect, because they followed their weak leaders. They (and America) lacked the courage to face the brutal truth in the early days of Hitler's reign.

Churchill warned, "Something quite extraordinary is afoot. ALL THE SIGNALS ARE SET FOR DANGER. THE RED LIGHTS FLASH THROUGH THE GLOOM. Let peaceful folk beware. It is a time to pay attention and to be well prepared" (Martin Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill—The Prophet of Truth*; emphasis mine throughout).

Such statements even made Churchill's own Conservative Party begin turning against him. "The House of Commons listened to him with what he later described as 'a patient air of skepticism.' There were frequent, angry interruptions, and his criticisms of [Prime Minister Neville] Chamberlain were widely resented by his fellow Conservative MPs. Bitterly he told them: 'YOU ARE CASTING AWAY REAL AND IMPORTANT MEANS OF SECURITY AND SURVIVAL FOR VAIN SHADOWS AND FOR EASE'" (ibid.).

The people wanted to continue in a peace-time atmosphere. Churchill tried to get them into an emergency posture, in tune with what Hitler was doing. Churchill served as an outstanding watchman for the whole Western world—though they hated the messenger and rejected the message!

In time, once Hitler's true character was manifest, Churchill was vindicated. The nation called upon him to lead them when the magnitude of the crisis became apparent.

Churchill was able to strengthen the will of the British nation through his strong warrior spirit. He believed that every British citizen should be willing to die, choking on his or her own blood, before surrendering to Hitler.

Some wanted Churchill to be the minister of defense. But he was not the kind of defense minister those in power were looking for. Shamefully, they wanted a weak figurehead.

"After today's debate," Sir Maurice Hankey wrote to Sir Warren Fisher, "I am afraid we have got to make some con-

cession for a minister of defense. What I want is something that will work and not upset the psychology of the whole machine.' Both Hankey and Warren Fisher—the two most senior civil servants, were determined that THE NEW MINISTER SHOULD NOT BE A DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE. 'THE MINISTER SHOULD BE A DISINTERESTED TYPE OF MAN,' Warren Fisher wrote to Neville Chamberlain on February 15, 'with no axe to grind or desire to make a place for himself'" (ibid.).

They wanted a minister of defense who would speak to

them of "smooth things"—one who would help perpetuate the grand delusion of continuing peace and prosperity. Certainly he must NOT be a man who would warn about a coming war. And he must have little interest in the military of Britain or Germany! Their idea of a defense minister was a man who would be easily controlled. In short, he must not be a leader!

But Churchill did not fit this description. As he said, "The responsibility of ministers to guarantee the safety of the country from day to day and from hour to hour is direct and inalienable."

Churchill feared that his people were slipping into a dangerous defeatist attitude. He warned them that, when dealing with a tyrant like Hitler, the only argument that counts is *force*.

Perhaps no leader has ever been more scorned by so many leaders and people as Churchill was in those pre-war years. But he was never deterred—never discouraged. He kept warning because he loved his nation and his people.

Where do we see a watchman like Churchill today? Where is there such a man who will stand up and challenge the whole government? And even the entire nation? Where is there a political leader who has the character to proclaim boldly to our people that they have degenerated into the sewer—at a time when the world is filled with unparalleled dangers?

I see no such leader in the U.S. or Britain.

And we are so childish that we are almost totally unaware of our lack of real leaders. We fail to see it as a curse from God! No great nation can survive without strong leadership. Childish leaders lack the will to face strong tyrants. Our will is broken in our leaders, exactly as God prophesied. When will we face the brutal truth about ourselves—and then repent?

Write for our free booklet *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman* for a more thorough examination of the lessons we need to learn from the life of this remarkable man.

◆ ENRON

THE STENCH



On a banner outside its Texas headquarters, Enron Corp. boasted to be “the world’s leading company”—just as America brags about being the world’s leading country. Things change. Is Enron’s sudden flameout a type of the prophesied economic collapse of America? BY J. TIM THOMPSON

LIKE A FORENSIC CORONER, THE WORLD is thoroughly dissecting the eviscerated bowels of Enron—once the world’s largest energy trading company and the darling of investors, analysts and business professors.

Last fall, an avalanche of bad news dramatically changed that glowing image. There were huge reductions in asset values due to failed investments; a gargantuan \$1.2 billion drop in the net worth of the company; a downward correction of earnings reported for the previous four years; and a crippling downgrade from credit-rating agencies which labeled Enron as no longer creditworthy.

In the largest and most spectacular corporate collapse in American history, Enron’s market value plummeted from \$80 billion to less than \$400 million—with its stock outrageously re-treating from a high of \$90.56 per share in August 2000 to a staggeringly low 26 cents on November 30, 2001. All that, amazingly enough, without any warning. Enron had never released even *one* bad quarterly report prior to its flaming disintegration.

The Stench of Deception

With Enron’s downfall, the world soon became aware of the disgraceful behind-the-scenes manipulations by senior Enron executives who were enriched by tens of millions of dollars they

should never have received, while lower-level employees and shareholders lost billions of dollars in retirement funds and investments. This debacle even led to the suicide of Enron’s former vice-chairman, J. Clifford Baxter, possibly associated with all the financial misdealings.

CASUALTY
The funeral
for Enron’s
Clifford Baxter

Examinations show that Enron intentionally lied about company profits, reporting earnings almost \$1 BILLION higher than actual earnings in order to deceptively pump up its share prices. As the financial autopsy continued, cover-ups and outright fraud began to come into murky focus. A mountain of “off balance sheet” hidden debt, some \$500 million, which, if revealed, could have discouraged Enron’s investors, was unearthed from the still-smoldering corporate grave.

Massive losses from undisclosed bad investments were brought to light which unveiled an incestuous web of secret special-purpose companies, unconsolidated affiliates and off-balance-sheet “partnerships.” Owned and operated by Enron’s upper executives who skimmed off enormous profits, the partnerships, affiliates and other partners in crime were designed from the start to obscure the parent corporation’s accounting and disguise its debt and losses.

Shamefully and purposefully, the partnerships were used to circumvent weak accounting rules in a Gordian knot of virtually unfathomable accounting procedures and unregulated investment instruments, solely intended to hide information from and confuse investors.

Executives at Enron clearly showed their criminal intent to deceive by almost single-handedly pushing legislation through Congress which *deregulat-*

ed an extremely risky and complex investment contract known as a *derivative*, which was later used to extreme advantage by Enron executives in their tangled web of deceit. The February 4 *Wall Street Journal* (wsj) stated (emphasis mine throughout), “In late 2000, Congress ex-

empted over-the-counter derivatives from nearly any regulation. *Enron led the massive lobbying effort on Capitol Hill* and, with the exemption, *escaped federal oversight of its trading activities.*”

Over-the-counter derivatives, so called because they are negotiated privately and not traded through regulated financial exchanges, are so complex that they are almost completely incomprehensible and opaque to the non-accounting world. The sheer complexity of derivative contracts can be so confusing that in December 2001, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued an 800-page manual offering guidance on how to report derivatives on various financial statements. After pushing the deregulation of derivatives through Congress, Enron was perfectly armed with the financial tools to deceive virtually the entire world.

What is equally amazing and dumbfounding is that all of this was done with the blessings and even assistance of Enron’s auditors, Arthur Anderson. It came to light later that Anderson even assisted in shredding the paper trail of the questionable accounting practices and the unethical and quite-probably ILLEGAL transactions and acts within the energy trading giant.

With ever-increasing arrogance, Enron’s top executives became confident that no one was looking over

H OF DECEPTION

their shoulders or understanding what they were doing, and so, behind closed doors and hidden behind the beautiful facade of "America's most innovative company" as they were lauded last year, the chambers of Enron's inner sanctum quickly filled to the full with the stench of deception.

America's Similar Fate

This same SUDDEN DESTRUCTION that was Enron's fate is actually facing America and the other nations of biblical Israel (Britain, Australia, Canada and others), according to the prophecies of your Bible. Economic disasters such as Enron will likely fuel the swift destruction. If you have not already received your free copy of the late Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, please request a copy so you may understand the biblical identities of today's nations and the prophecies that relate to them.

Isaiah 30:8-9, 12-13 foretell America's end-time disaster, which will be surrounded by perverse financial and economic dealings. Under God's inspiration, the Prophet Isaiah wrote (RSV), "And now, go, write it before them on a tablet, and inscribe it in a book, that it may be FOR THE TIME TO COME [the end time] as a witness for ever. For they are a *rebellious people, lying sons, sons who will not hear the instruction of the Lord*; Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, 'Because you despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and rely on them; therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a break in a high wall, bulging out, and *about to collapse*, whose crash comes SUDDENLY, in an INSTANT.'"

What is most frightening about the Enron debacle is the close parallel between Enron and the American government. Congress too is cooking the books through accounting devices which ignore long-term liabilities, such as Social Security and Medicare, while using those funds to falsely inflate revenue. Can we see how rich and powerful lawmakers are today STEAL-

ING those future retirement funds and setting up the "little man" for eventual *financial disaster*?

As reported in the WSJ of February 14, "Members of Congress are having a gay old time accusing Enron executives of 'economic terrorism' [but] the pot may want to consider the color of *its own financial books*. The little-known but scary truth is that the *federal government also disguises some of its liabilities, or simply leaves them off balance sheets altogether*. ... [I]n the long run this is LIKELY TO COST MORE AMERICANS MORE MONEY THAN ANYTHING ENRON DID."

It is easy to compare Enron's off-balance-sheet partnerships with U.S. government sponsored enterprises (GSEs)—federal debts and liabilities which are kept off the books. According to the Office of Management and Budget's 2001 report, THOSE OBLIGATIONS CURRENTLY STAND AT A NIGHTMARISH \$3.1 TRILLION.

The WSJ pointed out that former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling "could have used government 'surplus' mathematics as a model" for his scams at Enron. "For everyone else, a dollar spent to purchase a car cannot also be used to buy a sweater. The federal budget, however, ROUTINELY SPENDS THE SAME DOLLAR TWICE. Beltway accounting rules allow the exact same tax dollar simultaneously to reflect, say, a decrease in the deficit and an increase in the Social Security trust fund.

"This sort of double-counting may help keep up political appearances, but *it works only in theory* and ONLY FOR SO LONG. *Eventually, the government will find itself in an Enron-like situation*, with retirees thinking they have government-held assets—after all, that's what the balance sheets say—that turn out to be only political promises."

Enron is clearly a warning shot across the bow of America's ship of state to stop its financial perversity, along with all of its arrogance, greed, covetousness, deceit and financial chicanery.

Locked in Steerage

In the 1997 movie *Titanic*, one truly dramatic scene was when the ship's crew locked down the stairways to the lower decks of the doomed liner after it had been ripped open by an iceberg. Those lower-class, steerage passengers were prevented from coming up on deck where the lifeboats were being loaded with upper-class passengers, based on the rationale that the "expendable" steerage passengers could possibly take lifeboat seats away from the prominently important and moneyed passengers.

Such was also the case at Enron.

The January 16 WSJ reported, "Last fall, amid the growing news of financial woes at the energy-trading company, Enron officials 'locked down' the employee retirement-savings plan to make administrative changes. Although long planned, the lockdown was poorly timed: It prevented employees from moving out of Enron stock as its price continued to plummet.

"The recent disclosures that Enron Chairman Kenneth Lay and top aides were aware of significant troubles at the company two months before the lockdown—yet went ahead with it anyway—have magnified the wrath of employees who have lost millions [known now to be BILLIONS] of dollars in retirement savings."

As Enron's high-flying stock dove from its \$90 peak to less than \$1 per share, Tom Padgett, a lab technician at one of Enron's subsidiaries, breathlessly watched his retirement account balance plunge from \$650,000 to \$11,000 while he was "locked in steerage," unable to sell Enron's stock which comprised a majority of his retirement savings.

Wayne and Cathie Stevens worked for Enron-owned Portland General Electric. After Enron bought the company in 1997, they watched gleefully as their value in company stock tripled over the ensuing years and then, sadly, nose-dived from \$720,000 to \$2,300 almost overnight. They are now grappling with financial ruin.

Other financial horror stories abound. Steve Berman, an attorney representing several Enron workers, stated at a Senate hearing last December that "In two short months, Enron *snuffed out the future* that thousands of workers [an estimated 21,000] built over a lifetime. ... These people are not venture capitalists or high-rolling investors. These were lunch-pail people who worked hard, day-in and day-out for their entire lives" (<http://investor.cnet.com> tech news service, Dec. 18, 2001).

No Isolated Case

THOUGH IT HAS RECEIVED UNPRECEDENTED publicity, the Enron story is nothing new. As reported in *Fortune* magazine on January 7, "Lynn Turner, former chief accountant of the Securities and Exchange Commission, estimates that investors have lost more than \$100 billion because of financial fraud and the accompanying earnings restatements [in this case, downward corrections of lied-about revenue] since 1995."

Adam Lashinsky of *CNN/Money* wrote on February 4, "Silicon Valley firms have been playing the off-balance-sheet game for years. Long before Enron and off-balance-sheet accounting became part of the financial lexicon of average American investors, creative accounting was an accepted way of doing business in Silicon Valley. [T]echnology companies have long been willing to use accounting tactics to tell the stories they want told."

The February 11 *U.S. News & World Report* asked, "Are there other huge enterprises out there that could collapse overnight? Many think so. Klaus Schwab, founder of the phenomenally successful World Economic Forum, told *U.S. News* that, based on his soundings of the business elite, *there may be as many as 10 major corporations that could fall without warning.* ...

"[O]thers could implode like Enron, companies that have lied to investors and then, when the bubble burst, allowed top executives to walk away with millions while leaving employees and investors holding the bag.

"Our problem is that we can't tell one company from the other because *our system of safeguards has broken down.* We no longer have *reliable fraud protectors* to spot the liars in advance. Enron, after all, didn't slip under the radar screen because it went off course once or twice. It hid debt in hundreds if not thousands of sketchy partnerships undisclosed to shareholders and dodged taxes by creating nearly 900 overseas subsidiaries—692 in the Cayman Islands alone. And, it turns out, Enron wasn't alone in hiding its losses behind accounting gimmicks. In the gilded '90s, a good many other companies did the same thing, *and their books still aren't straight.* ...

"[C]ompanies like Enron are dangerous, too: *They rob our financial system of public trust, which has always been an essential part of its magic.* ...

"Like it or not, the government is the best instrument we have for protecting the public interest, and it is to government that we should turn now. Clearly the place to start is in stopping the *sewage of campaign money in politics.* ... [T]he record is plain that by flooding Washington with cash, Enron was able to create a 'regulatory black hole' so that regulators couldn't see what it was doing. ... Most politicians aren't bought, but until we get campaign finance reform, they will remain on long-term lease."

America Too

In a scheme that mirrors that of Enron, millions of Americans' retirements are being threatened by the actions of American politicians, past and present. In the *Christian Science Monitor* of February 6, Gail Russell Chaddock wrote, "Such budgeting habits have a long history, no matter which party has controlled the process."



OUT IN THE COLD Fired employees leave Enron HQ after its bankruptcy.

Chaddock explained one specific way Washington "works the numbers": by understating future liabilities. "Experts worry that Washington is not adequately preparing to pay the costs of Social Security and Medicare for retiring baby boomers. The federal government is collecting payroll-tax revenues, in theory, to *prefund retirement benefits.* But it's not saving the money. When budgets are in surplus, some of that money is used to pay down the debt; however, the [current] president's budget anticipates deficits through 2004. *That means those payroll dollars will be spent on other programs.*

"It's a DECEPTIVE PRACTICE, because we're charging higher payroll taxes now and PRETENDING TO SAVE, but all we're really doing is promising that some future taxpayers will have to pay higher taxes," says Mr. Bixby of the Concord Coalition. "The revenues we are collecting in advance of that show up now, making the budget look better than it should over the short term and HIDING THE BIG COSTS that come out after the next 10 years."

Again, we are witnessing the same processes in the U.S. that brought down Enron: creative accounting that hides hundreds of billions of dollars in costs, and lawmakers pressing for gimmicks to obscure the price tags of their pet spending projects. Can we recognize the self-serving greed and deceit?

Pensions and Windfalls

The February 7 *WSJ* reported, "Enron's bankruptcy may have wiped out most of the retirement savings of most of its workers. But one thing it didn't take away were the pensions of its most senior executives. Financial filings disclose that former Enron Chairman Kenneth Lay, for one, used a private partnership to protect millions of dollars worth of executive pension benefits."

Other financial filings reveal that Enron will pay Mr. Lay a pension estimated at \$475,042 a year for life, and that the company had paid on his behalf a total of \$1.25 million in insurance premiums in a five-year period on his \$12 million life insurance policy. Other top executives with Enron have similar pension and insurance packages.

Sales of Enron stock by its senior officers also profited them mightily. As time will likely tell, those transactions were probably nothing less than "sim-

ple, old-fashioned theft,” as Senate Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin said on February 7.

Let's follow the money trail:

- Lou Pai, former chairman of Enron Energy Services, a key subsidiary of Enron Corporation, sold 5 million Enron shares for \$353 million between January 1999 and July 2001.
- Former Enron CEO Jeffrey Skilling sold more than 1 million shares of Enron stock for over \$68 million.
- Kenneth Lay sold approximately \$100 million in Enron stock last year.

Many of these share sales occurred just prior to and during the avalanche of bad news in late 2001 which forced Enron into bankruptcy proceedings and drove its stock down to worthlessness.

Moreover, profiting on the many “partnership” structures through insider information became a way of life for Enron's top executives:

- Andrew Fastow, former Enron chief financial officer, allegedly made at least \$30 million from heading and partly owning two of the partnerships that did business deals with the company.
- Michael Kopper, a former managing director of an Enron unit, supposedly made \$10 million through the partnerships.
- Former Enron treasurer Ben Glisan acknowledged to the Senate Commerce Committee that he had received about \$1 million within two months of putting \$5,800 into one partnership arrangement.

The accounting firm of Arthur Anderson was paid \$5.7 million in return for helping design the controversial partnerships, which investigators have found was fraught with ethical problems from the start. In 2001, Arthur Anderson's accountants billed their new cash cow, Enron, for \$25 million in auditing fees and \$27 million in consulting fees.

In an internal memo in February 2001, Anderson executives noted that Enron's fees could eventually total \$100 million a year—an amount which would have dwarfed fees from other clients, thus putting Enron into the category of a GOLDEN CALF to which Anderson eagerly bowed down in spite of the obvious conflicts of interest.

We see the same processes in the U.S. that brought down Enron: accounting that hides hundreds of billions of dollars in costs, and lawmakers pressing for gimmicks to obscure the cost of their pet spending projects.

Further, Arthur Anderson also was the auditing firm for Global Crossing, Ltd., an international telecommunications firm headquartered in Beverly Hills, Calif. Global's chairman, Gary Winnick, is said to have walked away from the company with \$730 million just prior to the \$50 billion company declaring bankruptcy at the end of January which, like Enron, left thousands of employees with no benefits and possibly no retirement funds. As with Enron, misleading accounting methods also played a part in Global's demise.

Also, in 2001, the Securities and Exchange Commission imposed a \$7 million fine on Arthur Anderson for approving the financial statements of Waste Management, another Texas firm, knowing that the accounting methods it had used were intentionally designed to mislead investors.

We have to wonder: What other financial woes lurk out there?

The Last Hour

The Apostle Paul, led by God's Holy Spirit, was able to see down through the ages and accurately predict the carnality and callousness of human nature in these final days of mankind's misrule on Earth when he wrote, “But know this, that in the *LAST DAYS perilous times will come*: For men will be lovers of themselves, *LOVERS OF MONEY*, boast-ers, proud ... without self-control, brutal ... traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (II Tim. 3:1-4, NKJV).

As long-time readers of the *Trumpet* know, the Church supporting this publication teaches that mankind has entered its “last hour” (I John 2:18, RSV; see *Trumpet* “Personal” Nov. 2001). Being in that “last hour” means accelerating events leading to the time of greatest trouble this world has ever seen (Matt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1).

Last Hour Economy

Since the last hour began in May 2001, we have seen some major financial events:

- The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks are expected to cost \$639 billion in total effect.
- Enron collapsed in the largest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history.
- Argentina defaulted (failed to pay) on its \$142 billion foreign debt—the largest default of a country in history. Financial contagion around the world, in combination with this and other collapses, is still a very real possibility.
- Kmart went bankrupt—the largest retailer in U.S. history to go down.
- The U.S. was confirmed in June 2001 to be in recession. Economies of Europe and Japan are also flagging. If the U.S., with renewed deficit spending and mountainous national debt, goes down again in a “double dip” recession, it threatens to contribute to the most severe world recession since the 1930s.
- Thanks to Enron, the U.S. is currently experiencing a sell-off in the corporate bond market which has resulted from investor panic-selling of stocks and bonds of every company with a complex accounting system. This bond shock could lead to financial disaster around the world.
- U.S. corporate debt has hit a record \$4.9 trillion and is continuing to rise at a time when the sell-off of corporate bonds is making it more difficult for corporations to sell their bonds and obtain much-needed financing.
- American household debt has also risen to a record \$7.5 trillion, which, together with corporate and government debt, could crush America in financial crisis or, at least, severely limit its ability to rise from the current recession.
- Japan's Nikkei stock index hit an 18-year low on February 1, while at the same time falling below the American Dow Jones Industrial Average for the first time since 1957.
- Japan, the world's second-largest national economy, is in greater danger than ever of a banking and economic collapse due to staggering financial losses inflicted by Enron and Argentina. Such a collapse, or attempts to stave it off, would do great damage if Japan liquidates its massive holdings of U.S. Treasury bonds to meet such a crisis.

CROOKED E
Enron's logo,
outside its
Houston
headquarters



Enron is a name which will live in infamy through human history.

That is what it means to be a "byword" and a "hissing."

For more information on the "last hour," please see "The Coming World Crisis" in the January 2002 *Trumpet*.

Events are, indeed, rapidly accelerating toward a collapse of man's civilization as prophesied in your Bible. And God's Word gives every indication that America's demise will begin with its financial destruction.

A Byword and a Hissing

"You [Israel] shall become an *object of horror*, a *proverb*, and a **BYWORD** among all the peoples where the Lord will lead you," says the Eternal God in Deuteronomy 28:37 (NRSV). He goes on in the following verses through verse 52 to show the **FINANCIAL CURSES** that will come upon America and the other nations of Israel in the final days as a result of *disobedience to God's law*. A "byword" is the epitome of something, or the embodiment of it, meaning that Israel will be the epitome or embodiment of curses for financial perversity.

"For My people have forgotten Me," God says of Israel. "They burn incense to worthless gods. And they have stumbled from their ways, from the ancient paths, to walk in bypaths, not on a highway. To make their land a desolation, an **OBJECT OF PERPETUAL HISSING**; everyone who passes by it will be *astounded* and shake his head" (Jer. 18:15-16, NASB). The nations of Israel will become so perverse and corrupt, especially financially, that they will become an object of perpetual hissing, or scorn.

We have seen other instances of such a *byword and a hissing*. Remember Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus Christ with a kiss on the cheek and then hanged himself in disgrace (Matt. 26:47-48; 27:3-8; it is interesting to note that in John 12:4-6, Judas is shown to have been the treasurer among the disciples, and that he was also guilty of financial treachery and theft by appropriating the funds to his own use). The betrayal of Christ by Judas was memorialized forever, with his name coming

to mean one who betrays under the semblance of friendship.

Likewise, in our time today, the name Enron has become a symbol of betrayal and an object of scorn—the embodiment of financial corruption. The February 7 *Daily Oklahoman* editorialized on remarks by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle: "On Jan. 23, in remarks to reporters, he made 'Enron' an active verb. Nobody should 'Enron the people,' he said. The next day he declared, 'I think that we are slowly Enronizing the economy.'" That article then drew attention to a headline reading, "'Enronitis' Sweeps Through Wall Street."

Another epithet regarding Enron makes reference to the company's tilted "E" logo, calling Enron "the crooked E."

The new baseball field in downtown Houston, Tex., is trying everything possible, even going to court, to have the name "Enron Field" removed from the ballpark. That is because Enron is a name which will live in infamy through human history. That is what it means to be a "byword" and a "hissing."

God says *Israel* will also be a byword and an object of perpetual hissing during the close of this age of man.

When we look at the example of Enron and compare it with America's widespread graft, corruption, financial misdealings, bribery, scandalous campaign contributions and outright theft from the retirement benefits of Social Security and Medicare—all of which will contribute to the alarmingly **SUD-DEN** fall of America and the nations of Israel—we ought to see plainly, as God's Word reveals, that an **UNREPEN-TANT** America's fall is as sure to occur as Enron's *sudden* fall into the dust.

In Ezekiel 33:11 (RSV), God laments, "Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?" ♦



While Europe celebrates its new common currency, Britain balks. What is the euro all about?

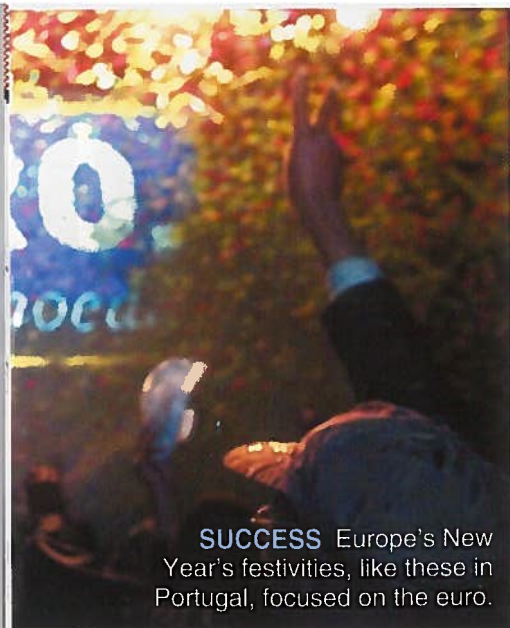
BY STEPHEN HILL

STILL BRIGHT IN MANY A MEMORY IS how, at midnight, January 1, 2002, the sky over Europe lit up with celebrations. The next morning, though that historical moment had flashed by, the sense that something fundamental in the world had changed, for many, lingered as what they had felt in their skins in the buildup now surfaced in broad smiles!

For the average eurozone European, the euro—officially binding the key players of Europe to a common currency—was up and running. **THE BIGGEST, MOST REMARKABLE FINANCIAL EXPERIMENT EVER WAS AFLOAT AND ON COURSE.**

Some call the giant push forward the euro represents risky, even suicidal, while others call it brave and masterful. Whatever, there is no denying that since the launch of the euro, the march of events in Europe has almost become a gallop.

"On New Year's Day, 14.25 billion notes (which, end to end, would stretch a quarter of a million miles) and 50 billion coins will begin to circulate in 12 countries. The sheer scale of the biggest financial revolution in history defies the most fertile of imaginations" (*www.telegraph.co.uk*, Dec. 16, 2001). One source stated that if the number of notes that had been printed by early January were laid end to end, they would stretch from the Earth to the moon and back twice!



SUCCESS Europe's New Year's festivities, like these in Portugal, focused on the euro.

In the runup to letting the euro loose as common currency, many businesses envisioned the launch as a simple concept with frighteningly complex consequences. In practice, the whole process went exceedingly smoothly.

As the experiment sprang to life on New Year's Day, it immediately impacted, directly or indirectly, the lives of some 306 million Europeans. Euros were eagerly snapped up by citizens in the 12 eurozone countries. Belgium reported 600 withdrawals a minute from cash machines, while in France, 34 million euros had been withdrawn by 9 a.m. Long lines of excited Spaniards formed in banks and spilled out into the streets.

Despite generous provisions, it soon became clear that there wouldn't be enough euros to meet the demand in some major Spanish retail outlets. The Bank of Spain had to meet the shortfall. This scenario was repeated in other countries. The Dutch central bank had to start an emergency delivery when some supermarkets ran out of the new currency.

Perhaps the most negative comment was about the way some business establishments took advantage of the new currency to put up their prices when rounding off amounts. There were also inevitable small glitches, such as vending machines that needed to be adapted to the new coins.

Initial Feelers

Experts generally agree that the euro's performance will depend largely on the dollar. Like a seesaw, if the dollar recovers strongly, that could be bad news for the euro. If the dollar slides, the opposite would be true.

There is hope throughout Europe that within the European market the euro will automatically lead to increased competition (through greater transparency and lower transaction costs) and greater flexibility and mobility in the work force—which would consolidate and strengthen its performance. Other important factors to watch for are: the measures taken by the Central European Bank to stimulate the economy, the performance of eurozone countries to keep their economies stable within the agreed limits, and economic growth within the euro market.

The actual physical presence of the euro itself isn't expected to play that much of a role in the development of the currency, because it has been around for some time. What counts is *how it competes with other means of exchange on the world market*, particularly the dollar and the yen. However, the positive response to the euro among the 12 nations adopting it may also prove an important stimulus toward its development. *Public perception* of a currency goes a long way in determining its success or failure.

Eurozone nations have benefited from an intense period of preparation for the euro. Even from the early drawing-board stage, the EU spent a fortune on education and preparation by means of well-orchestrated publicity campaigns through national and local authorities, concentrating especially on the immense powers of television and the Internet. Teaching about the euro became a part of most school syllabi, and the banking system and industry benefited from intensive preparation programs. In Spain, the *Garcias*, a family of cute, animated cartoon figures, appeared for months before e-day in adverts on all the major TV channels, and quickly became synonymous with national preparation for the big event. A similar effort was put into publicizing the euro in the other 11 eurozone countries.

The acceptance of the euro in the eurozone can be qualified as nothing short of a remarkable success. Only Germany officially made a clean break with its currency and adopted the euro immediately; other countries had been given a two-month adaptation period. Yet the European Commission estimated that, against all expectations, even before the end of the first week in Janu-

ary, the majority of shoppers in the eurozone were already paying in euros.

The euro has entered the world market aggressively. While at present it could be considered the second major currency in the world, few in Europe want it to stay that way for long. They would like to knock the dollar off its pinnacle. They would like to see most of the world's barrels of oil bought in euros instead of dollars.

Badgered to Join the Club

Most British citizens, however, don't want to see a silver lining in the euro cloud hanging over them. While the American press barely mentioned this important and challenging monetary phenomenon, the British were busily trying to pour cold water on a revolutionary new currency which could eventually pull the carpet out from under their trusty sterling. Some vendors even refused to accept euros on principle. A January 2 www.telegraph.co.uk article quoted one British vendor as saying, "I'm dead against it. ... I don't believe in the euro and won't take it. I hope we never adopt it in Britain."

Nevertheless, while the euro is not legal tender in the British Isles, the first few weeks of January saw about a third of the bigger retailers accepting it as payment.

Germany would like Britain to adopt the euro. Though Germany's *public* position is that Britain's entry would help strengthen the currency, students of the EU project see more sinister reasons for this. Hans Eichel, Germany's finance minister, has said, "Britain belongs to



Eichel

Europe, and Europe would be poorer without Britain." In a recent interview with the *Telegraph*, he dished out the following enticing words: "It is our wish that Britain joins. We cannot imagine a united Europe without the complete participation of Britain" (Jan. 17).

At the same time, Mr. Eichel—in a statement that should startle any sensitive American observer, stated of Britain that "'national eccentricity' would be an obstacle to *Europe's ambition to become 'the most dynamic economic area in the world'*" (ibid.).

When asked if he had anything to say to help the British love the euro, Eichel replied that he had—the queen! “We have left room for her!” he declared. “The British should have no fear. When we designed the coins, we were already thinking of British membership.” One side would be left for national symbols and, in Britain’s case, it would no doubt be the queen’s head.

EU powers may propose to place the queen’s head on one side of a euro coin, but in a sense, with the Maastricht Treaty, the queen as head of state in Britain was already lost to them when royal rights and privileges that had taken centuries of proud tradition to entrench within the British Constitution were signed away in seconds (see p. 9).

Though they may be deceived into thinking so now, Britain will never form a part of the elite, inner core of eurozone nations.

The Daniel Prophecy

Those who identify with the ambition for a united Europe are rejoicing over the success of the launch of the euro. Having it in their hands is like the first tangible, palpable, physical evidence in their everyday lives of the UNION for many people.

Twice in recent European history, the process of economic union cemented under a single currency has been envisioned. Kaiser Wilhelm united Germany in the 19th century by a similar process. And it was Hitler’s dream in the 20th century. Sir Peter Tapsell reminded voters in his election leaflet for his Louth and Horncastle constituency in the UK, “A single European currency was first proposed by the Nazi Reichsbank to Hitler at the time of Dunkirk as a means of perpetuating German dominance in Europe. Now it is EU policy.” Events in the EU are moving along faster than ever!

We’ve written frequently in the *Trumpet* about the prophecy of 10 nations or groups of nations rising up in union in this end time, and that, as the prophecy in Daniel 2 states, they are as different as iron and clay.

A common currency—however unifying—cannot hold this iron and clay together. Umberto Bossi, leader of Italy’s League of the North, can see the difficulty that a united Europe faces: “The problem isn’t the debate over the euro, but the idea of creating a Euro-

“A single European currency was first proposed by the Nazi Reichsbank to Hitler ... as a means of perpetuating German dominance in Europe. Now it is EU policy.”

• SIR PETER TAPSELL •

pean constitution. It can’t be treated in the same way as the launch of the euro has been. It can’t be imposed from above. In Europe at least 20 languages are spoken. I ask: Can we talk about community if we speak different languages, and read different newspapers? Can we refer to common public opinion?” (translated from *El País*, Jan. 15).

Many questions will soon be answered as the EU rushes to live out its destiny—questions like, will Britain, along with Sweden and Denmark, end up joining the euro? Britain has already lost so much of its identity in the crucible of Europe. Could it really, in one final, desperate gesture, give up the sterling for good, and all that entails? Then, lagging behind a powerful core of eurozone nations which possess the upper hand, could Britain be expected to prosper within the strictures of the euro and in the process still preserve its national identity?

The British government, like a house divided, is split down the middle over the euro dilemma, while Tony Blair, when he isn’t making preposterous claims that become headlines in newspapers like *La Repubblica* (“We British, Leaders in Europe Even If We Don’t Use the Euro”), swings back to his position of seeking to bully the British, against majority opinion, to use it.

To add to the banter, men like Europe Minister Peter Hain are playing up the claim that the sterling could find it impossible to survive alongside the euro. The fact that over 300 million people in 12 countries (with which Britain forms an increasingly strange dancing partnership) are now using euro notes and coins is sending alarm signals throughout the nation.

Yet again, the *Trumpet* magazine has shown on repeated occasions—with the certainty of Bible prophecy, which cannot fail—that even if the British were to join the euro currency

(and one of the world’s largest investment banks has forecast that it will after a referendum), Britain wouldn’t stay the course for long. Sooner or later the UK will even separate itself from, or be thrown out of, the EU.

Beyond the Euro

The question arises: With Germany, at the center of the EU, suffering at present from recession, how will the Fatherland pull the euro up to world prominence, rather than down to failure? German ambitions are centered on opening up the eastern leg of Europe to the EU, with the idea of enriching and bolstering their own economy and further consolidating their position as big gun in Europe.

The other eurozone countries don’t seem too concerned by the economic difficulties Germany is facing. In fact, by the end of the first week of the euro becoming common currency, the main topic of conversation among European MPs was no longer even the launch of the euro, but who will be the next president of the European Parliament! The general consensus appears to be that the position should go to the biggest eurozealot among the candidates.

Umberto Bossi’s point is a difficult one to sidestep, however. How will these nations hold together, given their many differences? The answer is as plain as it is astounding: a universal religion! (Rev. 17:1-5).

What’s rising in Europe is none other than that old “holy” Roman Empire.

The leader of an earlier resurrection of this ancient beastly power had the same vision as EU leaders have today. As a prisoner after his downfall, on the island of Helena, Napoleon reminisced, “I wanted to found a European system, a European code of laws, a European judiciary. There would have been but one people throughout Europe.” That’s the same vision Hitler had a little over 60 years ago.

One last time, a power-drunk European leader will take his infamous place in history. He will be worse than Hitler. Under his lead, and with the collusion of the Roman Catholic Church binding the 10 groups of nations together, Europe will briefly achieve world domination. Order our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* to learn how these events will signify the imminence of the glorious return of Jesus Christ. ◆



FULL REGALIA The royal party greets the crowd after Elizabeth II's coronation

Fifty years on from Queen Elizabeth II's ascension to the throne, what is to become of Britain's royal line?

Coming Soon: A New Royal Family!

BY GARETH FRASER

JUNE 2, 1953, FOUND BRITAIN AT A standstill. With its Commonwealth dominions hushed in unison, and the world watching, Britain was about to crown its new, young monarch.

As if to acknowledge the source of all the blessings bestowed upon Britain and its far-flung commonwealth and empire, the Archbishop of Canterbury declared, "Our gracious queen: to keep your majesty ever mindful of the law and the gospel of God as the rule for the whole life and government of Christian princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords." With these words, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland presented Queen Elizabeth II with her personal copy of the Word of God—the Holy Bible. The moderator concluded,

"Here is wisdom; this is the royal law; these are the lively oracles of God."

All the people in attendance, along with the listening and viewing audience around the world, heard the royal choir sing Handel's coronation anthem "Zadok the Priest." The archbishop moved toward King Edward I's old throne, which encased the aged Stone of Destiny, and proclaimed, "... Be thy head anointed with holy oil: as kings, priests and prophets were anointed: and as Solomon was anointed king by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be thou anointed, blessed and consecrated queen over the peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern."

He then held the majestic royal crown and firmly lowered it upon the head of the monarch.

To many, this may have seemed just another ancient British ceremony, dusted off, painted anew and glamorously paraded before the world. As their cries of "God save the queen" and the strains of "Rule Britannia" faded, few realized the true significance of the coronation ceremony that had just taken place.

A handful of the bishops who were present believed the ceremony was holy and of God, that it was powerfully sacred and sanctified of the Almighty. These few knew not only the history of the coronation but also of the ancient throne—and the stone beneath it, which they believed originated from Jerusalem, transported by the Prophet Jeremiah first to Ireland, then to Scotland and finally to Westminster Abbey in London, England.

Never before in history had so many been witness to the ceremony and extravagance of the coronation of a British monarch. The new media of radio and television recorded the event and broadcast it around the world. In his biography of Queen Elizabeth II, Ben Pimlott wrote, "In many ways, the Coronation of Elizabeth II in 1953 was the most magnificent and affecting royal ceremonial of the century—despite, or because of, the decline in the importance of the monarch" (*The Queen*).

Fading Empire

At its height, the British Empire enveloped the globe. It encompassed 11 million square miles, containing almost 20 percent of the Earth's population at the time. It controlled all major seaports and land gates of the world, directing global trade from London—the bustling metropolis that was for so long the capital of the financial and business world.

Victoria, queen of England, empress of India, began ruling on June 20, 1837, at age 18, and ruled for 63 years—the longest reign in the history of England. Britain's empire grew at an astounding rate during her reign, until it encompassed one third of the world's surface—including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, the West Indies, India and various locales in Africa and the



Queen Victoria

South Pacific. At that time, the sun never set on the British Empire.

Queen Victoria's descendants, including 40 grandchildren, married into almost every royal family of Europe, ushering in an unprecedented

time of peace throughout Europe. Victoria's personal example of honesty, patriotism and devotion to family life became a living symbol of strength as God poured His blessings upon the British Empire.

But when she died, Victoria's world of simple values and loyalties seemed to quickly fade, bringing the beginning of the end for God's blessings upon Britain.

In February of 1952, Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne after her father, King George VI, died. She became the 40th monarch since William the Conqueror ruled England. Following a period

of mourning and preparations, the coronation took place 16 months later.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Britain's power and influence in the world has fallen dramatically. In 1947, it lost the jewel of India. Britain's imperial mortality was revealed in the 1956 debacle at Suez, in which Britain lost control over this critical Mediterranean canal. Britain was humiliated by the fiasco and forever changed in the eyes of other nations. In 2002, Britain lies almost powerless, a vassal state of the European Union, lacking the will to rule, an empty shell of its former glory days.

Since Queen Elizabeth began her reign, technological advances in mass communications have focused global attention on the royals as never before in history. The queen described 1992 as the royal family's "annus horribilis." On February 7 of that year, the British government became a signatory to the Maastricht Treat, exactly 40 years and a day after Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne. In doing so, her ministers of government, within the spirit and intent of that treaty on European Union, effectively reduced their queen to the status of a subject of the European Union!

Later that year, Windsor Castle, symbol of the family's security and power, was badly damaged by fire on her 45th wedding anniversary (restoring the property took five years). That same year, discontented subjects called for the queen to begin paying income taxes. Elizabeth's sons Charles and An-

drew were separated from their wives, with both marriages eventually ending in divorce.

Throughout her reign, Queen Elizabeth has weathered the storms and tempests of family disputes, divorce and death. Despite Elizabeth striving to graciously set the example as head of state, increasing calls for retraction of ancient powers granted to the monarchy, along with the proposed abolition of foundational institutions such as the hereditary peers, have brought the very relevance of the crown into question (see "God's Eternal Covenant With David," at right).

Just half a century ago, to the cheers and tears of her subjects, the queen pledged to defend them all under God's guidance, reliant upon His wisdom, His royal law, and the lively oracles of God—"the most valuable thing that this world affords." Times, along with the British monarchy, have changed!

No Bishop, No King

In October 2000, Britain adopted the Human Rights Act, which was laid down by the European Convention on Human Rights. This act fundamentally brings into question the Act of Settlement, a 300-year-old law banning Roman Catholics and other non-Protestants from succession to the British throne.

The Act of Settlement was instituted in 1701, during a time of rampant Catholic persecution of Protestants throughout Britain. It declared that only Protestant heirs of Princess

Imperial Losses

A list of territories surrendered by the British Empire in the latter half of the 20th century



FOLDING UP
Britain leaves
Hong Kong

- 1956 Sudan, Suez Canal
- 1957 Ghana (Gold Coast), Malaya
- 1960 British Somaliland, Cyprus, Nigeria
- 1961 Sierra Leone, British Cameroons, Tanganyika, Kuwait
- 1962 Jamaica, Western Samoa, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda
- 1963 Kenya, Zanzibar, Singapore, North Borneo, Sarawak
- 1964 Malawi (Nyasaland), Malta, Zambia (Northern Rhodesia)
- 1965 Gambia
- 1966 Guyana, Botswana, Lesotho, Barbados
- 1967 Aden, Leeward Islands, Winward Islands
- 1968 Mauritius, Nauru, Swaziland
- 1970 Fiji, Tonga
- 1971 United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar
- 1973 Bahamas
- 1974 Grenada
- 1975 Papua New Guinea
- 1976 Seychelles
- 1978 Dominica
- 1979 Kiribati (Gilbert Islands)
- 1980 Vanuatu (New Hebrides), Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)
- 1981 Belize
- 1984 Brunei
- 1990 Namibia (Southwest Africa)
- 1997 Hong Kong

TOWERING INFERNO
Windsor Castle
damaged by fire

Sophia, granddaughter of James I, may take the British throne. Neither Catholics, nor those who married Catholics, nor those born out of wedlock, were permitted to prevail in the line of succession. The act was designed to ensure not only the Anglican Church's survival, but also to perpetuate a continuous royal line within Britain, enhancing its national stability and sovereignty.

The establishment of a constitutional monarchy under the Stuart line in 1714 further safeguarded the abuse of royal power

by ruling sovereigns. The ruling monarch was now a head of state, advised by courtiers and reliant upon the prime minister's wisdom to ensure national guidance in politics, administration and security.

In 2000 and 2001, a British human rights lawyer tried unsuccessfully to have the Act of Settlement reinterpreted or permanently removed. Attempts within and without Britain to bring its sovereign into line with European monarchs are set to continue, pending ultimate action or intervention by the European Court.

Almost a decade ago, British historian Paul Johnson commented, "Again, we have at present a sacerdotal [priestly] monarchy, whose ultimate claim to the throne derives from God according to specifically Christian teaching. ... James I rightly perceived, nearly four centuries ago, that ecclesiastical and secular hierarchies stood or fell together. As he put it: 'No bishop, no king'" (*Daily Mail*, Jan. 26, 1993).

Columns such as Johnson's are becoming more widespread in response to Britain's pro-Europe, socialist government pushing to diminish both royal and religious powers. "It has almost reached the point where the prime minister is more royal than the queen ..." (*Spectator*, Jan. 5).

God's Warning

The Prophet Hosea depicted Britain (scripturally known as Ephraim) as a "cake not turned" (Hos. 7:8). Britain may appear robust, healthy, like a

God's Eternal Covenant With David

WHILE DAVID WAS KING OVER THE ANCIENT NATION OF ISRAEL, GOD MADE with him a perpetual, unconditional covenant. "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and *I will stablish the throne of his kingdom FOR EVER*" (II Sam. 7:12-13). God assured King David before he died that his son Solomon would build a house for God and that DAVID'S THRONE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOREVER.

Jeremiah records the same prophecy: "For thus saith the Lord; *David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel*" (Jer. 33:17). Furthermore, "Thus saith the Lord; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers" (vv. 20-21).

Here, God promises that David's throne would survive as a legitimate seat of rule (and that His own line of true ministers would also endure). God says, unless you can stop Earth from turning on its axis—unless you can remove the sun, moon and stars from heaven—you cannot prevent Him from keeping His covenant to maintain *continuously, FOREVER*, a descendant of David in one continuous dynasty on that throne! He would not necessarily rule over *all* the house of Israel, but he would be on that throne ruling a portion of them, enough to form a nation or commonwealth.

Queen Elizabeth II and the house of Windsor rule on Britain's throne today **ONLY BECAUSE OF GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID!** Queen Victoria and many of her advisers understood that fact when the British Empire was at its zenith. Now, that more-godly generation has largely died out. Unaware of God's sure word of prophecy, Britain's present pro-Europe, anti-royal, socialist government is trying vainly to bury God's covenant with David. But **THAT COVENANT CANNOT BE BROKEN!**

Whether they realize it or not, the house of Windsor is part of that covenant. And they are accountable to God for their conduct! God *will* punish: "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes" (Ps. 89:30-32).

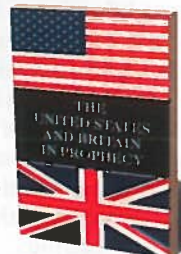
But notice what God will **NOT** do: "Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. *My covenant will I not break*, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed [dynasty] shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me" (vv. 33-36).



CONTINUING DYNASTY Elizabeth II at her majestic 1953 coronation

"If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes" (Ps. 89:30-32).

More information on this covenant can be found in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. For your free copy, visit www.pcog.org to order online, or see the inside cover of this magazine for how to order by phone or mail.





ROYAL WANE Elizabeth during the first public engagement of her jubilee year

sumptuous cake just out of the oven; however, its inner core has fallen apart, and, with pressure applied to the outside of the cake, it risks collapse. Formerly a deeply religious society, Britain has become a picture of godlessness.

Britain has been *led* down a path that doesn't yield God's blessing. As the prophecy proclaims, "... O my people, *they which lead thee* cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isa. 3:12). Yes, the leaders of Britain have FAILED in their duty to lead the people. The royal family has failed to be an example of familial fidelity.

Queen Elizabeth and all the people of Britain would do well to remember the archbishop's words during the coronation ceremony in 1953: "Be thy head anointed with holy oil: as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed: and as Solomon was anointed king by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be thou anointed, blessed, and consecrated queen over the peoples, *whom the Lord thy God hath given thee* to rule and govern."

Remember, at her coronation the queen was handed God's Word and instructed that it was "the most valuable thing that this world affords." The consequences of forsaking God's law are clearly outlined by God in His Word. "I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men" (II Sam. 7:14).

BUT BEFORE GOD PUNISHES, HE ALWAYS WARNS OUT OF LOVE AND CONCERN. The warning to the royal family and the people of Britain is coming today through *one voice*. "IT'S TIME PEOPLE AWAKENED AND LISTENED TO GOD'S WARNING MESSAGE! God will hold them accountable for rejecting His covenant with David and His message about that throne. THAT THRONE IS THE GREATEST PHYSICAL SYMBOL OF HOPE ON THIS EARTH! But how can other people respect and admire it if MOST OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE SCORN THEIR OWN HISTORY AND PROPHECY ABOUT THIS THRONE?" (Gerald Flurry, *Who Is That Prophet?*, pp. 14-15).

This is the *one voice* that is warning, on God's behalf, the people of Britain, along with the other nations of biblical Israel, that they must repent. Should Britain's royal household refuse to heed God's warning to turn to Him in heartfelt repentance, a humiliating end awaits (Jer. 22:18-19). In addition, the city where the throne resides will suffer unparalleled nuclear destruction should its residents fail to repent (vv. 7-8).

The future of the British throne does look bleak, but—be assured—A CHANGE IS COMING!

The Coming Succession

As the queen's golden jubilee is celebrated by her diminishing body of subjects, the question of the monarchy's future is ever pressing. Will it soon fade as a relic institution of the past, or will the throne continue?

God WILL keep His covenant with David. The throne will eventually be moved to Jerusalem, where the returning Jesus Christ will be crowned in power and glory! *There will be no constitutional monarchy; IT WILL BE GOD'S ABSOLUTE RULE*—His loving family government spreading out to all the globe!

The Bible reveals a soon-coming time when a King of kings will rule with perfection, not just a handful of nations, but the entirety of the Earth. He will rule with total justice, righteousness and power (Isa. 9:6-7; 11:3-5). Unlike human beings, He will never abuse His office and never let down His subjects. His coming government will not be based upon compromise. This new administration will institute the very government of Almighty God! It will be spearheaded by the supreme Father who appointed Jesus Christ as His Chief Executive—His Spokesman, the Word (John 1:1).

The ruling Christ will be joined in this future world government by "kings and priests" (Rev. 5:10). These people, through the Spirit of God, will have overcome and conquered their selfish human nature and become obedient to the *will* of God. They will have qualified to rule with "power over the nations" (Rev. 2:26).

Also ruling with high office in this kingdom will be the resurrected King David of Israel (Ezek. 34:23-24). Christ Himself will sit upon the throne of David (Luke. 1:32), continuing the unbroken covenanted cycle of rulership which has directly involved the present British royal family.

During the coming new world order of Almighty God, this royal family of spirit beings will extend the *government and peace* of God out from Jerusalem to all corners of the Earth. It will be both the crown and executive power over ALL nations (Rev. 11:15).

Those who work now to support God's end-time warning work will qualify for positions of rulership in THE VERY THRONE OF GOD (Rev. 3:21). You need to ground yourself in God's Word, "*the most valuable thing that this world affords*." If you do, the day is soon coming when you will be ready to teach and train others God's Word and say, "Here is wisdom; this is the royal law; these are the lively oracles of God." ◆

With reporting by WILLIAM GHANNAM

Up for Grabs



A region little-known to the West—Central Asia—has suddenly leapt into the news. What is its significance, and where will it fit into the emerging new world order?

BY RON FRASER

AFGHANISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan—where are these countries, and what is their significance to the restructuring of international alliances taking place in this 21st century?

One of these countries of Central Asia, Afghanistan, has featured prominently in the news since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York last year.

Poor, benighted Afghanistan. An Islamic state which gained independence from Britain in 1919, this nation of close to 27 million has been riven with turmoil since the overthrow of its government by the extremist Islamic Taliban movement in 1996. Before September 11, resistance to this takeover came mainly from a loose group called the Northern Alliance. Since September 11, the American administration has pummeled parts of Afghanistan into dust in its quest for the demonized leader of the al-Qaeda Islamic terrorist group, Osama bin Laden.

Now, with the overthrow of the Taliban, the West has manipulated a new government into place in Afghanistan under leader Hamid Karzai. However, early indications are that factionalism within the various tribal groupings in Afghanistan will not permit any long period of stability in this Third World country unless it is imposed by force.

With its population comprising four main ethnic groups—Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara and Uzbek—competition among various warlords within these groups poses a continuous threat to the success of the interim government. The West is caught facing the prospect of mounting yet another “peacekeeping” force on foreign soil with no guarantee of an effective schedule for withdrawal. The British are keen to relinquish the job of leading the peacekeeping force at the earliest opportunity. The U.S. does not



Hamid Karzai

want the job, and the Germans are not keen to get the blame when things go wrong. So it looks like the Turks will get the job after the British pull out.

But why bother? Why not let the Afghans fight it out themselves? Why is Afghanistan so important to the West? To answer that question, we need to take a brief look at the other “stan” countries in this Central Asian region.

Asian Crossroads

Apart from Afghanistan, all other countries in Central Asia were once part of the old Soviet Union, essentially forming Russia’s old bulwark against the incursion of Islam from the south. The northernmost of these countries, Kazakhstan, is by far the largest, comprising 1.1 million square miles. With a population of some 16 million, it is the least Islamicized of the Central Asian countries, with a 47 percent Muslim populace balanced by 44 percent Orthodox and 9 percent Protestant and other religions. Whereas Kazakhstan holds the line against Islam’s northward push, all of the other Central Asian countries lying to its south are by far significantly Islamic.

Apart from Russia’s interest in containing the northward thrust of Islam, two issues of significance have brought Central Asia into the limelight in recent years: the *balance of power* affecting the region (including those other major international powers who are players in the region) and *energy resources*.

Balance of Power

The sudden, orderly withdrawal of the Taliban from the battle fronts in Afghanistan created a dangerous vacuum in the country. Democratic countries led the charge against the Taliban. Leading democratic countries now face the obligation to stabilize a country that has no tradition of democracy. Added to this, neither of the two principal leading democracies, the U.S. and Britain, is welcome to remain in Afghanistan. While they do remain, they will be forced to come to terms, politically, with the major powers bordering Central Asia—China, Russia, India, Pakistan and Iran.

Strategically, the U.S., as the coalition leader, is faced with a real headache. It has forced the Afghans into submission and implanted a new government, thus

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AMIGOS Mexico's Fox with Schröder in a February visit

◆ EUROPE

Latino connections

Mexico is leaning to Europe. German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's February visit to Mexico City spurred Mexico's President Vicente Fox to declare his hope that the trade deal signed by Mexico and the European Union would rival the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada and the United States.

Under its current six-month presidency of the EU, Spain has set a prime goal of expanding the EU's political and economic relations with the South Atlantic continent. This May, the Spanish city of Madrid will host a meeting of heads of state and government from the Caribbean, Latin America and EU member countries.

This meeting will build on a foundational relationship between the Latin American and Caribbean region and the EU, forged at the first such conference held in 1999 in Brazil. At that conference the groundwork was laid for general economic cooperation and political dialogue on a wide agenda including the concepts of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The theme of the Madrid conference will be increasing

regional cooperation in trade and integrating various EU initiatives into Latin America.

The EU is worried that any success experienced by NAFTA penetration into Latin American markets would threaten its own industries expanding into this huge potential market.

Latin America is unique in that it is the only continent bound by a single language, Spanish (though related Portuguese is spoken in Brazil), and a common Catholic religion. These are two powerful connections with the continent of Europe that will tend to draw Latin America increasingly away from trade with North America and into the EU camp.

◆ GERMANY

An election to watch

Within six months, the German nation will vote for the man who will lead it through the next few years. At present, it is a two-horse race—incumbent Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Bavarian challenger Edmund Stoiber. By the end of February, Stoiber was leading Schröder in all polls.

Two prominent issues have emerged in the early stages of electioneering—the German economy and immigration. Stoiber is on safe ground on the issue of the economy, with his home state of Bavaria humming along nicely compared to the rest of Germany, where the economy appears to be in dire straits. Whereas unemploy-

ment in Germany is generally hovering around 11 percent, Bavaria's figure is 6.8 percent.

On immigration, Stoiber has taken a tough and vocal stand—declaring after his nomination that he viewed, as a priority, the preserving of “the culture and national identity of our people” (Associated Press, Feb. 18). Such statements coming from the heartland of southern Catholic Germany are hitting the spot, it seems—if not with liberals in government and the press, certainly with the average German voter.

Germany is becoming unsettled. After decades of wealth creation, its economy is on the skids. In times like these, Germans look for a leader who reminds them of their past, of their nationhood—a leader who promises them stability.

What Edmund Stoiber offers is rhetoric with a ring of Germany's past greatness. He has used the term “Fatherland,” redolent of rousing speeches that hailed from Munich over 60 years ago. His friends are Jörg Haider, Austria's far-right leader, and right-wing Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. He takes a strong stand against liberals, particularly homosexual and abortion-rights campaigners, and



Stoiber

speaks out against Berlin's liberal view of Iraq. In fact he has stated that, if elected, he would “share the burdens” and support U.S. military strikes on Iraq if events prove Saddam Hussein's in-

volvement in the September 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S. (*Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, Feb. 20).

The added advantage that Stoiber has in the run-up to the German elections is his national platform. His political roots are deeply embed-

ded in the Catholic Christian Social Union (CSU), Germany's most right-wing major party, which has governed Bavaria from its wealthy state capital of Munich for 44 years. But he is not running in the national election as the CSU's representative.

Stoiber is the representative of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the party of main conservative opposition to Chancellor Schröder's center-left coalition government. It was the CDU which was left in tatters upon revelations of its former leader, Helmut Kohl, being involved in financial shenanigans during his term in office prior to being beaten by Schröder in the 1998 election. Stoiber offers a new image to this party which ruled Germany for more than 15 years under Kohl.

The signs are that Europe is responding increasingly to the calls of the Vatican and conservative, right-wing politicians to “return to its roots.” Those roots, for almost 2,000 years, have been Catholic, conservative and imperial in outlook.

Will the 60-year-old Stoiber be the man to carry the day in the September elections? Cast in the mold of that old Bavarian “strong man of Europe,” his mentor, Franz Josef Strauss, Stoiber may well follow through the dream of his prime political teacher and impose Strauss's “grand design” not only on Germany, but, as leader of the EU's leading nation, on the entire continent of Europe.

◆ U.S.

Anti-Iran good for EU

Ever ready to take advantage of an American foreign-policy or trade gap,

Eurocrats are rubbing their hands in glee at President Bush branding Iran as part of an "axis of evil."

Having so labeled Iran, the U.S. threatens heavier sanctions against trade with that country. But sanctions by America are only really workable if its coalition



EU and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in a joint forum in February

partners in the war against terrorism join with it in such action.

Eurocrats, already seeking U.S. foreign-policy loopholes with which to create a higher diplomatic presence for the EU, now have the prospect of a double win in Iran. They can not only have Iran align with them against an area of U.S. policy in the crucial Middle East, they can also get the jump on U.S. trade with this key oil state.

"It's like Christmas for European ... companies," said a consultant who believed that the return of U.S. companies [to dealing with Iran] would be delayed for at least a few more years" (*Financial Times*, Feb. 6).

Iran has delayed the signing of certain oil deals with the EU for over a year. If this chief patron of world terror decides to sign in the near future, it will deal a strong blow to U.S. sanctions against Iran and split the much-touted unity between two of the senior partners of the alliance against terror—the U.S. and EU.

What's more, if Germany ultimately ends up leading the peacekeeping force in

Afghanistan, this would force the EU to go public on its true intentions in both the Middle East and Central Asia. The resultant association with Iran will put the challenge to the EU's public stance against terrorism. There is a lot more to the EU's Middle Eastern and

Central Asian diplomacy than has yet risen to the surface.

Led by Germany, the EU now has its fingers deep into each of the three main pies in this volatile region—Iran, Palestine and Pakistan. Watch for major power shifts in this region through-

out the next few months.

◆ JAPAN

Economists unimpressed

U.S. President Bush's six-day visit to Asia in February began on a serious note—a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to discuss the distraught Japanese economy.

The meeting was more than Mr. Bush simply encouraging Mr. Koizumi to implement bold reforms. Japan—possessor of the world's second-largest national economy—carries enough economic clout for ripples of its woes to be felt the world over, and it has the potential to aggravate the U.S. recession significantly.



IN TOKYO, Bush meets with Koizumi in February.

With public confidence in Koizumi's determination to implement an economic overhaul waning, Japan's economy is suffering more than ever. Its public debt has risen to the highest level of any major industrialized country—a whopping 130 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. The major banks' real assets are not valued at much more than the \$56 billion in public money that was given them three years ago in a "one time" bailout. The country is in its fourth recession in a decade, and, as though to deal a final psychological blow, the Nikkei-225 stock index closed at 9,791.43 on February 1—dipping below the Dow Jones industrial average for the first time in almost 45 years.

As Yoshihiko Miyauchi, chairman of a government deregulation panel, commented, "In the last five years, Japan's best contribution has been to not have collapsed" (*International Herald Tribune*, Feb. 18).

Koizumi's leadership will be tested in the coming months as he struggles to keep Japan afloat. Despite Bush lauding Japan as "one of America's greatest and truest friends," signs of real economic progress are scarce, and the dialogue between the two leaders disappointed economists. Akihiko Suzuki, an economist at Sanwa Research Institute and Consulting, summarized the visit: "Nothing changed for Koizumi's reforms before and after Bush's visit" (*Agence France Presse*, Feb. 18).

◆ BRITAIN

Family breakdown

Britain, which once (to the scorn of some and admi-

ration of others) espoused Victorian values and thrived as a cohesive, family-centered society under them, has now swung to the other extreme in its approach to family.

A report recently released by the Center for Policy Studies shows Britain leading the way among European countries in divorce. It also leads in the percentage of its children—over 25 percent—who live in single-parent homes, compared to a European average of 14 percent.

The report's release was timed to coincide with National Marriage Week and aims to draw the government's attention to the disintegration of marriage and the family in Britain.

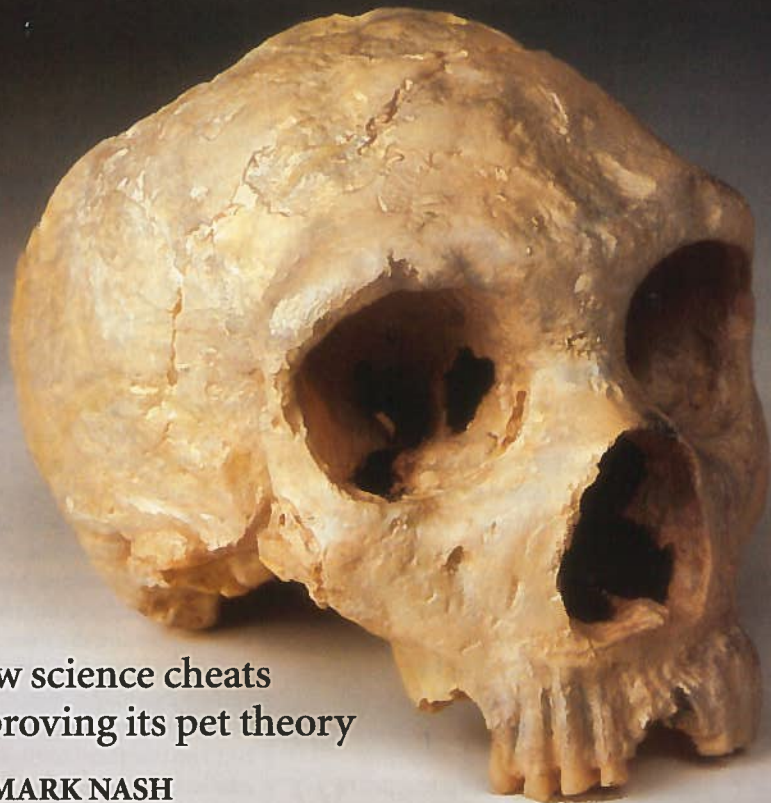
The author of the report, Jill Kirby, commented, "Unless we are prepared to recognize that the family is under siege and that marriage is under threat, we can have no hope of reversing the trend and improving the lives of the children who are afflicted" (*Daily Telegraph*, Feb. 11).

Her efforts are admirable but run contrary to the *ideas and actions* of the government that the Center for Policy Studies is trying to influence—many members of which have fought ardently against the traditional two-parent family.

Blair's center-left government scrapped the married-couples' tax allowance in 2000 and has promoted homosexual men to prominent positions in government. It has also worked vigorously to reduce the age of consent for homosexuals to allow for it to apply to children of 16 or, as the present lobbyists would have it, 14 years.

The statistics on family conditions in Britain are an embarrassment to some in its society. Unfortunately, they are not embarrassing to those leaders who have brought the nation to that state.

The Fraud of Evolution



How science cheats
at proving its pet theory

BY MARK NASH

THE WORD *THEORY*, ACCORDING TO THE *OXFORD English Dictionary*, is “a hypothesis that has been confirmed or established by observation or experiment, and is propounded or accepted as accounting for the known facts.” To be considered a theory, something must be “confirmed” and account for the “known facts.” Evolution has been neither, as shall be proven herein.

In contrast, a “hypothesis” as defined by *Oxford* is “a proposition or principle put forth or stated (WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO ITS CORRESPONDENCE WITH FACT) merely as a basis for reasoning or argument [A] provisional supposition from which to draw conclusions that shall be in accordance with known facts, and which serves as a starting-point for further investigation by which it MAY BE PROVED OR DISPROVED AND THE TRUE

THEORY ARRIVED AT.” More simply stated, a hypothesis is an idea or a guess at something without facts to support it. If the evidence proves the hypothesis, it then becomes a theory.

The idea of evolution has never reached that step. At best, evolution is a hypothesis. Unproven and without “correspondence with fact,” it stands as an idea scientists seem desperate to substantiate, though they remain un-

able to do so. An examination of the facts easily proves there is no THEORY of evolution.

What Is Evolution?

Evolution is the belief that life spontaneously erupted from non-living chemicals—all life today coming from that eruption. It includes the idea that all creatures alive today have, after many varied steps, come into existence from some previously existing creatures. For example, it is claimed that a fish in the past began changing, then, over millions of years and many intermediate steps, became a mammal of today.

Evolution supporters suggest that fish somehow became amphibians and amphibians somehow became mammals. This process is supposed to have taken many millions of years, involving millions of intermediate steps to achieve.

Do not confuse the theory of evolution with adaptation of a species or genetic variation. *Adaptation* simply means that something changes to fit its environment, not that it changes into some other species. Genetic variation occurs when there are limiting factors in the available gene pool. But again, it does not produce some *new species*—only *changes within the same species*.

This can be seen in the different breeds of animals such as horses. Draft horses have been bred to produce size and power; miniature horses for smallness and quarter horses for quickness. No one denies that they have common ancestors, but no one suggests they are no longer horses either. These differences do not represent evolution. Horses are still horses. The evolutionist suggests that perhaps walruses changed into horses, or the other way around.

To investigate evolution, it is necessary to observe the evidence and decide whether the conclusions of evolutionists follow LOGIC and are in harmony with the physical evidence, or if those conclusions are established by conjecture and opinion based on preconceived beliefs.

Falsifying the Truth

Examining the evidence is not as easy as it may seem. It would be assumed that the facts could be found in science books, magazines and articles. That assumption would be wrong. Certainly some facts may be discovered in the scientific literature, but the authors of such works seem bent on

promulgating false and misleading information about evolution. With much enthusiasm, proponents of evolution often steer past the facts and go directly to the myths surrounding their beloved hypothesis that guides and even directs the writing of the textbooks and articles they publish.

Using common skills of discernment, anyone can discover the falsehoods included in most pro-evolution writings. Let's expose a FEW of these obvious attempts to color the public's and even the scientific community's understanding of the *unsupported theory of evolution*.

Most biology textbooks have a section about evolution. One of the favorite "proofs" commonly included in such a chapter is the similarity of embryos from a variety of animals and man. This information may be traced back to embryologist Ernest Haeckel in the mid-1800s. Haeckel published pictures he claimed were the embryos of a fish, salamander, tortoise, chicken, hog, calf, rabbit and human being. He tried to show that the embryos look similar in the early stages of development. This was supposed to show they all had a common ancestor.

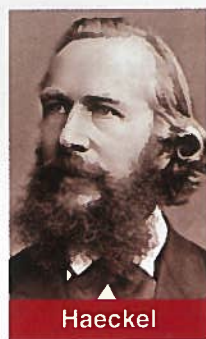
The problem is, the pictures were not accurate; in fact, they were faked. Jonathan Wells wrote in his book *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth?*, "When Haeckel's embryos are viewed side by side with actual embryos, there can be no doubt that his drawings were deliberately distorted to fit his theory."

This fraud was known and published as early as 1894 by Professor Adam Sedgwick of Cambridge University, who wrote that the similarities reported by Haeckel are "not in accordance with the facts of development."

Scientists continue to find fault with the "evolutionary evidence" CREATED by Haeckel. In 1977, "Erich Blechschmidt noted: 'The early stages of human embryonic development are distinct from the early development of other species.' And in 1987, Richard Elinson reported that frogs, chicks, and mice 'are radically different in such fundamental properties as egg

size, fertilization mechanisms, cleavage patterns, and [gastrulation] movements'" (Wells, op. cit.).

The curator of the fossil collection at Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, Stephen Jay Gould, wrote about the Haeckel fraud: "Haeckel had exaggerated the similarities by idealizations and omissions. He also, in some cases—in a procedure that can only be called fraudulent—simply copied the same figure over and over again" (*Natural History*, March 2000). Gould further commented on the deleterious effect of such "inaccuracy" when it is reproduced in a textbook and not corrected: "The smallest compromise in dumbing down by inaccuracy destroys integrity and places an author upon a slippery slope of no return."

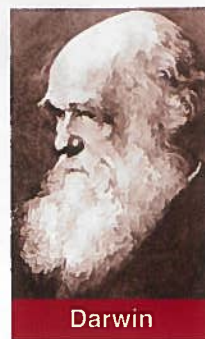


Haeckel

Haeckel's fraudulent drawings are presently in at least ten major biology textbooks published from 1998 through 2000. In each case, they are used to demonstrate the supposed similarity of early embryos in different animals and man, and the authors claim this is evidence of common ancestry and Darwin's evolution hypothesis. These authors simply perpetuate Haeckel's fraud in an effort to promote what they call the "theory" of evolution.

The problem is, the authors of modern science textbooks will include the faked pictures as proof of evolution *even when they know of the fraud*. Students are being taught these lies as if they are facts. The students then build their own belief system on such lies, only perpetuating the lies.

Even Darwin used the Haeckel lie. In his famous book, *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin called the similarity of embryos as reported by Haeckel "the strongest single class of facts" for evolution. The father of the "theory" of evolution used evidence from science literature already known to be false. There had already been many articles published in the mid-to-late 1800s which disproved the drawings of Haeckel, making it inconceivable that Darwin was not aware of the fraud. Yet he included Haeckel's pictures not only as evidence for evolution, but also



Darwin

called them "the strongest single class of facts."

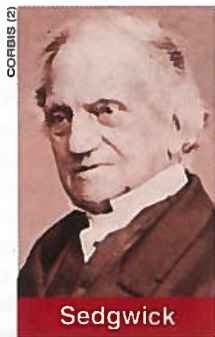
There are many other specific examples of misinformation intentionally being published in textbooks. For example, the experiment performed in

the early 1950s which supposedly reproduced the atmospheric conditions of the Earth billions of years ago continues to be reported in science textbooks. It claims to show how proteins were formed. The fact is, the scientific community has demonstrated that the environment within the test tubes was unlike any on Earth. There is no evidence the atmosphere was ever made up of the concoction used in this experiment, yet it is regularly referred to as a possible starting point from which all creatures have evolved.

Another example worth mentioning is that of the peppered moths. "Most peppered moths were light-colored in the early part of the 19th century, but during the Industrial Revolution in Britain the moth populations near heavily polluted cities became predominantly 'melanic,' or dark-colored. ... [E]xperiments suggested that predatory birds ate light-colored moths when they became more conspicuous on pollution-darkened tree trunks, leaving the dark-colored variety to survive and reproduce" (Wells, op. cit.).

To demonstrate the camouflage of the dark moths, many books, when explaining evolution, have pictures of peppered moths on tree trunks. The dark moths blend in and the light moths stand out clearly. This is supposed to prove the theory of "natural selection." But fraud and lies permeate this deception as well.

As ridiculous as it may seem, the pictures are themselves faked. Peppered moths do not land on tree trunks in nature; they light on the undersurface of small horizontal branches higher in the trees. One researcher (Cyril Clarke) noted that in 25 years of observation he had only seen one peppered moth on a tree trunk. So where did the pictures of peppered moths on tree trunks come from? Dead moths were glued or pinned to the tree trunks. This fact has



Sedgwick

EVOLUTION VS. CREATION



FAULTY EVIDENCE A peppered moth on a tree trunk

been known since about 1980, and still the faked pictures are being published in textbooks as proof of evolution.

There are multitudes of other misleading statements, false conclusions and outright lies common to pro-evolution literature. These things continue to be included in modern science textbooks and articles. The reader must sift through the debris to find the facts.

The "Evidence"

Even with all the fraud currently found in science, there are facts that can be discerned. It takes patience and work to dig them out of the scientific literature, which is so biased in favor of evolution.

One of the easiest facts to discover about evolution is that of the missing links. The evolutionary hypothesis has changed through the years, but it always claims that the animals of today came from predecessors that were different. Birds came from reptiles, for example. Some scientists believe these changes happened slowly over tens of millions of years, while others believe they happened somewhat quickly, perhaps changing in only 5 million years or so. In either case, the changes are supposed to have happened randomly and resulted in life as we see it today.

Evolutionists suggest that many different genetic changes occurred, but only the changes that caused an advantage of some sort remained. In other words, the animals with the weakest changes died out and the stronger, more beneficially changed animals lived on and continued to change.

Here is where the *links are missing*. If reptiles somehow changed and became mammals, there should be fossils representing the intermediate steps. But there are none. These missing intermediate fossils are referred to as

"missing links." And no matter what animal is studied, without exception, there is a gap in the records where these "missing links" exist. Through the millions of years and billions of animals it would take to evolve from one species to another, there is not a single fossil to demonstrate the link from one species to another. Yet the evolutionists base their conclusions on such connecting links as if they were commonplace in the fossil record.

Duane T. Gish, Ph.D., in his book *Evolution: The Fossils Still Say NO!*, states, "Even though this transition is supposed to have taken 100 million years, not a single intermediate [fossil] has ever been discovered."

Not one "missing link" has been discovered. This represents a huge piece of the evolutionary pie that is missing, and it cannot rationally be ignored. But that is exactly what pro-evolution scientists do.

According to anthropologist Tom Kemp, in his famous review, *Mammal-like Reptiles and the Origin of Mammals*, "In no single adequately documented case is it possible to trace a transition, species by species, from one genus to another."

This admission of missing links is nothing new, as is demonstrated by this statement from 1930 by Dr. A.H. Clark in *The New Evolution: Zoogenesis*: "No matter how far back we go in the fossil record of previous animal life upon Earth, we find no trace of any animal forms which are intermediate between the various major groups or phyla."

Not one "missing link" has been discovered. This represents a huge piece of the evolutionary pie that is missing, and it cannot rationally be ignored. But that is exactly what pro-evolution scientists do. They refuse to release their grip on evolution even when the evidence contradicts their claims.

Even Darwin was aware of the missing evidence for evolution. Evolutionist Sir Edmund Leach stated in *Nature* 293:19 (1981), "Missing links in the sequence of fossil evidence were a worry to Darwin. He felt sure they would eventually turn up, but they are still missing and seem likely to remain so."

Evolutionists claim that if one creature is physically similar to another, it is evidence of a common ancestor. An example used to demonstrate this hypothesis is found in the bones of the forelimbs of various animals and man.

Pictures of the bones in whale flippers, monkey arms and human arms do appear similar.

The possibility that bones in the forelimbs are similar because they were planned and created by the same Designer seems to elude the thinking of evolution scientists. Why? If science is a search for truth, shouldn't scientists consider *every* option? It seems they will consider every option except that of God.

Spontaneous Generation

The idea that life sprang forth from some primordial ooze is at the foundation of the evolutionary concept—that is what evolutionists claim caused life

on Earth to begin. However, the idea of spontaneous generation was disproved centuries ago.

Aristotle wrote, "Larvae of the bee or wasp, ticks, fireflies and many other insects develop from the morning dew, or from decaying slime and manure, or from dry wood, hair, sweat and meat" (*The Origin of Life*, A.I. Oparin). He claimed that worms were generated by moist soil. "Man," he speculated, "may have a similar origin." Aristotle's vain speculations were accepted as truth for many centuries.

In 1668, an Italian named Redi struck this old idea with a fatal blow. The *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* wrote: "By placing gauze over a jar of meat, he prevented flies from depositing their eggs on the meat. He thus prevented the hatching of maggots, which people had been led to assume would spring SPONTANEOUSLY as 'new life' from dead matter.

"After the microscope was invented in 1683, the masterly work of Tyndall and Louis Pasteur proved conclusively that the 'law of biogenesis' [that *life can come only from life*] held true for MICROSCOPIC forms of life as well!

"Evolutionists, geneticists, biologists, scientists in any field whatsoever, have never been able to demonstrate, nor to offer the slightest evidence that the LIVING can come into existence from the NOT-LIVING!

"George Wald, professor of biology at Harvard, admits, 'One has only to

The Improbability of Evolution



SINCE RANDOM EVENTS WITHIN NATURE ARE SUPPOSED TO be responsible for the spontaneous beginning of life and of all living things, let's evaluate "randomness." The tool used to evaluate randomness is the mathematical concept of *probability*.

The basic principle of probability is simple: If you have a coin with two sides, heads and tails, and toss it into the air, each side has a 50 percent chance of being on the top when the coin lands. This is the probability of a random event limited by two possible outcomes.

Now, imagine a pair of four-sided dice. The probability of any certain side landing in the bottom position when one of the pair is tossed is one in four, or 25 percent. Add the second of the pair, and there are 16 possible combinations (four times four). Add a third and there are 64 possible combinations (four times four times four). The probability of getting any certain combination in one toss of three dice would be 64 to one. The more possible combinations, the less the probability of any one specific result.

Evolution is hypothesized to occur when there is an alteration to the genetic material of a plant or animal, and the change produces offspring with a better chance to survive. In animals, the changes take place in the *genome*, the genetic material of the sperm or egg cells of a parent, and are passed on to the next generation.

In the human genome, there are four possible combinations of amino acids called *nucleotides*, but, instead of three dice, there are 3.2 billion nucleotides. The possible combinations would be four times four times four—repeatedly multiplying by four a total of 3.2 billion times.

The Human Genome Project, a joint international effort to unravel the structure of genetic material of humans, has

determined that a genetic mutation of one billionth of a genome is always fatal. That means for a human, a random change of three nucleotides is fatal, thereby ending any further possibility of evolution for that individual's offspring.

Evolutionists claim that chimpanzees are the closest living relatives to man, with a difference of about 48 million nucleotides. This means *at least* 48 million random events must have occurred in exactly the right order for the evolutionary gap between man and his hypothesized common ancestor with chimpanzee to have been spanned. Three changes in the genome during one generation would be FATAL and stop the process. Therefore this number of changes would require a minimum of 24 million generations to achieve, assuming two changes happened during each generation.

These changes must happen in exactly the proper order, and each step must produce either no noticeable change or provide the offspring with some sort of advantage. Any negative change would stop or prolong the process. Each change must occur in a gene that is passed on to an offspring, and the offspring must survive and must undergo some further sort of change and have offspring and so on for each of the 48 million genetic changes.

Next, since there are 3.2 billion nucleotides in the human genome, the probability of *one* particular nucleotide being altered is 3.2 billion to one. To determine the mathematical probability of the genetic changes necessary for the hypothesized "evolution" between chimps and people, it is necessary to multiply 3.2 billion times 48 million.

The probability against the evolution from a common ancestor with chimps to modern man, using these figures, is 153 quadrillion (153 followed by 15 zeros) to one.

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contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is IMPOSSIBLE. Yet here we are as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation' (*The Physics of Life*, p. 9). Notice that some scientists are so steeped in the theory of evolution, they cannot bring themselves to fully accept the absolutely irrefutable proof of scientific laboratory experiments!" (lesson 11).

Ask a paleontologist, geologist, archeologist or geneticist if he believes in spontaneous generation, and he will tell you that it was disproved several hundred years ago. Ask him how life started, and he will tell you it started from life-

less chemicals possibly heated by a spontaneous lightning strike. As Dr. Wald stated above, this is "IMPOSSIBLE!"

There is something wrong with a thought process ending with an "impossible" conclusion. At best, it is irrational; at worst, it is intentional deception. Either way, such reasoning is commonplace in the literary support for evolution.

The Diabolical Plot

It may be a difficult task to sort out the facts from the fiction when researching the "theory" of evolution. But harder still for most people is giving up an idea even when it is proven

to be wrong. Educator Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "The most difficult thing for any human seems to be to admit being wrong—to confess error of belief and conviction—to unlearn false knowledge as well as to learn true knowledge" (*Mystery of the Ages*).

The "theory" of evolution has repeatedly been proven wrong, yet scientists will not admit they have been wrong. They refuse to give up false knowledge and make room for the truth. Their commitment to the false "theory" of evolution is great indeed.

There is only one scenario that fits all the evidence perfectly, and that is CREATION! The facts support the

EVOLUTION VS. CREATION

The scope of 153 quadrillion is incomprehensible. To illustrate the size of this number: If one number is counted every second (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), it would take over 200 million years longer than the estimated age of the Earth to reach 153 quadrillion.

Though this number seems mind-boggling, it is only the tip of the iceberg. This example assumes all changes to genetic material would be positive when, in reality, fewer than 1 percent of genetic changes are beneficial. This example assumes each offspring would be successful in producing more offspring and that each generation would have two genetic "improvements." It does not include any of the factors like mortality of offspring, unsuccessful reproductive attempts, the order of changes and many more variables, each of which would increase the odds against evolution by millions of times.

If a change anywhere in the chain of events proves to be detrimental, the entire process comes to a halt. For example, if a saber-tooth tiger eats one of the young prehistoric genetically altered monkey-men before it becomes a parent, the process is interrupted—the entire chain of events leading to that child comes to an end.

This represents only the changes that must occur starting with the supposed common ancestor of men and chimps and ending with the first modern man. What about the number of changes necessary to get from the first single cell, which is hypothesized to have taken life in the primordial ooze, until it evolved into this hypothetical chimp-like pre-man?

Here's a better question: How many multiple millions of times greater would be the probability AGAINST such "evolution"?

Amino Acids

Consider an interesting fact of science: the existence of “levo-amino acids.” Amino acids are the building blocks of proteins and are necessary for life. They normally exist in

two mirror-image forms, referred to as *dextro* for right and *levo* for left. One amino acid in protein, for example, is *thymine*. In INORGANIC (non-living) material, whether found in nature or produced in the laboratory, it is found in equal amounts of dextro-thymine and levo-thymine. The only noticeable difference in the two is the way light is rotated, either to the left or the right, when passing through the amino acid molecules. The same is true of the other amino acids.

All inorganic material contains equal amounts of dextro- and levo-type molecules.

IN LIVING things, however—both plant and animal—every amino acid molecule found in proteins is of the *levo* variety only. Not one dextro-amino acid is to be found among them. A moderately sized protein may be made up of a chain of 400 levo-amino acids. For one molecule in such a chain to be levo is a one in two chance, for two in a row is a one in four chance and for three is a one in eight chance—if determined randomly. This is

simple probability, as we discussed earlier.

[illegible]

Numbers this large don't really have much meaning, as it is not possible to comprehend their size. So, let's get some perspective. It is estimated that the known universe consists of a total of 10^{80} atoms. So the chance against one modest-sized protein having all *levo* molecules is 10^{40} times greater than the total number of atoms in the universe!

The figures we have been looking at are for *one* amino acid. A human genome is made up of about 3.2 billion pairs of these molecules, and there is not even one that is of the dextro type.

Such figures put evolution beyond the realm of improbability. *Evolution is an impossibility.* ♦



The odds

[illegible]

But believing evolutionists will remark, "It could happen."

planned, guided and purposeful design and creation of everything in the physical universe.

The presence of only levo-amino acids in living materials is so mathematically improbable (see sidebar, above), the only way it makes sense is if it was purposely designed—and that requires a Designer and Creator. No other model works.

The anti-creation bias is so deeply rooted within the scientific community that many scientists may not even realize its presence. Their willingness to rely on and teach known lies to students in elementary, secondary, university and graduate studies proves

how far they are willing to go to try to substantiate their uncorroborated "theory" of evolution.

Actually, the illogical and otherwise unexplainable vivacity with which evolution is being promoted is evidence of a Creator. There is no other reason for intelligent men and women of science to retain their beliefs in view of the facts. The only rational explanation is a spiritual *adversary*.

God the Creator has an enemy, Satan the devil, who opposes Him in everything. The influence of God's enemy on the thinking of scientists becomes obvious when they dismiss the truth and accept such lies.

Nearly 2,000 years ago, the following statement was written: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind ..." (Rom. 1:28). Satan has displaced God from the thinking of most humans and God has allowed a "reprobate mind" to be the result. This lack of logic is evident throughout the "theory" of evolution and in the scientists who embrace it.

A few men through the years have recognized the attempt to remove God from the picture systematically. In an article published in the *Spectator* in 1860, summarizing Darwin's book about evolution, Adam Sedgwick stated,

“From first to last it is a dish of rank materialism cleverly cooked and served up. As a system of philosophy it is not unlike the Tower of Babel, so daring in its high aim as to seek a shelter against God’s anger; but it is like a pyramid poised on its apex. It is a system embracing all living nature, vegetable and animal; yet contradicting—point blank—the vast treasure of facts that the Author of nature has, during the past two or three thousand years, revealed to our senses. And why is this done? For no other solid reason, I am sure, except to make us independent of a Creator.”

Mr. Armstrong once wrote, “Evolution is Satan’s most powerful modern weapon. It is Christianity’s greatest enemy” (“Putting the Evolution Concept Into Your Child’s Mind,” 1950).

Explaining the reason for such staunch espousal of the “theory” of evolution, Mr. Armstrong wrote in *The Missing Dimension In Sex*, “Science as a whole, and higher education, have exercised the academic freedom to postulate a creation without a Creator.” The “theory” of evolution demonstrates the depth to which men are willing to go in an attempt to explain creation and leave out God.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov. 1:7). Herein is the problem. Men, wanting to have no authority over them, refuse to fear God. They seek any possible explanation to remove the Creator and His rule from their lives. They are, perhaps unknowingly, allies of Satan as assailants of God.

It is possible to discern the truth with careful scrutiny and work. But first to be able to learn the full truth, it is necessary to fear God. Then the real truth about the creation and the Creator may be discovered. God *wants* mankind to be fully aware of His existence and His plan for the universe!

Satan’s influence can be seen in every aspect of human reasoning, and that includes the hypothesis of evolution. Deception has been used in an effort to imprison mankind with ignorance, and evolution is one such attempt.

Jesus Christ made it clear that we can be set free from the lies of this world. Seek real truth is the only way to obtain freedom from ignorance. As He said in John 8:32, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” ♦

CORBIS



The Reality of God

The late 20th century witnessed a global resurgence of religion. Many now proclaim their belief in God. But how many can really *prove* that God exists?

BY RON FRASER

THE ALTERNATIVE TO THE EVOLUTIONARY concept of spontaneous generation of life, evolving life forms mutating into the survival of the fittest, is the existence of *thought and intent* behind the *design* of all things universal and their deliberate, planned *creation*.

The problem is, proponents of both concepts tend to accept their chosen method of explaining why things exist based upon *blind faith*!

Evolution *cannot* be proven by scientific method. That is a *fact*. The existence of a supreme, life-inherent, life-giving Creator God, on the other hand, is *provable* beyond doubt to the open, unbiased mind. Trouble is, too few engage in the deliberate effort to prove it! Too many religionists are guilty of the same circular and subjective reasoning as evolutionists. Too many in both schools haven’t proven their beliefs.

Can you *prove* God exists? If you can, do you know what His *plan* is for mankind? Can you prove what His *will* is for *you* and the way that you live your life?

Your answers to these questions carry an *eternal* consequence—they impinge on your eternal future! In this article we can but skim the surface to stimulate you to prove further the most vital of all truths.

The Science of Creation

Never in the entirety of man’s history since the fall of Babylon has science treated the existence of God with such impunity. Yet, paradoxically, never has science produced, through its own efforts, such a plethora of *proof* of the existence of God as it has in its past, most-godless century.

At this time, the ultimate human realist, the believer in God, may look back and recall, “In the beginning *God created* the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).

A few such realists have always existed at the heart of scientific development and been humbled in the knowledge that all that exists in the physical world emanated from an intelligence far, far superior to theirs—indeed from a *supreme intelligence* that *created* their own far inferior *human* intelligence. Isaac Newton was such a one. Toward the end of his life he proclaimed, “I do

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not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me" (L.T. Moore, *Isaac Newton*, 1934).

Albert Einstein was another. He saw all of his efforts as a quest—a quest to find God's thoughts within the creation of the physical universe. It was Einstein who declared, "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." His reaction to those who challenged the quantum theory was, "God does not play dice." He apparently believed in a God of immutable law.

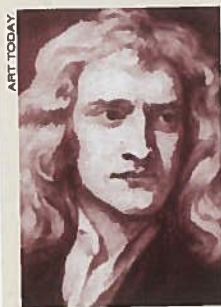
Proof Established

There was a man who came onto the world scene at the same time that science was replacing man's concept of God as the idol of the age. Herbert Armstrong traveled the globe teaching the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God to multiple world leaders, and to millions via radio, TV and the printed word. Early in his ministry, he saw the observations of science as a great *proof* of God's existence.

Challenged by the arguments of the evolutionists, Mr. Armstrong realized, "I had always *assumed* the existence of God because I had been taught it from childhood. ... I simply took it for granted" (*Autobiography*, vol. 1). Herbert Armstrong met the challenge. He was a *realist*; he sought to *prove* ultimate reality—to answer the questions, what is the *source* of all things, what *sustains* all things and *why*?

"Now, suddenly, I realized I had never *PROVED* whether there is a God. Since the existence of God is the very first *BASIS* for religious belief and authority—and since the inspiration of the Bible *by* such a God as His revelation to mankind is the secondary and companion basis for faith and practice, I realized that the place to start was to *PROVE* whether God exists and whether the Holy Bible is His revelation of knowledge and information for mankind" (ibid.).

He dug into the science textbooks in his local library. He learned the facts



ART TODAY

"... I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

• SIR ISAAC NEWTON •

about *time, space and matter*. "I dived into science. I learned the facts about radioactive elements. I learned how radioactivity proves there has been no past eternity of matter. There was a time when matter did not exist. Then there came a time when matter came into existence. This was *CREATION*, one of several proofs of *GOD*" (ibid.).

He learned the facts about the reproduction of life and the living laws

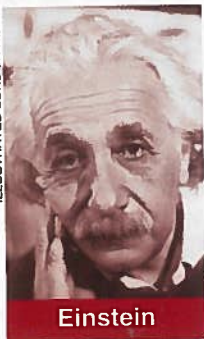
governing such reproduction. "By the laws of science, including the law of biogenesis, that only *life* can beget life—that dead matter cannot produce life—that the living cannot come from the non-living, by these laws came *PROOF* that God exists" (ibid.).

Mr. Armstrong learned that scientists ply their trade subject to and absolutely *de-*

pendent upon the predictability of underlying *law*. His keen mind quickly grasped, by comparing the inspired words of the Bible with the secular writings of science, that the two differed on one fundamental and foundational issue. The scientists always had to *start* with *something*. Either it was a big bang, or primordial ooze, a spark of life—*something* that was dependent upon underpinning *laws* that controlled its perpetuation or destruction.

The Bible account of creation, however, started *before* matter—*before* the physical universe, came into being! Its account of reality started with a supreme, overarching *Intelligence*!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-



ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

Einstein

3). Here is an account of pre-creation which starts with the Word and God—*two* individuals. That same Word was God—the two were *separate*, but indivisible in their degree of unity. Not only this, but within those two supreme Beings was the ability to *create life*!

In his search, Herbert Armstrong continually built proof upon proof that living *laws* regulated all things. Even the circular, inductive process of reasoning employed by the evolutionists assumed the existence of certain *laws*. Gerald L. Schroeder, an MIT-trained scientist, explains it this way: "Essentially all of scientific inquiry is based on fundamental 'givens,' values that just are what they are for no discernible reason, such as the electromagnetic charge. These facets of nature are observed as being intrinsic to the workings of nature, but arbitrarily set by the laws of our universe" (*The Hidden Face of God*).

But *what* established those "values" in the *beginning*? How did these "facets of nature"—*laws*—become "intrinsic to the workings of nature"? What is it that "arbitrarily set"

these "values"? Where did "the laws of our universe" come from? Even evolutionary scientists believe in *cause* and *effect*. What *caused* the universe to come into *effect*?

It was the Catholic thinker Thomas Aquinas who wrote, "It is certain, and evident to our senses, that in the world some things are in motion.

Now whatever is moved is moved by another But this cannot go on to infinity, because then there would be no first mover, and consequently, no other mover Therefore, it is necessary to arrive at the first mover, moved by no other; and this everyone understands to be God" (Roy Masters, *Finding God in Physics*).



MIKE BEDFORD

Armstrong

Such considerations inevitably led Herbert Armstrong to a study of *intelligence*. "But most important," he wrote, "I knew that I, with my mind, am superior to anything my mind can devise, and that I can make. Likewise, it became axiomatic that nothing *less* than the intelligence of my mind could have produced something *SUPERIOR* to itself—my mind! Of necessity, the very presence of human intellect necessitates a superior and greater Intellect to have designed, devised and produced the human mind!" (op. cit.).

The Universal Clock

King David, the Psalmist, looked out with wonder at the universe and penned the following words: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge" (Ps. 19:1-2).

Herbert Armstrong looked up into the heavens and thought on their *design* and on the statistical probability of life coming into being on the veritable speck of sand we call Earth, with its patterns of times and seasons and the exact proximity to the sun and moon which allows for the perpetuation of life on this tiny, jewel-like planet. As he looked and thought, he mused, "Up there in the heavens is the great master clock that NEVER makes a mistake—is *always* ON TIME—never off a fraction of a second—the heavenly bodies coursing through the skies!" (*Does God Exist?*).

He thought upon the 19th-century William Paley's classic treatise against evolution, in which he declared that design implies a designer—that, for example, a watch demands a watchmaker—and he wrote:

"But then you, Mr. Skeptic—you look up into the great vast sky at that master clock of the universe, which never misses a second—the perfect watch by which we must constantly set all our imperfect man-made watches—and you tell me, 'That all just HAPPENED! There was no Great Watchmaker! No Master MIND thought out and *planned* that vast universe, brought it into being, set each star and planet in its own exact place, and started the myriad heavenly bodies coursing through space, each in its prescribed orbit, in its

orderly precision. No, it just fashioned itself, put itself together, wound itself up, and started itself running. There was no Intelligence—no planning—NO CREATION—NO GOD!" (ibid.).

Time is one of the wonders that physicists and metaphysicists have thought much upon.

Author Roy Masters has written and broadcast often on the phenomena of physics yielding striking proof of the existence of an Eternal God. His fascination with time is obvious in the following statement: "Time can never be still, and the fact that it 'passes' reinforces existence. As I said, if time suddenly ceased, nothing would exist; all matter would dematerialize instantly into the nothing from which it came ..." (op. cit.).

Whatever controls *time* controls *existence*—the fact of *being*, of *reality*, of *presence*! This existence of time is a powerful proof of a master Time Keeper.

Gerald Schroeder's view is expressed thus: "We drift in a river of time. There's no possibility of swimming up-stream, of going back in time. Destroy every clock, every item that feels the passage of time. The flow of time continues unabated. Time is an intrinsic, ubiquitous quality of our universe, irrespective of whether or not we measure its passage" (op. cit.).

The power that becomes evident through the study of laws of the universe has even led one of today's leading physicists to unwittingly alight upon the source of all things, revealed in the previously quoted scripture (John 1:1-3). "God is what mind becomes when it has passed beyond the scale of our comprehension" (ibid.). In other words, this

scientist is implying that there is a *superior intelligence* which takes up from the boundary where our mind stops.

As Herbert Armstrong so often claimed, that which is created is inferior to its creator. The created is always subject to the control and direction of its superior creator. Thus it is that we read in the inspired word of Scripture of the vast gulf between the supreme intelligence of the Creator God and of the created man.

Drawing Job's mind to think on the wonder of stellar space, God challenged him, "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?" (Job 38:31-33).

How *puny* man appears by comparison with the supreme controller of time, motion and space!

The Greatest Proof

As Mr. Schroeder indicates, we cannot go back in time. We can certainly gain understanding and help from reflection on the past which will help us live and experience the present without repeating the mistakes of the past. But we simply cannot *re-live* the past. What's done is *done*.

Yet, it is possible for us to look into the *future* if we link minds with an all-knowing Creator who has perfect knowledge of the human being and perfect control of the universe, both of which are His creation. *That* God *does* exist, and the greatest proof is His power to *prophecy* events centuries, even millennia, in *advance* of their coming to pass! Prophecy is the most powerful of all proofs of the existence of God! Not only does it offer supreme evidence of God's existence, it also proves the veracity of the Bible! (see p. 24).

Fact is, the stories we read and view today in our news media concerning such events as the rise of a united Europe, the rise of the Islamic powers, the increasing alliance of Asia and the Eastern powers, and the great moral decline in Britain and the United States were already written in Bible prophecy!

Did you know that some world and church leaders were prophesied



FUTURE PREDICTED The Bible prophesied of Cyrus, founder of the Persian Empire, 150 years before he was born.

EVOLUTION VS. CREATION

sied in your Bible ages *before* they were born?

A case in point is Cyrus, king of Persia. The eternal Creator God communicates with mankind, His creation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, sometimes called "the Comforter" (John 16:7, 13), via men whom He appoints for that purpose as prophets. God inspired the Prophet Isaiah to document the occasion of the reign of Cyrus, in detail, even referring to him by name, well before he was even conceived in the womb of his mother!

We read of this in Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1-5. Note in particular the following: "I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me" (Isa. 45:4). Why did God do this? To prove to His chosen nation Israel and to His Church that HE IS GOD (vv. 6-7). This prophecy was documented around 712 B.C. Cyrus the king was born a full 150 years later! That is a historical *fact*!

Other events prophesied for the rule of Cyrus were penned by the Prophet Jeremiah well in advance of

those events happening. A simple chronological comparison of the Bible account with secular history texts, such as that of Herodotus, will prove this to those of an open mind.

Space prevents us from detailing further the multitude of prophecies, foretold millennia ago and documented in your Bible, which have been fulfilled, particularly through the 19th century to the present day. It is a fact that one third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy, and *most* of that is either happening *right now* or is destined to happen in



Is the Bible for Real?

BY RYAN MALONE

DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIBLE? YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO prove it true. The Bible itself says "prove all things" (1 Thes. 5:21). Otherwise you have a religion that has no basis except what "feels" right.

Or maybe you believe the Bible *cannot* be true. It's just a group of writings from an ancient Jewish race trying to develop a clearer concept of their God. But before you write off the Bible as superstition, you need to *prove* this theory. Otherwise you are no better than those who "feel" and "just know" the Book has to be true.

Give Me Proof!

Is there *proof* that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God? Some believe Jesus's miracles were recorded to *prove* He was the Messiah. But the skeptics don't believe those miracles happened. Some say *answered prayer* is solid proof of inspiration. But the skeptics have never had one prayer answered, and they don't believe anyone else has.

But there is one irrefutable proof!

"The Bible itself purports to be the infallible, divine revelation of truth, revealed by the very Creator and divine Ruler of the entire universe. In your Bible, *one is quoted*, claiming that HE *is God*, speaking in the first person, saying that He can make and unmake nations, that He can carry out His judgments over millennia of time, claiming that He can foretell infallibly the future of cities and empires, but that *no MAN can*" (Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Proof of the Bible*).

This Being says there is none like Him (Isa. 46:9-10; 45:21-23), taunting the skeptics to bring their case before Him and

prove His non-existence! God wants to know if *they* can foretell the future centuries in advance *and have the power to make it happen* exactly as they predicted. Of course, no man has the power to do that. But this disputed literary work dares to claim such ability.

Have its predictions been right? If not, the skeptics have rightfully won this experiment, and we must write off the book as nothing more than a nice piece of literature. But if the Bible has been accurate in its predictions, we must *know* and be willing to accept above all human pride that there is something greater than human behind those words—an almighty and powerful Being with the ability to *predict* and MAKE IT HAPPEN! It means the words about how to live the way our

Creator intended were, in fact, inspired and are to be heeded! So let's perform this experiment.

The Fate of Cities

New York City, over 300 years old, has grown into a city of millions. What if someone predicted that within 15 years, New York would be completely destroyed, never to be rebuilt again? Well, no man has the power to *know* if it will happen or not, and no one has the *power* to make it happen.

What about the one claiming to be God? Could God, if He exists, predict the fall of such a *great* city and make it happen?

Well, over 2,500 years ago, there was a great city, 1,500 years old, that was the commercial center of the world. No city was more beautiful, more *STABLE*, than ancient Tyre.

A man named Ezekiel wrote down what was claimed to be God's Word: "And it came to pass in the eleventh year [585 B.C.], in the first day of the month, that the word of the Lord came unto me, saying Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Tyrus, and *will cause many nations to come up against thee*, as the sea causeth his waves to come up. And they shall *destroy the walls of Tyrus*, and *break down her towers*: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a *place for the spreading of nets* in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God: and it shall become a spoil to the nations. And her daughters which are in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezek. 26:1, 3-6).

The one claiming to be God said that many nations would come against Tyre like the waves of the sea—one after the other, as opposed to all together. For 1,500 years, Tyre had survived countless attacks by its enemies. Was this just the

the near future. Longtime readers of this magazine have often been startled by recalling an earlier article which predicted a future event, based on biblical prophecy, that came to pass months, even years, after they read of the predicted event in the *Trumpet*.

It is God's nature to be merciful to His creation (Exod. 20:6). Thus, He has promised that no cataclysmic event will come upon humankind unless they are first warned by Him, through His prophets. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he re-

vealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

The most articulate, internationally aware minds agree, we live in unprecedented times. The whole world structure is changing. As the Western democracies decline and fall, demagogues and terrorists arise. This was all *prophesied* in your Bible. You need to know what is prophesied for the immediate future so you can do something positive about it for you and your family! You need this powerful proof of God's existence working in

your life so you can attune to the will of your Creator and come into harmony with the laws He created for your welfare! That is the only way you can truly fulfill the incredible human potential for which you were designed and conceived and now live!

Write now for our free booklet *The God Family Vision*. Catch the God-breathed vision of that marvelous destiny and learn now to *live*, to the *full*, the *abundant* life which you were created by an all-wise, all-loving God to fulfill! ♦

imagination of an old Jewish prophet, to contrive such an incredulous prophecy as the fate of such an awesome city?

This prophecy came to pass just as God said it would! You can prove that.

But, the skeptic may say, *how do you know the prophecy wasn't written AFTER all this occurred?* That is a valid question. But remember, the prophecy was not only concerning the specific destruction of Tyre, but also that *Tyre was never to be rebuilt again!* (v. 14). This is quite an authoritative statement from a human being, if that is all that was behind this. But God has seen to it that Tyre has remained, till this very day, "like the top of a rock" (v. 14), uninhabited and for the spreading of fishermen's nets. The silenced city shouts the proof of God's existence and the divine inspiration of His Word!

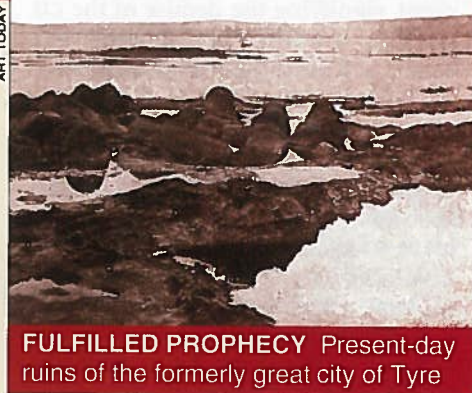
But the skeptics still have a chance! They could still disprove the Bible if they did one thing. Mr. Armstrong states in *The Proof of the Bible*, "Here is how you can disprove the Bible, and the very existence of God—if there is no God, and IF the Bible is not inspired! *Just go over and build a small city on the site of New Tyre.* A collection of a dollar each from all of the American skeptics *alone* would be ample. *Whoever inspired Ezekiel 26 dares the skeptics to try to do it.* Now there is nothing to prevent them from building a city there on the site of New Tyre, *except* that the Bible they scoff at says they *CAN'T!*"

Compare this prophecy to that of a city 30 miles north of Tyre—Sidon. It is an older city. Originally, Tyre was merely one of Sidon's colonies. While Tyre was gaining in greatness on the world scene, Sidon was declining. The Prophet Ezekiel wrote in 590 B.C. stating that Sidon would be wounded and attacked (Ezek. 28), but never destroyed. And Sidon, today, is populated by approximately 200,000.

Ask yourself! If this were not divinely inspired by a superior being able to understand and foresee events far into the future, then how could any man have known that until A.D. 2002 Sidon would continue to exist, amid many attacks, but that Tyre would be utterly destroyed and NEVER AGAIN rebuilt?

The Fate of Nations

Many other prophecies prove the existence of God and His inspiration of the Holy Bible. The Prophet Daniel was inspired to write over 400 years of history before it happened



FULFILLED PROPHECY Present-day ruins of the formerly great city of Tyre

(write for our free booklet *History and Prophecy in the Middle East*)—a time spanning well beyond his years and concerning the development of major players on the world scene. Could this have been the foresight of a *human*?

Another proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible is the identity of the United States and Britain in biblical prophecy. Abraham's two great-great grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh—known as *Israel* in biblical terminology—were to be "a nation and a company of nations" (Gen. 35:11; see also Gen. 48:19). And many prophecies for Israel have come to pass in the United States (a great nation) and Britain (a company of nations) today! Please write for a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for further proof on this subject. This compelling book unveils the identity of the U.S. and Britain in the Bible. It is the most riveting story ever told.

And for Our Day?

The Bible not only prophesies the future of great *ancient* cities and modern nations but dares to foretell what will happen in *our time* today! Matthew 24:22 talks about a time when *human survival* will be at stake—that "except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved." The Moffatt translation of the Bible reads "saved *ALIVE*"—the end of humankind! Only since World War II has the annihilation of the human race been possible. Man is now capable of self-destruction—several hundred times over! Could a man, centuries ago, just *guess* that such annihilation, such weaponry, would be possible? That it would lead to the greatest time of suffering on Earth? (v. 21; Dan. 12:1). Only God could foresee this. It will be at that time that God's existence and His divine inspiration of the Bible will be proven to all those skeptics who refused to see the proof previously laid before them.

We don't have to wait till God smacks the world over the head with a sledgehammer before we accept His existence and His Word in Scripture!

Yes, God does exist. And yes, He inspired every word in the Bible. Write for the free literature offered in this article for further proof. And then, as Christ said in Matthew 4:4, live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." ♦

avoiding a long ground war with the high risk of politically unpopular U.S. casualties. But the U.S. has now declared victory with no ability to control the territory over which it is victor!

Large swaths of Afghanistan are still in the hands of pro-Taliban forces. Various warlords are opposed to the new government. Increasingly, differing factions are at each other's throats. The U.S. is thus at the behest of neighboring countries and must seek a political accommodation with them. To be sure, each of these neighboring countries will seek its pound of flesh in any compromise reached with the U.S. to enable, or force, stability within Afghanistan.

Although Washington may see a unique opportunity here to play one Eurasian country against another, there is no doubt that this scenario presents an ideal situation for Russia, China, India and Pakistan to improve their bilateral ties, with the intent of diminishing America's role in the region. Each of these neighboring countries has a singular common interest—to check the threat of Islamic extremism that disrupts the economic order and could penetrate the geopolitical black holes that are extant in Central Asia.

Russia's Interest

Russia has dismissed President Bush's recent labeling of Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an "axis of evil." It is making overtures to strengthen its old Asian ties, particularly with India and Iran, to counterbalance U.S. clout in Central Asia. Russia provides Iran with conventional weapons. Despite clear-cut evidence that Tehran is the major sponsor of world terrorism, Russia has stated that it will not cut its military ties with Iran.

Russia has also long nurtured ties with Iraq. Recently, Russian Premier Vladimir Putin warned President Bush not to attack Iraq. The Iraqi leadership is "ready to become Russia-oriented," according to Ramazan Abdulatipov, the head of a recent Russian delegation to Iraq (*Asia Times*, Feb. 7).

Iraq owes Russia a huge debt, estimated to be about US\$10 billion. This

fact, combined with the keenness of Russian oil companies to tap into Iraq's lucrative oil reserves, underwrites the reason for Putin warning off Bush from Saddam Hussein's Iraqi regime.

In addition to these factors, the sight of U.S. military bases in Central Asia has moved public opinion in Russia against the U.S., not to mention what Russia's official RIA news agency termed the "agitation if not a scandal among Russia's politicians" over increasing U.S. influence in Central Asia. The RIA observed that the U.S. military presence in the region is viewed as a "tragic event, signifying the demise of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] and end of centuries-long Russian influence in Central Asia" (ibid.).

The strategic dimension to what Russia views as a "seizure" by the U.S. of Central Asia is reinforced by the Russians' fear of a possible deployment of U.S. anti-missile systems at Khanabad base in Uzbekistan.

Being a traditional ally of India, and that country's largest supplier of arms (including warships, jetfighters and tanks), Russia is also in the process of

King of the South

Meanwhile, the biblical "king of the south" (Dan. 11:5-6), Iran, plays a false game with the U.S. Belying the reality of its primacy as patron of world terror, Iran's snide response to President Bush's naming them as part of an "axis of evil" was to declare, "We are making our utmost effort, but the reality is that it is not possible to control this long border completely" (BBC News, Feb. 5). The Iranian foreign minister then shot off a long letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, denouncing "unfounded allegations and threats of force against Iran by the Americans" (ibid.).

Revealing the true nature of Iran's intentions, he went on to state that "Israel had succeeded in hijacking the American war against terrorism and turning it into unconditional U.S. support for its own occupation and brutal suppression of the Palestinians" (ibid.). The same day, Arutz Sheva, an Israeli news service, claimed that Jordan's King Hussein had presented proof to President Bush of the Jordanians' prevention of no less than 17 attempted attacks on Israel by Iranian-sponsored Hamas and Hezbollah Islamic jihad terrorists.

Iran is using the alliance's war on terrorism to establish and strengthen ties with the EU, Russia, Pakistan and even its old enemy Iraq. They want the U.S. out of Central Asia.

The Rising Beast

It is with particular interest that we turn to the increasingly overt involvement in Central Asia by the European Union—prophetically identified as the "beast" power (Rev. 17:12-13) and the resurrecting old Holy Roman Empire—and, most especially, its leading nation, Germany—biblical Assyria in modern garb.

Germany has made it quite clear that it does not support the U.S. president's inclusion of Iran in his "axis of evil." In fact, opinion in Germany is that references to Iran in that context will do more harm than good.

The extent to which EU and U.S. policies differ dangerously on Iran are



NURTURING A PARTNERSHIP Iran's Khatami and Russia's Putin, at a March 2001 summit, cement military and nuclear cooperation agreements, in defiance of U.S. requests.

boosting its relationship with India with new arms deal packages. In response, India is offering military support to Tajikistan.

This all bears on which way Pakistan will swing when its present convenient flirtation with the U.S. runs out of steam.

seen in recent statements from a diplomatic source in Brussels. "Bush can say what he likes, and we listen to him. But we've seen in the past how Washington's policy of containment with regard to Iran and Iraq has led nowhere," said a senior EU diplomat. "We have our own foreign-policy interests as much as the U.S. has its own," he added. Indeed, if Spain, holder of the EU's rotating presidency, has its way, it will persuade the 14 other member states to allow the European Commission to negotiate a Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) with Tehran" (*EUObserver.com*, Feb. 5).

Such publicly expressed views do not auger well for future cohesion between the U.S. and EU on foreign policy within Central Asia and the Middle East.

Foreign Policy Divisions

Added to this is the prospect of *not* the U.S., *not* Britain or any one of their traditional allies, but *Germany* being considered to take over leadership of the "peacekeeping" initiatives in Afghanistan. It is the EU's, and most especially Germany's, diplomatic initiatives in Central Asia and the Middle East that the U.S. and Britain should be most mindful of at this time.

Just as the EU—inspired by initiatives such as those of Germany's foreign affairs minister, Joschka Fischer—has moved powerfully to take over the *Middle East* peace process, it is, even now, manipulating to cement relationships with Russia, Iran and Pakistan to end up pulling the strings in *Afghanistan*. This will ultimately hurt both Britain and America!

The war on terror is presenting unprecedented opportunity for Germany to burst out of the foreign-policy and military cocoon which encased it for over half a century since World War II.

How the wheel turns! Germany—acc developers, through the massive enterprise of IG Farben, of biological and chemical means of destruction of human life—has just sent 250 Bundeswehr troops, specialists in atomic, biological and chemical defense, to Kuwait. German news service Deutsche Welle stated that "their exact mission remains under wraps." But it was, apparently, attached to the U.S. anti-terror operation, "Enduring Freedom" (Feb. 6).

These exercises, initiated and encouraged by the U.S., are training German troops for combat readiness as

part of the coming combined European defense force. Numbering in excess of 2 million personnel, this force will be organized and able to meet incursions, or mount attacks, on two fronts simultaneously. Europe will not be caught in the policy trap of downgrading its military force to the extent that the U.S. has, with current U.S. military overseers reducing force levels from the traditional capability to engage in war on two fronts, to stretching to cover just one! Germany's preparedness, and the U.S. lack thereof, poses a looming danger not yet apparent to Washington.

EU-Pakistan Flirtation

Mindful that Pakistan is a crucial piece in the Central Asian jigsaw, Germany, as we have reported previously, is intent on strengthening its economic, political and military alliances with Islamabad. Swift to move in with offers of substantial aid to woo Pakistan into the EU camp following the U.S.-led alliance's attacks on Afghanistan, Germany has followed up with diplomatic moves to consolidate its Pakistani alliance.

Recently, Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar of Pakistan stated that Pakistan would welcome German assistance in diffusing its present crisis with India. Pointing to Germany's role as host of the conference in Bonn which was instrumental in forming the alliance against terrorism, Sattar stated that "Pakistan was glad that Germany had joined other countries to strengthen security and process of reconstruction in Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that Germany would continue to support this effort" (*www.dawn.com*, Feb. 7).

During Foreign Minister Sattar's whistle-stop tour of key EU capitals in February, EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten described what he termed a "rejuvenation" in Pakistani-EU relations. Pakistani newspaper *Dawn* described Pakistan as enjoying a "move from backstage to spotlight on Europe's foreign-policy stage" (*ibid.*, Feb. 6).

The U.S. has been caught napping in following through on commitments made to Pakistan to curry its support following the September 11 attacks.



Abdul Sattar

"Diplomats in Brussels are also quick to point out that, unlike the United States, the EU is moving fast to fulfill its post-September 11 promises to upgrade relations with Pakistan. Recent moves include the signature of a new trade and cooperation pact, increased aid and quick agreement on a textiles package designed to increase Pakistan's exports to Europe. The focus now has to be on what Sattar insisted was a further intensification of Pakistan-EU relations, including in the political and diplomatic sphere" (*ibid.*).

The EU has been clever enough to seize the initiative in its relations with Pakistan, realizing that this is essential to cementing an ongoing role in Central Asia.

Energy Politics

Although the strategic balance of power between the Middle East, Central Asia, Russia and Southern Asia is the main reason for the "stan" countries leaping into focus in foreign relations, most crucial to the deals being done by the diplomats are the oil and gas deposits of the region. Competition between the U.S., China and Iran to run oil and gas pipelines tapping Central Asian sources is hot.

Exploitation of Central Asian and Caspian reserves has been a long-held American dream. Caspian oil exports have a potential of 3.2 million barrels per day. Gas exports could rise to 4,850 billion cubic feet per year by 2010. But the key to developing oil and gas distribution networks has been stabilizing Afghanistan. The U.S. project, CentGas, plans gas and oil pipelines from Turkmenistan to Pakistan, with both gas and oil lines passing through Afghanistan. This project also involves hooking up oil fields in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

The prospect of a stabilized Afghanistan has sparked China's interest in constructing its own pipeline similar to the CentGas project. With deep concerns about the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan and the Central Asian republics, China is intent on outmaneuvering the U.S. by having Turkmenistan and Pakistan join its own pipeline project before Western companies have a chance to reenter the market.

Iran has also reentered the pipeline equation by seeking to revive the Economic Cooperation Organization, in-

◆ CENTRAL ASIA

volving Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran and the Central Asian states. To enhance its efforts in this direction, Tehran has approached Pakistan to form a joint strategy for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. In February, Iran also commenced negotiations with Pakistan for a proposed \$5 billion Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project. Iran is further hoping to negotiate to lay pipelines from Central Asia to Iran for reexport to the EU and to South Asia.

The race is on to see which of these players will win both the lion's share of the oil and gas distribution market in the region and the strategic power to turn the resultant flow of energy on or off, depending on the volatility of international relations and alliances in these crucial times.

Pivotal Role

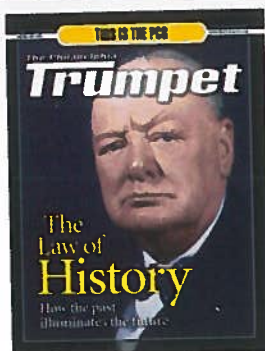
The control of Central Asia is pivotal to events now playing out in the Middle East, Europe, Russia and Asia. Watch for a cementing of alliances for control and influence in this region which will eventually force the U.S. and Britain out as, increasingly, they become the pariahs in this age of the Gentiles (Luke 21:24). Watch for the EU to continue courting Russia, Iran and Pakistan. Keep watching for the EU to emerge with the whip-hand in Central Asia to draw energy from that region for Europe's developing military machine. That mighty power will initiate the third, most brutal, but briefest world war in history.

Watch and pray that you might find the means to *escape* that horrifying conflagration. Protection is available. The only demand your Maker has of you, personally, is that you change your way of living from *your* way to *His* way—and He, in His grace and mercy, will even provide you with the means to do that, and to *succeed* at it! Write for our booklet *Repentance Toward God* and begin to experience the fulfillment of your *incredible human potential*—the *guaranteed* way to joy, peace, safety and security in spite of all the terror and trauma building in these waning days of the last hour of man's civilization. ◆

CORRECTION

In the *Trumpet's* February issue, the jet pictured on page 8 is an American F-117A fighter, not a German jet. The *Trumpet* regrets the error.

LETTERS



The Law of History

“I was never good at history or geography, but since reading your *Philadelphia Trumpet*, I have learned so much about the world. And with the prophecies you point out, I now have a new respect and hunger for reading the Bible.”

Fremont, Calif.

YOUR MAGAZINE HAS GIVEN ME HOPE. I BELIEVE in your message, and I'm passing it on to others. Since I don't have a church of my own, I'd like to send my tithes to help you continue to spread the Word. Your message is so important. And I also believe there are still some good people out there who just need to know that they're not alone and it's not too late to try and make things better, and that they're not fighting all by themselves—or it just wears them down, and they lose hope.

Hurst, Tex.

I REALLY ENJOY READING THE LITERATURE. I feel it is bringing Mr. Armstrong back into our lives. Every day I reflect on his literature and the current readings from the Philadelphia Church of God. It gives much meaning in my family's life, and brings me much hope and joy.

Florence, Ky.

The Coming World Crisis

I READ THE JANUARY *TRUMPET* COVER TO cover and was captivated by each article. I enjoy prophecy and history very much. It is so refreshing to read articles on prophecy that do not go along with the standard teaching of the pre-Tribulation rapture. I find myself in agreement with your views on Germany, Europe, the papacy and their roles in end-time events. I believe what is going on in Europe today is none other than the rise of the European beast power headed by Germany.

San Antonio, Tex.

YOUR ARTICLE ON JERUSALEM AND ISRAEL failed to give God credit for preserving the Jewish homeland. The Jews' willingness to defend themselves with American assistance are only factors in their survival. But it is the great God of the Bible who has given Israel miraculous victories in every war they've fought.

Toledo, Ohio

THE JANUARY *TRUMPET* EXPLAINED EVERYTHING. I was greatly in need of this information, and I was fearful you would not send two words off to me, after my scathing analysis. I take every word back in regard to your knowledge of the pope, etc. I have proved to myself the Bible prophecy you are teaching in your magazine.

Elyria, Ohio

I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FREE COPIES OF THE *Philadelphia Trumpet* for the past five months, and I have been more informed about the scriptural implications of events taking place in the world now than ever.

Kitchener, Ont.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE TRUTHFUL world news contained in your publication. Although the future outlook for the United States does not look so positive, and it is frightening to think our comfortable way of life could come to a sudden stop, your writers continue to turn the emphasis to hope in Jesus and His coming glorious reign. The warnings should hit the spirits of all Christians to make ready—the Lord is coming!

Sedro Woolley, Wash.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY HOW MUCH I HAVE enjoyed reading the *Trumpet*. It has given me a lot of insight. The latest magazine, "The Coming World Crisis" has opened my eyes even more.

Richmond, Va.

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

Subscription inquiries can be made by calling 1-800-772-8577 or writing Trumpet Subscriptions, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. Please provide complete address, including zip code.

MARK SARANGA

A Monster in Your Home

Are you protecting your family from this common danger?

THOUGH IT HAS BEEN NEGATIVELY DESCRIBED AS THE ONE-eyed monster, the boob tube and the idiot box, television is something Americans think they simply cannot live without. It is one of America's greatest pastimes. In most cases, we spend more time watching television within our homes than we do talking with each other. And if we're not watching it, we're usually talking about it.

Tv has many negative effects on our society, but the greatest is how it undermines family life. Ironically, we bring this monster right into our homes and empower it. We give it influence over our minds and lives by the time we devote to watching it.

According to a survey conducted by Nielsen Media Research in 2000, the average U.S. home has the TV on for 8 hours each day, with each person watching it close to 4 hours a day. Contrast those statistics with the average amount of time parents spend in *meaningful conversation* with their children—a mere 39 minutes each week! (American Family Research Council). THAT BREAKS DOWN TO 5½ MINUTES A DAY. This is a graphic example of backward priorities within many families.

In *The Official Couch Potato Handbook*, Jack Mingo wrote that 54 percent of 4- to 6-year-olds say they would rather watch TV than spend time with their fathers. As parents, we have a responsibility to structure our children's lives, showing them how to spend their time and what should be most important to them. Instead, television programming is dictating our children's priorities; we are allowing our children to be educated and reared by TV programming. The entertainment industry is shaping and molding the minds of our children. It would be condemning even to have 1 percent of our young children—let alone over *half*—choose to spend time watching TV over spending time with their parents.

How can we allow this to happen in our families? Perhaps the answer is that we simply aren't concerned. According to the Nielsen survey, the average American youth watches 1,023 hours of TV a year. In a different study conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation in 1999, fully 95 percent of TV time among children 8 years and older is *unsupervised*. For children between 2 and 7, 81 percent of TV time is unsupervised. The Kaiser study also found that 65 percent of children 8 years and older have no parental *rules* limiting what they watch.

These statistics are overwhelming and convicting! Most parents simply don't concern themselves with what their children are watching.

If TV was a valid substitute for the caring attention a loving father and mother should provide, there would be no real concern. But that is not the case. On the contrary, most TV programming targets and *harms* our children.

Television can be a tool to instruct and educate, and some few programs do just that; but the majority of modern TV programming is a *negative* influence in our lives. Apart from undermining family life, television supplants other,

more educational activities and promotes violence. It pushes excessive commercialism through product advertising and encourages a sedentary lifestyle. Yet still, the greatest damage is being done to our families.

So what can we do to change this growing trend? First of all, we must TURN OFF the TV! The greatest alternative to TV is family interaction. Husbands and wives need to spend time talking with each other. Parents need to spend time talking with their children. Whether the

child is just a few months old or a teenager, there is no substitute for parents spending time interacting with him or her.

Parent-child interaction provides positive reinforcement for children. In a world filled with doubts and discouragement, parents can be a source of hope and vision. Parental interaction during the formative years, from birth to age 5, is especially important. It profoundly affects the development of the child's brain and thinking process. With the TV on, parents and children are robbed of this quality time together.

Tv also robs children of their own playtime. Both parental interaction and children's playtime are crucial in the development of intelligence and imagination.

Another edifying and enriching alternative to TV is reading. Consider the importance of reading to a child's education—even to our education as adults. The act of reading cultivates strong habits of analysis, questioning, comprehension and rationality. Television, with its emphasis on emotion, speed, image and sound, fails to contribute to the development of these key skills. Reading develops a depth of critical thinking that cannot be achieved in a lifetime of TV viewing.

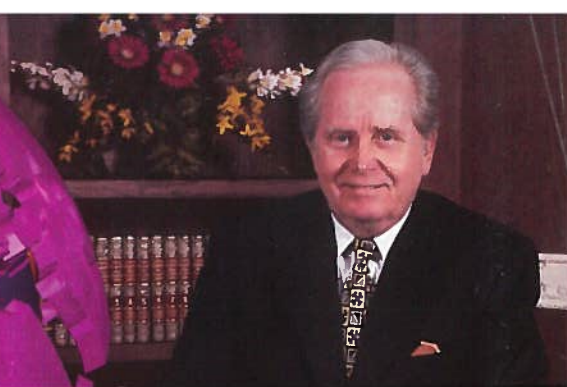
By turning the TV off, spending quality time with their children and promoting reading, parents will be building and strengthening their families and their children's minds.



EYEWIRE

THE KEY OF DAVID

Television and Radio Listings



United States

Satellite—Galaxy 3 Trans. 3 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Satellite—Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV—WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network—WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network—WWOR Chan. 238 7:30 am ET, Sat
Nationwide cable—WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Northeast cable—WWOR 7:30 am ET, Sat
 California, Los Angeles—KDOC 10:30 am, Sun
 Connecticut, Hartford—WCTX 7:00 am, Sun
 Florida, Orlando—WRDQ 11:00 am, Sun
 Illinois, Chicago—WJYS 12 noon, Sun
 Illinois, Harrisburg—KBSI 7:30 am, Sun
 Illinois, Mt. Vernon—WDKA 7:30 am, Sun
 Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 7:30 am, Sun
 Missouri, Cape Girardeau—KBSI 7:30 am, Sun
 New York, Buffalo—WUTV 8:30 am, Sun
 New York, Plattsburg—WVNY 7:00 am, Sun
 New York, New York City—WWOR 7:30 am, Sat
 North Carolina, Ashville—WASV 8:00 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Charlotte—WAXN 8:00 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Kannapolis—WAXN 8:00 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Fayetteville—WKFT 8:00 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Raleigh—WKFT 8:00 am, Sun
 Oklahoma, Oklahoma City—
 KSBH 7:00 am & 11:00 am, Sun
 Pennsylvania, Philadelphia—WTVE 11:30 am, Sun
 South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WASV
 8:00 am, Sun
 Texas, Dallas—KDFI 9:00 am, Sun
 Texas, Tyler—KLTV 10:30 am, Sun
 Vermont, Burlington—WVNY 7:00 am, Sun
 Virginia, Roanoke—WDRL 8:00 am, Sun
 Washington, D.C.—WTTG 7:00 am, Sun

Canada

Satellite—Galaxy 3 Trans. 3 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Satellite—WWOR 7:30 am ET, Sat
Satellite—Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV—WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network—WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network—WWOR Chan. 238 7:30 am ET, Sat
Nationwide cable—WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
 Alberta—CKRD 9:30 am, Sun
 British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 7:30 am, Sun
 Ontario—WUTV 8:30 am, Sun
 Quebec, Montreal—WVNY 7:00 am, Sun

Europe

Malta—Smash TV 4:00 pm CET, Sun;
 7:15 pm CET, Mon; 9:30 pm CET, Thu

Latin America

Satellite—Galaxy 3 Trans. 3 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Argentina—WWOR 8:30 am Sat
Brazil—WWOR 8:30 am, Sat
Chile—WWOR 7:30 am, Sat
Colombia—WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 6:30 am, Sat
Dominican Republic—WGN 8:00 am, Sun
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; WWOR 6:30 am, Sat
Panama—WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Venezuela—WWOR 8:30 am, Sat

Caribbean

Satellite—Galaxy 3 Trans. 3 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Satellite—Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV—WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network—WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network—WWOR Chan. 238 7:30 am ET, Sat
Aruba—WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas—WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Belize—WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 6:30 am, Sat
Cuba—WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 7:30 am, Sat
Grenada—CCN 8:00 am, Sun
Haiti—WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica—WGN 9:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sat
Puerto Rico—WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 7:30 am, Sat
Tobago—CCN 8:00 am, Sun
Trinidad—CCN 8:00 am, Sun

Middle East/Africa

Algeria—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Bahrain—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Cyprus—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Egypt—Star World 11:00 pm, Sun
Ethiopia—Star World 12:00 am, Sun
Iran—Star World 1:30 am, Sun
Iraq—Star World 11:50 pm, Sat
Israel—Star World 11:00 pm, Sat
Jordan—Star World 11:00 pm, Sun
Kuwait—Star World 12:00 am, Sun
Lebanon—Star World 1:00 am, Sun

Morocco—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Oman—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Palestine—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Qatar—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Somalia—Star World 12:00 am, Sun
Sudan—Star World 11:00 pm, Sat
Syria—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Tunisia—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
United Arab Emirates—Star World 1:00 am, Sun
Yemen—Star World 1:00 am, Sun

Asia/Pacific

Cambodia—Star World 4:00 am, Sun
China—Star World 5:00 am, Sun
North Korea—Star World 6:00 am, Sun
South Korea—Star World 6:00 am, Sun
Hong Kong—Star World 5:00 am, Sun
India—Star World 2:30 am, Sun
Nepal—Star World 2:45 am, Sun
Pakistan—Star World 2:00 am, Sun
Kazakhstan—Star World 4:00 am, Sun
Uzbekistan—Star World 2:00 am, Sun
Georgia—Star World 12:00 am, Sun
Indonesia—Star World 4:00 am, Sun
Malaysia—Star World 5:00 am, Sun
Maldives—Star World 2:00 am, Sun
Brunei—Star World 5:00 am, Sun
Vietnam—Star World 4:00 am, Sun
Papua New Guinea—Star World 7:00 am, Sun
Philippines—IBC TV 7:00 am, Sun
Fiji—Star World 5:00 am, Sun
Taiwan—Star World 5:00 am, Sun

Australia/New Zealand

Australia nationwide—Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
New South Wales—NRTV 4:30 am, Sun
Canberra—Ten Capital 4:30 am, Sun
Queensland—QTV 4:30 am, Sun
Victoria—Ten Victoria 4:30 am, Sun
New Zealand nationwide—TV3 6:00 am, Fri

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