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SPECIAL ISSUE

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The Philadelphia

Trumpet

**The Coming
WORLD
CRISIS**

SPECIAL ISSUE

Surveying Bible Prophecy

5 The Coming World Crisis

A look at last year, which foreshadowed a period of increasing terror.

6 Last Hour's First Minutes

♦ ANGLO-AMERICA

8 The End of the Free World

The peoples that have defined the world for two centuries face an uncertain future.

♦ MIDDLE EAST

12 The Beating Heart of Prophecy

The Middle East represents the beginning and ending of what to watch in the years ahead.

♦ EUROPE

15 The Rise, and RISE, of Europe

No phenomenon of this past year can match the acceleration of Europe's rise as a major global player. How powerful will Europe get?

♦ LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

20 The Resource War

♦ THE VATICAN

22 The Unifying Power

♦ ASIA

24 March Toward Armageddon

Soon the most powerful, numerous army ever assembled will make its way to the battle that will determine rulership of the world. What is the status of this massive alliance right now?

♦ ARTICLE

2 Germany Rules the Balkans

Dramatic events in former Yugoslavia through the past decade gave unmistakable proof of this fact: A dangerously aggressive Germany is rising now, and at a very accelerated pace!

♦ DEPARTMENTS

1 Personal: Contempt of History

29 Commentary: The Great Multitude



ON THE COVER: A distorted map of Planet Earth. (Joel Hilliker)



2



12



22

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Contempt of History

Great leaders of the past, like Winston Churchill, learned valuable lessons from history. They used those lessons to guide their nations safely.

Many of our modern leaders, however, learn very little from history. And we are about to pay the terrifying price.

Here are excerpts from a radio broadcast given May 9, 1945, when Herbert W. Armstrong warned of Germany's post-war rise: "THE WAR IS OVER, IN EUROPE—OR IS IT? WE NEED TO WAKE UP AND REALIZE THAT RIGHT NOW IS THE MOST DANGEROUS MOMENT IN UNITED STATES NATIONAL HISTORY, INSTEAD OF ASSUMING WE NOW HAVE PEACE!"

"Men plan, here, to preserve the PEACE of the world. What most do not know is that the Germans have *their* plans for winning the BATTLE of the peace. Yes, I said BATTLE of the peace. That's a kind of battle we Americans don't know. We know only *one* kind of war. We have never lost a war—that is, a military war; but we have never WON a conference, where leaders of other nations outfox us in the BATTLE for the peace.

"We don't understand German *thoroughness*. From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically *planned*, in such eventuality, the *third* round—World War III! Hitler has lost. This round of war, in Europe, is over. And the Nazis have now gone UNDERGROUND. In France and Norway they learned how effectively an organized UNDERGROUND can hamper occupation and control of a country. Paris was liberated by the French UNDERGROUND—and Allied armies. Now a Nazi underground is methodically planned. They plan to COME BACK and to win on the third try.

"The Bible foretells that third round—and it spells DOOM for us, as God's punishment, because we, as a nation, have forsaken Him and His ways! The third round is termed, in prophecy, an invasion by 'BABYLON'—a resurrected Roman Empire—a European Union. I have been proclaiming that since 1927. ...

"Even at this conference, classes and races are demanding their 'rights.' This conference, and the United Nations Organization it is forming, must solve three problems to succeed. First, Big Three unity; SECOND, THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH GERMANY TO PREVENT WORLD WAR III; and third, solve the world's injustices against smaller nations, and the growth and tactics of Communism toward world domination. Can it succeed?"

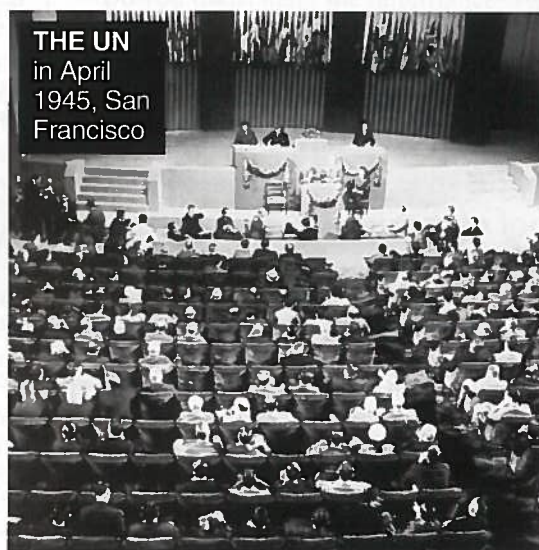
In the *London Times*, February 6, 2000, Melanie Phillips said that Tony Blair's government "is obsessed with 'modernity' and CONTEMPTUOUS OF HISTORY and tradition" (emphasis mine). Former U.S. President Bill Clinton had the same CONTEMPT FOR HISTORY. It is a dangerous problem—THE KIND OF THINKING THAT DESTROYS NATIONS!

Bill Clinton, when he was president, totally ignored the 1945 United Nations warning. Many of our own citizens personally lived through that history. Even worse, Mr. Clinton actually *pushed* Germany into dominating Europe—the ultimate contempt for extremely recent history! (Please read my article on page 2, "Germany Rules the Balkans.")

How utterly contemptuous Mr. Blair and Mr. Clinton have been of World War II history that cost 50 million lives! Our nations are going to pay dearly for such dangerous contempt of history.

But the problem gets worse. Our *religious* leaders have forgotten our *spiritual* history. They don't even know that America, Britain and the Jews in the Middle East are all a part of biblical Israel. The Israelites were the only people who ever had a history with God! (If you haven't proved this for yourself, write for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

As long as we reject our history, we will never accept Bible prophecy. That means God has to punish us as never before. The instrument God will use is rising quickly in Europe (Isa. 10:5-7). The plan is about to be implemented, unless we repent.



"This conference, and the United Nations Organization it is forming, must solve ... the serious problem of what to do with Germany to prevent World War III."

— Herbert W. Armstrong
on the UN's foundation in 1945.



WELCOME PRESENCE KFOR German troops being warmly greeted by Albanian refugees as they make their way to Kosovo in June 1999.

◆ BALKANS

This was a shocking revelation! American foreign policy supports German dominance in the EU. And both America and Germany supported the break-up of the Balkans. The question is, *why*?

For the answer, we must look a little further back into the history of this war-torn region in former Yugoslavia.

Germany's Opening Move

In December 1991, serious events began to take shape within Germany and Eastern Europe. Germany—although strongly opposed by the European Economic Community, the U.S. and the UN—recognized the breakaway states of Croatia and Slovenia. Pope John Paul II quickly did the same. (This was not a coincidence; the people of these two Balkan states are staunchly loyal to the Roman Catholic Church.) The European Economic Community caved and recognized the two states on January 15, 1992.

The *New York Times* wrote about this watershed event in a front-page article, "Moving Defiantly on Yugoslavia, Bonn Threatens Rift With Allies": "Germany will go ahead with its plans to extend diplomatic recognition to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia, German officials said today, increasing prospects for a pronounced rift on the issue in the Western alliance."

"Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman, Dieter Vogel, said on Friday that the Bonn government would wait until after a meeting of European Community foreign ministers in Brussels on Monday before announcing recognition, which HAS BEEN OPPOSED BY THE UNITED NATIONS, THE UNITED STATES AND BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. But officials made clear that Bonn's decision *would not* BE AFFECTED BY THE OUTCOME OF MONDAY'S MEETING" (Dec. 15, 1991).

GERMANY WAS OPPOSED BY VIRTUALLY THE WHOLE WORLD ON THIS MATTER! *Yet they stood firm in their decision. Why?* How could a nation with Germany's recent past attempt such a thing? It makes a lot of sense if you understand Bible prophecy about the Holy Roman Empire!

Another *New York Times* article, "UN Yields to Plans by Germany to Recognize Yugoslav Republics," said, "The Security Council backed away from a confrontation with Germany

Germany Rules the Balkans

Dramatic events in former Yugoslavia in the past decade have given unmistakable proof of this fact: A dangerously aggressive Germany is rising, and at an accelerated pace!

BY GERALD FLURRY

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN FORMER Yugoslavia over the past decade reaches far beyond the boundaries of that region. It is so SHOCKING that the nations of this world would be *paralyzed with fear* if they truly understood! Shamefully, America is its CHIEF ARCHITECT.

What's more, Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied of this unparalleled disaster for over 50 years.

Let's begin our study of this nightmarish situation with a look at events in 1995.

Plan for Europe

Here is a segment of the August 11-25, 1995, issue of *Intelligence Digest* (emphasis mine throughout): "American generals trained and advised the recently triumphant Croatian army, and German pilots have been training the Croatian air force (UN sources at Zagreb airport say air-traffic control frequencies 'resound to the voices of German pilots'). Yet the recent events in the former Yugoslavia, important (and dangerous) as they are, form *only a small part* of an OVERALL U.S.-GERMAN PLAN FOR EUROPE. ...

"America's solution is to encourage and support German hegemony [domination] in both east and west Europe."

"Germany's control of Western Europe is exercised through the European Union (EU), and American support for GERMAN DOMINANCE of the EU has been evident since at least 1990. At that time a pro-German U.S. State Department under James Baker started a whispering campaign against British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher because of her opposition to any further surrender of British sovereignty to the German-dominated EU (or European Community as it then was).

"This whispering campaign was partly responsible for Mrs. Thatcher's ouster from ... the British premiership. ...

"[Washington] is following an intentional policy the purpose of which is to leave both east and west Europe under complete German domination. ...

"So Germany, with the full backing of America, IS TO BE THE SOLE GREAT POWER OF EUROPE. ...

"Washington *urgently* needs to think again BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE: Its policy for Europe IS NOT A POLICY FOR FUTURE STABILITY; *it is the reverse.*"

over Yugoslavia today after Germany's European allies on the council decided that they did not want a major clash with Bonn.

"The incident underscored Germany's growing political power within the 12-nation European Community, diplomats said. Some added that it marked the single most visible demonstration of that power since reunification of the two Germanys more than a year ago [in 1990]. Moreover, in its unusual assertiveness in moving ahead

NOT DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THE CROATIAN FASCISTS, OR NAZIS OF THE 1940s, *yet was still a respected leader in a Roman Catholic country?* If these people are good Roman Catholics, how could they honor fascism in this way? Shouldn't this strike us as rather alarming? Croatian leaders won't disassociate themselves from such a horrible past, yet the pope has openly recognized Croatia in its struggle for independence, despite being opposed by most of the world. Don't these facts suggest

Something very dark and sinister is stirring in Europe.

with a plan to extend diplomatic recognition to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Germany has STIRRED TROUBLING HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS Nazi Germany DOMINATED the two Yugoslav regions during World War II, absorbing Slovenia into the Third Reich and CREATING A PUPPET REGIME IN CROATIA" (Dec. 16, 1991).

That is why Germany was so determined to recognize Croatia! But *why* would the U.S. support such a move? At first, America did not. But that quickly changed once Germany flexed its political muscle.

"Germany has long historical ties, both glorious and shameful, to Slovenia and Croatia. Slovenia was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, and many people there still identify with the German-speaking world. There has also been German influence in Croatia, and *during World War II* CROATIA WAS RULED BY A PRO-NAZI REGIME.

"This aspect of Croatian history, and the fact that the [late Croatian President Franjo] TUDJMAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE CROATIAN FASCISTS who ruled the republic in the 1940s, has made European leaders unwilling to move quickly toward recognition. German public opinion is strongly pro-Croatian and anti-Serbian" (*New York Times*, Dec. 8, 1991).

This is a shocking article. German public opinion is STRONGLY pro-Croatian and anti-Serbian, or in reality anti-Yugoslavian. The German people are emotionally involved with these two republics. Why? Most Americans probably were unaware of these two republics only a few years ago.

Isn't it also disturbing that a *Croatian leader* (who recently died) would

something dangerously ominous developing?

Do you understand the importance of this history? How quickly the world has forgotten the events surrounding World War II. How quickly the world has forgotten that Germany has historically considered it a primary duty to protect the Roman Catholic Church! During the various reigns of the Holy Roman Empire, they have felt it their duty to enforce the church's desires—good and bad. That helps us to understand why Germany will stand up against the European Community, the United Nations, the United States and the entire WORLD!

SOMETHING VERY DARK AND SINISTER IS STIRRING IN EUROPE. What has happened in Croatia is ONLY A SMALL SAMPLE OF WHAT IS ABOUT TO SPREAD OVER THE ENTIRE CONTINENT! This is the "straw that will stir the drink" to unify all of Europe. It will not be long before Europe is reunited as the Holy Roman Empire. It will be led very assertively by Germany.

How could Germany and the Vatican openly support a Nazi-type leader, considering their own recent history?

Two republics now have their independence because of Germany and the pope. The *whole world* would have been AGAINST the independence of these two republics HAD NOT GERMANY AND THE POPE SPOKEN OUT IN SUPPORT OF THEM! That reveals a great deal about the power Germany has today. But more importantly, IT PROJECTS WHERE GERMANY AND THE VATICAN ARE HEADED IN THE FUTURE!

Germany forced the issue and revealed how weak America and the West really are!

Many Serbian leaders feel the driving force behind the independence of Croatia and Slovenia was the Roman Catholic Church! This is only a small part of a rising *Holy Roman Empire*. Germany and the Vatican were willing to offend the whole world to recognize two little Roman Catholic republics! These events show anybody willing to take note that *something dreadful* is STIRRING IN GERMANY AND THE VATICAN.

For the most part, what is happening in Europe is invisible to the world. Even many political leaders in Europe will be moved with great emotion in support of European unity, not truly understanding why they are doing it.

Germany's World Dominance

Shortly after Germany recognized the breakaway republic of Croatia, civil war broke out in Yugoslavia! Many people blame Germany for causing that civil war.

All of Europe and America were openly hostile to Germany's action at that time, but Europe quickly caved in when Germany threatened to pull out of the European Community.

America saw the flow of events and, as usual, weakly changed its public view by submitting to Germany.

Mr. Tudjman, Croatia's leader at that time, HAD PUBLICLY AND REPEATEDLY SAID HIS COUNTRY WAS RIGHT IN SUPPORTING HITLER! He was very adamant and unrepentant.

AN INQUIRING MIND MIGHT ASK HOW GERMANY AND THE VATICAN COULD OPENLY AND FLAGRANTLY SUPPORT A NAZI-TYPE LEADER, CONSIDERING THEIR OWN RECENT HISTORY. Nazi atrocities

and the Vatican's involvement in protecting and hiding Nazi leaders during and after World War II are overwhelmingly documented!

Now they are unrepentant and headed in the same direction again. Is THERE A FRIGHTENING SPIRIT AFOOT HERE THAT WE NEED TO BE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT?

Sadly, a look at other facts is even more disturbing. America surrendered to Germany's nationalistic Croatian policy. The U.S. lifted the arms ban against all of Yugoslavia. And Ger-

many supplied modern military armaments to Croatia.

According to some reports, America signed a secret agreement to continue operating with the Croatian military. Remember, this is the SAME NATION THAT WE WERE BULLIED INTO ACCEPTING AS AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC IN 1991! Where Germany leads, we seem to follow.

America's foreign-policy shift in 1991 enraged its traditional allies Britain, France and the Netherlands. These nations saw what Germany was doing, not only in Yugoslavia, but all over Europe. The European Community collectively had *hoped* to KEEP POWER-

America was BITTERLY OPPOSED to Germany's recognizing the republic of Croatia. Then it turned around to HELP GERMANY FIGHT FOR CROATIA'S INDEPENDENCE! WHAT A PATHETIC TURNAROUND.

These events set the stage for 1999's nightmare in Kosovo.

The Beast of Revelation

The Bible shows that Satan the devil is the real power behind European unity. "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon [Satan, see Rev. 12:9] gave him his power, and his seat,

greater Croatia built in the image of Ante Pavelic's Croatian Republic of the 1940s" (Aug. 24, 1995).

That reminds me of the years leading up to World War II, after Hitler had already written his hateful diatribe, *Mein Kampf*. Yet Neville Chamberlain and other weak leaders were actually cozying up to and pampering this man who would head the Nazi war machine.

Doting on Her Lovers

In Ezekiel 23:12, God condemns Israel—primarily America and Britain—for doting on the Assyrians, or Germans. Verse 17 says the *mind* of Israel is "alienated" from the Chaldeans, or the German-led Holy Roman Empire. The recent history of the two world wars show you our minds are indeed "alienated" from Germany. God condemns Israel for making the Germans our lovers and not trusting *Him*. Unless we wake up, the Holy Roman Empire will BETRAY us and fight against us! Then we shall know very deeply what God thinks about our "lovers"!

After an open-skies treaty, the Germans are now making surveillance flights over the United States. Also, all of our nuclear weaponry is now controlled from Washington D.C. There are no more submarines with independent authority to launch nuclear missiles. America and Britain are becoming dangerously vulnerable to their *lovers*, who will soon betray them!

"And Aholah played the harlot when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbours Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted" (Ezek. 23:5, 9). This is a specific prophecy aimed at Israel—the American and British peoples in this end time! "And they shall recompense your lewdness upon you, and ye shall bear the sins of your idols: and YE SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD GOD" (v. 49).

In spite of this colossal tragedy, there is still good news. This towering crisis will bring our nations to repentance. Then they will really get to know the great God! Most of our peoples only *think* they know God today. What a shame that it takes such a terrifying crisis to awaken our peoples. But it doesn't have to be that way, if they would heed this message. ◆

(To be continued)

The world's most powerful foreign policy is Germany's!

FUL GERMANY UNDER CONTROL—with *help from the U.S.*! Instead, America helped Germany enforce its will on Europe! Europeans, who are being helplessly swept along, are painfully aware that Germany has *caused* two world wars—IN LIVING MEMORY—and the death of 60 million people!

Has America forgotten its loyal allies of World Wars I and II and in 50 years of the Cold War? Germany has bullied the U.S. INTO NEARLY WRECKING THAT ALLIANCE!

These traditional American allies know a great deal about Germany's desire to control Europe. U.S. leaders, however, seem to be ignorant of the dangers. It seems that they learned little or nothing from World Wars I and II.

The Serbs fought on the side of America and Britain in two world wars. In the 1990s, the Serbs were the only power to resist Germany in the Balkans. Now Germany is having its way in that part of the world. And the European Union is now openly discussing *global* ambitions—CHALLENGING America.

No wonder America is losing allies in Europe. Historical alliances and friends seem almost meaningless to the U.S. At the same time, America is building a Frankenstein monster that is about to turn on its creator!

America and Britain clearly do not understand history. And worse, they are totally ignorant of Bible prophecy. (Write for our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* to understand God's shocking revelation.)

This is an amazing scenario! THE MOST POWERFUL FOREIGN POLICY IN THIS WORLD COMES OUT OF GERMANY! At first,

and great authority" (Rev. 13:2). Satan knows he has little time left, and he is pushing political events and leaders in order for Europe to unify quickly.

"Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having GREAT WRATH, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12). The devil is using human emotion to achieve his ends. Even Satan must use something to unite people. A strong religion is often his best tool. Satan can use the ideals of the Holy Roman Empire to unite Europe. Europe thinks this will be for the world's good. The Bible says otherwise.

In 1995, Alexander Cockburn wrote in the *Detroit Free Press*: "When Germany led the Western powers to recognize Croatia, Slovenia and finally Bosnia at the start of the '90s, the Serbs remembered vividly what had happened to them at the hands of the Nazi-backed puppet state of Croatia in World War II. At least 700,000 Serbs—some say as many as 1.2 million—along with 30,000 Jews, were slaughtered by Croats in the Jasenovac concentration camp.

"The Croat lobby in the United States has displayed eel-like slipperiness when pressed about the fascist predilections of Croat leader Franjo Tudjman. Inquiries into his character and intentions are very much to the point: Tudjman has written books of spine-chilling anti-Semitism and apologetics for mass extermination.

"This is the man pampered by the West, even as he drives toward a



The

Since the "last hour" of the age of man began, the pace of events has accelerated.



COMING WORLD CRISIS



What does this mean for the future?

BY RON FRASER



"A DREADFUL, HORRENDOUS TIME is coming upon this Earth, even before the Great Tribulation" (*Trumpet*, Nov. 2001).

Is the *Trumpet* a lone voice crying in the wilderness? Are we alone in fearlessly declaring the true state of current events in the world? No, we are not. But we are unique in declaring the *reality* of their ultimate end and WHAT THAT FORESHADOWS FOR THE FUTURE!

Other clear-headed thinkers, however, are at least starting to realize that we have moved into a most dangerous phase in mankind's history.

Consider the following.

"The early years of the 21st century will see *massive and potentially dangerous shifts* in the structure of international power and influence" (Alun Chalfont, *Salisbury Review*, Autumn 2001; emphasis mine throughout). These comments of Lord Chalfont, a former minister of state for foreign affairs in Britain, were penned prior to the shocking events of September 11 last year.

Those same sentiments were endorsed only months earlier by a former U.S. secretary of state, Henry Kissinger. Commenting on what he termed "a

world in transition," Kissinger mused that "understanding the contemporary situation must begin with the recognition that its disturbances are not temporary interruptions of a beneficent status quo. They signal instead an inevitable transformation of the international order." Dr. Kissinger then added, "a *period of turbulence is inevitable*" (*Does America Need a Foreign Policy?*).

A little earlier in the year, Dr. George Friedman, commenting in the context of what he termed was "the beginning of a new international relations era," made the striking statement that "at stake is the international system's composition." He continued, "the lines are drawn showing a *very different world* than existed in the past decade. ... *This is a world with few precedents*" (www.stratfor.com, April 10, 2001).

Here are three minds that have studied history. Three minds of status which have analyzed geopolitics upon our entry into the 21st century. The minds of three clever men who have really thought about and deeply pondered the state of global affairs, and who all reached the same conclusion: We crossed a line in the year 2001.

Is it mere coincidence that one other mind would reach the same conclusion

from a totally different perspective? Lord Chalfont, Dr. Kissinger and Dr. Friedman all drew the same logical conclusion by applying their deep perspectives on *history* and *current events*, by the process of HUMAN REASONING, to the phenomenon of unprecedented change upon entry into the year 2001.

Our editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, reached the same conclusion based upon BIBLICAL REVELATION!

At the time that Mr. Flurry spoke on this phenomenon of the world entering an unprecedented time of turmoil, such as has not been experienced in the totality of man's history to date, he was not aware of the conclusions of these other men. Indeed, the thoughts of Lord Chalfont and Doctor Kissinger had not been published at the time. Yet, our editor in chief brought out the following in his *Personal* in the November 2001 edition of this magazine:

"In a sermon in May, I said *we should expect this last hour to be different than any other hour in the history of man!* Just four months later, the face of the world changed dramatically. ... THE WORLD HAS ENTERED ITS LAST HOUR! IT IS PLAIN FOR ALL TO SEE!"

They are powerful words. They are revelatory words, straight out of your

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CORBIS; AP/WIDEWORLD; REUTERS; CORBIS; REUTERS

Last Hour's First Minutes

MAY 2001

- ◆ Pope in Greece to mend split with Orthodox Church.
- ◆ EU signs record aid deal for Palestinian Authority.
- ◆ Germany launches \$3.6 billion space program.
- ◆ New Zealand scraps national air force.
- ◆ Pope sends envoy to Jerusalem to seek resumption of peace efforts.
- ◆ Arafat calls for international observers in Israel.
- ◆ Pope visits Syria.

JUNE

- ◆ Euroforce adopts Germanic anthem as marching tune.
- ◆ Race riots in Britain.

- ◆ China clinches deep-sea port deal in Pakistan.
- ◆ Ireland votes no to euro.
- ◆ Leaked document confirms drastic cuts in British Navy.
- ◆ DaimlerChrysler becomes Europe's largest firm.
- ◆ EU funding of left-wing Israeli politics exposed.
- ◆ Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia call for greater EU role in Mideast peace process.
- ◆ U.S. recession confirmed.

JULY

- ◆ China takes stake in world's biggest port, Rotterdam, with EU approval.
- ◆ Italy seals \$550 million deal in Iranian oil field.

- ◆ Italy calls for EU to have greater role in Middle East.
- ◆ EU blocks General Electric takeover of Honeywell to restrict U.S. competition.
- ◆ Russia calls for NATO to be replaced by European security and defense arm.



Europe visits Mideast

- ◆ China and Russia sign Good Neighbor Treaty.
- ◆ U.S. abandons policy of preparedness to fight two major wars simultaneously.
- ◆ Egypt, Iran agree to support Syria in any war against Israel.

- ◆ EU takes over satellite center to separate intelligence from NATO dependence.

AUGUST

- ◆ German foreign minister takes seven-stop diplomatic mission to Mideast.
- ◆ Confirmed 45% rise in neo-Nazi hate crimes in 2000 over 1999.

SEPTEMBER

- ◆ EU, Iran confirm intentions to negotiate trade pact.
- ◆ Revival of fascination with Mussolini sweeps Italy.
- ◆ U.S. attacked by terrorists; insurance company losses to eclipse all records.
- ◆ EU rushes to strengthen anti-terror laws.
- ◆ Spain demands Britain hand over Gibraltar.

Bible! As Gerald Flurry showed in that Personal, the Apostle John, under divine inspiration, wrote the following declarative statement as a message to God's end-time Church: "Children, *it is the last hour* [W]e know that it is the last hour" (1 John 2:18; RSV).

Ever since the rise of humanism and the penetration of German rationalism into our halls of learning from the 18th century, cynics and skeptics have parodied, lampooned and generally made snide fun of Jesus Christ's own teaching that there would come an end to man's civilization: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

Yet we now have some thinkers possessing keen, intelligent minds, with a realistic perspective on both history and the present, who have reasoned that we have entered unprecedented times. As Dr. Kissinger opines in his masterful thesis on U.S. foreign policy, we have entered a time which portends "the most profound and widespread upheavals the world has ever seen" (op. cit.). That brings to mind another prophetic statement of Jesus Christ: "For then shall be *great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (v. 21).

Mere months after each of these men published their separate declarations

on our entry into unprecedented times, the U.S. suffered the great terror attack of September 11—the worst ever.

Connecting that event with Jesus Christ's prophetic words in the biblical verse just quoted, Mr. Flurry stated, "The WTC attacks were a little taste of the Great Tribulation. What we saw is just a tiny little problem compared to what is coming. Multiply what happened on September 11 by maybe 30 or 40 thousand to begin to get a picture of what it will be like in the future ..." (op. cit.).

Yes, indeed, believe it or not, God is going to get our attention!

Heightened Pace

At our News Bureau, we are constantly monitoring the best of world news and intelligence sources to keep pace with world events. Current events occurring in areas of major geopolitical significance around the world give powerful proof to the ongoing fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Our founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, had a sharp eye for spotting major world events and connecting them with the thread of biblical prophecy, which declares their outcome far in advance. Our editor in chief continues in the same vision. This magazine attests to that.

Look back over the past year, most especially since May 5, the time of that bold and revelatory declaration by

Gerald Flurry that this world, in the present configuration of man's civilization, had entered its last hour. Tracking areas of special prophetic significance proves that world events have accelerated since that time.

Watch World Events

In His final revelation to the Church, given even as the first era of its history was closing, Jesus Christ gave a special warning. It was given at a time when most of the original apostles, ordained by Jesus Christ, had been martyred. The aged Apostle John remained, exiled on the Greek island of Patmos.

John contemplated the persecution that the first era of the Church had endured, having powerfully witnessed of the faith and gospel of Jesus Christ so as to have "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). As he thought on the scattered remnant of God's Church—dispersing to the mountain valleys of Western Europe, scattering to pockets in Anatolia, with Joseph of Arimathea and some others having long departed for Cornwall—his mind was impacted by a powerful revelation from God. He was moved in his mind's eye to see the ebb and flow of the tumultuous history of God's Church, never large in numbers, often persecuted, many times scattered and abused, its leaders torched at the stake, decapitated or flung behind bars, its strength



Germany in Macedonia

- ◆ Iran shuns U.S.-led alliance against terrorism.
- ◆ EU to improve security relations with Iran.
- ◆ Germany to lead military force to secure Macedonia.
- ◆ Congo wars death toll confirmed at 2.5 million.
- ◆ Japanese Navy to support U.S. campaign in Mideast.

OCTOBER

- ◆ U.S., Britain, Ireland, Netherlands okay Palestinian state.
- ◆ Germany's Schröder claims frontline position in future political and military activity.
- ◆ EU to give Europol added powers in wake of Sept. 11.
- ◆ Scientists to clone humans by end of year.
- ◆ Croatia, EU sign contract for free-trade concessions.

NOVEMBER

- ◆ EU accelerates plans to accept ten more members.
- ◆ UN encourages EU economy as U.S. sinks.
- ◆ German Navy deploys off coast of Somalia.
- ◆ Japan adds troops, planes to its naval support of U.S.
- ◆ Schröder calls for EU institutions to be given

greater powers.

- ◆ German general to head NATO's military committee.
- ◆ Auditors confirm high level of fraud in EU agencies.
- ◆ Austria declares it has outgrown post-WWII neutrality.



Japan military revival

- ◆ EU tightens free-speech laws.
- ◆ Britain offered EU Commission presidency in exchange for joining euro zone.
- ◆ Iran and Pakistan move to-

ward strategic alliance.

- ◆ EU rapid reaction force launched a year early.
- ◆ Queen breaks 500-year tradition to invite Catholic cardinal as her guest.

DECEMBER

- ◆ Recession in Germany.
- ◆ China opens Bahaman port.
- ◆ Japan revises military law to join UN missions.
- ◆ Pope summons Catholic leaders to discuss Christians' future in Holy Land.
- ◆ EU reaffirms illegality of Israeli settlements in occupied territories.
- ◆ EU pushes laws giving extra powers to police, prosecutors and judiciary.
- ◆ EU moves to consolidate constitution and pushes for directly elected president.

reduced to a point at the dawn of the 20th century of near death (Rev. 3:1).

As John contemplated this vision, his hand moved to pen that powerful warning to God's own true Church, the Church which had, from the beginning, "a more sure word of prophecy" (II Pet. 1:19). That warning simply admonished the Church to "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee" (Rev. 3:3).

The admonishment was to remember Christ's instruction and to *watch!* The warning to the Church was: If they did not watch, they would lose the vision of prophecy. Once they lost the vision of prophecy, they would lose the understanding of the prime indicators of when Jesus Christ would return to this Earth. That had been the eternal hope of the Church—that He would return to establish a just and peaceful government over all. To lose the vision as to the timing of that event could be fatal! Eternally fatal!

Thus Jesus Christ warned His people to watch. Watch what? Watch world events! Watch conditions in the Church! Watch for the totality of those events that Christ summarized in Matthew 24, and for our entry into the final prophetic "hour" of man's civilization.

How to Watch

Our long-time readers realize that the past 12 years have witnessed a powerful outpouring of revelation of biblical, end-time prophecies to the Church that sponsors this magazine. Our long-time subscribers recognize that we are different. We speak with authority simply because we have the power of that "more sure word of prophecy" at our disposal.

We often quote secular authorities to reveal how often astute analysts of world events may reach conclusions which parallel the predictions of irrefutable biblical prophecy. Some of these clear-thinking analysts we regard as friends. To an extent, we speak the same language when it comes to a realistic approach as to why the world is in its present state.

Those secular authorities whom we quote cannot, however, confidently and with complete assurance predict the ultimate outcome of world events. Neither could we, or those who support the enterprise which produces this magazine, if we simply leaned to our own understanding! (Prov. 3:5).

But, as this ancient proverb goes on to show in verse 6, if we do trust in the Eternal with all our heart, and in all our ways acknowledge Him, He shall direct our paths.

That is power—real power. The power to predict the future. That is the

kind of power that gives the confidence to deliver an unpopular message while staring down persecution in the face! It's the power that gives driving force to a small army of yielded servants of God to do a work that is destined to shake the world with the most powerful warning of the impending punishment of God!

It takes power to give such a warning of impending dire consequences upon a godless, immoral and decadent generation which lustily sings "God Bless America," or "God Save the Queen," or "Advance Australia Fair," as their sins rise like a rotting stench, filling God's nostrils, to high heaven! (Ezek. 8:17). It is thus that the U.S. and Britain and its daughter democracies have provoked God to an anger that will be made manifest, in its beginnings, prior to the Great Tribulation.

Satan is about to inflict a great tribulation on the nations of modern Israel. "But there is a preliminary stage that will bring these countries down" (*Trumpet*, Nov. 2001).

As we consider the painful past of the year 2001 and consider what we can expect to see in the quickening pace of fulfilling prophecy ahead, the chronology of world events and the accompanying articles in this edition give startling evidence as to the times we have entered and where they are leading.

It is undeniably "the last hour"! ♦



ANGLO-AMERICA

The End of the Free World

WANING SUPERPOWER The peoples that have defined the world for two centuries face an uncertain future. What's ahead for the U.S. and Britain?

BY RYAN MALONE AND STEPHEN HILL

ONE OF THE MOST ASTOUNDING SECRETS of the Bible—that the United States and Britain are two of the most prominent nations mentioned in prophecy—may initially appear startling, or even preposterous, to some of our readers.

Yet, while never mentioned by their modern-day names, the prophecies about these nations that have come to pass are so numerous, they provide one of the most convincing proofs of the validity of God's written Word! A startling statement, but provable beyond the shadow of a doubt.

These nations are dramatic, living examples of prophecy being fulfilled.

Tragically, these nations have a history of being quick to forget. Even knowledge revealing their identity and their role in history might have been lost forever in the corridors of time, had God not restored this truth to His Church through the late Herbert W. Armstrong.

But still more important for your sake than the prophecies already fulfilled are the prophecies *yet to be fulfilled*. The FUTURE of these nations, as portrayed by God's prophets, is a terrifying one. Yet scriptures like Isaiah 55:11 remind us that God's prophecies are sure.

We now can see the seeds of these vital prophecies being fulfilled, in world events, and exposed on the pages of this magazine!

Now, more than ever, before it is too late, you must have a clear-eyed view of what to expect in the years ahead—to

get a grasp of what God forecasts for the American and British peoples.

To say the effect these prophecies will have on your life will be dramatic would be a grave understatement!

Here is why.

Identity of U.S. and Britain

First, before we can understand the prophecies pertaining to the United States and Britain, an understanding of the identity of these countries in the Bible is essential.

The abundant material blessings eventually to be bestowed on the U.S. and the British Commonwealth of nations were initially conveyed to the biblical patriarch Abraham because of his obedience (Gen. 22:16-18). He then passed them on to his son Isaac, who later did the same with his son Jacob. In due time, Jacob conferred this birthright promise to his son Joseph's sons—Manasseh and Ephraim. Manasseh was to become one great nation, and his younger brother a company of nations. One day, materially, these nations would become stupendously rich and powerful, above any other nations.

For proof of why Britain (together with some of the British Commonwealth nations) and the United States of America can be identified in the Bible as Ephraim and Manasseh—part of the lost ten tribes of Israel—request a free copy of *The United States and*

Britain in Prophecy, written by Herbert Armstrong.

The Bible is a book essentially about *Israel*—its history and its future. Given that the modern descendants of the Israelites are known, the KEY to understanding biblical prophecy suddenly jumps into view.

That includes an understanding of those future events which are certain to soon hit this world!

Prophecies Already Fulfilled

One of the most amazing stories of history, that of the unparalleled growth and prosperity of the United States and Britain, and the unprecedented, startling speed of their appearance on the world scene, takes us straight back to those promises made to Ephraim and Manasseh. Following the unwinding of these prophecies from their earliest phases makes a fascinating study.

Think of it! At the height of their power, these two countries possessed nearly three quarters of all the world's cultivated wealth and resources. For Britain, the sun never set on its empire. In fact, it became the greatest territorial expanse in history, and the United States the greatest single nation.

Just as your Bible prophesied would be the case, no people have enjoyed greater blessings of prosperity and freedom than the modern nations of Israel.

However, the conditions on which these Anglo-American promises were made, the active part of the equation, depended on OBEDIENCE to God—the awardee of such spectacular and abundant blessings. God kept His part of the bargain. Israel did not. God's agreement with ancient Israel specified that, in such a case, curses for disobedience would follow on the heels of the blessings.

What the world has witnessed in these nations, especially over the last few decades, is an unequalled moral decline—and consequently, the gradual removal of God's blessings. How clearly reality in both the U.S. and Britain reflects this truth!

Isaiah prophesied of the decline of strong leadership—nationally and within families (Isa. 1:4-6; 3:1-12). Family strife, abusive parents, delinquent children, adultery and divorce



Herbert W. Armstrong

MIKE BEDFORD

are commonplace in the Western world. God also prophesied that sexual perversions would abound—comparing American and British society to ancient Sodom (Isa. 3:9).

God prophesied of a decline in military strength and will (Lev. 26:17-20). The facts speak for themselves. Both Britain and the United States are currently withdrawing from their role as the world's peace brokers and turning the job over to a willing German-led European Union, which has begun to take on U.S.-led peace challenges in the Middle East, Bosnia and Afghanistan. Right now, despite the far superior size and capacity of its military, the casualty-shy U.S. feels particularly wary about acting forcefully enough to win a decisive battle.

Also prophesied for America and Britain was the gain of strategic sea gates (Gen. 22:17) only to be lost as these nations reaped curses for disobedience. This too has already largely occurred. The 20th century saw Britain's and America's loss of sea gates such as the Suez Canal, Malta, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Falkland Islands, the Cape of Good Hope and the Panama Canal. Gibraltar will undoubtedly be added to the list soon, as Britain is being bullied by the European Union to relinquish control of this strategic territory, under threat of horrendous fines.

To anyone with a truly open mind, who knows the identity of Israel in prophecy, the fact that God is allowing Britain and America to reap the corrective consequences of their actions should be increasingly obvious.

Given that people are largely ignoring the correction meted out thus far, what can we expect to occur in the future?

Prophecies to Be Fulfilled

Old Testament prophets like Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Hosea provided specific detail about what is to happen to the United States and Britain. Their prophecies were sometimes dual, with a lesser fulfillment to happen in their day. But they were mostly written for the end time, just prior to Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

Ezekiel, for instance, wrote about Israel's future destruction and captivity WELL AFTER ancient Israel had already gone into captivity. Other prophecies could *not* have been fulfilled during the

lives of the prophets. God even explicitly told certain prophets that their words are for the end time (see Jer. 30:2, 24; Isa. 30:8; "the time to come" reads "the latter day" in the Hebrew).

In these prophecies, God refers to the end-time nations of Israel as the "house of Israel," "Jacob" or "my people." Some prophecies refer specifically to the house of Judah—the modern nation of Israel in the Middle East today—but often, the general prophecies can be applied to Israel and Judah, since Judah is a tribe of Israel.

Armed with this knowledge, we can get a clear picture of the future of America and Britain from Old Testament prophecy. Tragically, the story told there is very bleak.

In addition to prophesying the decline of the greatest superpowers ever to exist, the fruits of which are being seen now, the Bible says the decline will culminate in the tragic *devastation* of these two countries. The U.S., Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and others will see utter defeat in a coming world war—what the Bible calls the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21-22).

In comparing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to modern-day Israel, Isaiah foretold that Israel would suffer the SAME FATE as those two evil cities—with only a few righteous to be saved (Isa. 1:7, 9).

Here is how these events will play out, as the Bible foretells, just before and throughout this future tribulation. The outline can be found in Ezekiel 5. Through Ezekiel—whose prophecy was for the "house of Israel" (Ezek. 3:5)—God says that a third part of America and British nations will die by *pestilence and famine*, a third by *nuclear attack* on the land, and the final third *taken into captivity*.

These are prophecies to sit up and take note of! This is the plain Word of God, printed in *your Bible*! Surely, it should merit your attention!

Pestilence and Famine

Ezekiel 5:12 states, "A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee"

Earlier in chapter 5, Ezekiel was told to go through a physical ritual that pictured this event: "And thou, son of man, take thee a sharp knife, take thee a barber's razor, and cause it to pass upon thine head and upon thy beard: then take thee balances to weigh, and divide the hair. Thou shalt burn with fire a third part in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled ..." (vv. 1-2).

In his new book, *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*, our editor in chief wrote, "The word *pestilence* just means



"BURNED WITH FIRE" The 1992 Los Angeles riots showed how easily American cities could fall to domestic violence.

destruction or death (see the *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*). One definition of the root word is 'to lay snares, to plot against, to destroy.' So this pestilence could be a plague of violence or burning—not necessarily a physical disease at all! It can be defined as a plague of violence and rioting—such as the Los Angeles riots in 1992 or as the violence of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks! Why would the first third be burned with fire (v. 2), if it refers to a disease epidemic?

"The pestilence, or plague of violence, will cause many health problems that lead to famine. Sewage disposal will be disrupted. Gas lines will be broken. Jobs will be lost. Society will unravel and the collective panic will bring

When the terrorist attacks struck on September 11, the fragile economy was revealed for what it was as consumer spending took a huge blow. Yet, it all began to pick up as the U.S. entered a retaliatory mode and the holiday shopping season struck.

America will not be so resilient when it suffers this kind of pestilence prophesied in Ezekiel 5. With one third of the population falling as casualties of domestic violence, the world's largest economy will barely be a shell of what it used to be.

Of course, all this seems too unbelievable to be true! How could such a fate befall America? Well, before September 11, who would have believed that such terrorism could occur on U.S.

ONE THIRD of these countries' citizens.

"The Sword"

After the pestilence and famine, Ezekiel 5:12 says, "A THIRD PART SHALL FALL BY THE SWORD ROUND ABOUT THEE" The next event will be a military attack against the end-time nations of Israel. Hosea 5:5 says that Britain, America and Israel will all fall together.

Yet, how could this prophecy come to pass, particularly against America, which is still by far the most militarily superior nation in the world?

We can expect to see something undercut the U.S. military might—perhaps more terrorist attacks or even cyberwarfare and cyberterrorism.

The U.S. has downsized its defense program to the point where it can no longer fight a war on two fronts. The current campaign in Afghanistan may look impressive, but prophecy indicates that what is left of America's strength will be "spent in vain" (Lev. 26:20). Perhaps this war on terrorism will have exhausted American forces by the time the real enemy attacks.

Britain is suffering from a similar military contraction. The *Daily Telegraph* reported on June 11, 2001, "The Royal Navy can barely meet its NATO obligations, let alone think of mounting any campaign in Britain's interests far away" As God prophesied in Isaiah 3, the "mighty man" and the "man of war" will continue to fade into non-existence.

The economic wounds previously discussed will most likely contribute to the lack of military strength and response at this point in time. Consider the implications of another of Ezekiel's prophecies: "They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; BUT NONE GOETH TO THE BATTLE: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof" (Ezek. 7:14). It appears certain that at some future point, Israel's military will be so crippled that an armed takeover by another country will occur.

But WHO will attack the United States and the British nations? When you understand Bible prophecy, you realize that these countries' foreign policies have been off the mark when predicting which countries pose the real threat. It will not be the Russians. It will not be Iraq. It will not be North Korea.

The Bible actually shows it is those with whom Israel has formed a close a



"LAID WASTE" Ezekiel foretells of Western cities falling to nuclear attacks worse than the one on Nagasaki in WWII—left without one inhabitant.

a stock market disaster! It will get so bad that violence and famine will take millions of lives!" It will take a full THIRD of lives, in fact! This is death on the scale of tens of millions of people! Write for a free copy of this book for more information.

The siege spoken of in Ezekiel portends an economic disaster, for God speaks of removing Israel's financial blessings (Hos. 2:8-9). The Bible shows that this famine will get so bad, people will turn to what seems unthinkable in our current prosperity: cannibalism (Ezek. 5:10).

Watch the American and British economies carefully. The U.S. economy, in particular, is an ever-expanding bubble—ready to burst anytime. It has been kept afloat by superficial means, particularly heavy consumer spending.

soil? It was so unbelievably shocking. Yet, it happened. The terrorist attacks, the rioting and racial tensions already experienced in both Britain and the U.S. are signs that THIS PLAGUE OF VIOLENCE IS IMMINENT. We should watch these things, so this destruction does not catch us off guard (Luke 21:36).

As Mr. Flurry's *Ezekiel* book points out, we should watch for increased racial tension in the nations of Israel. Increasingly over the last ten years, British and American newspapers have been spattered with stories about bloodshed over conflicts between racial groups.

The race riots in Cincinnati, Ohio, last April and Britain's Bradford riots of six months ago were only a precursor of how major Western cities could fall to such violence in the near future—violence so great as to cause the death of

liance—its “lovers” (Lam. 1:1-2; Hos. 2:13).

Ezekiel 23 reveals these “lovers” to be the *Assyrians* (vv. 5, 7, 9, 12)—end-time GERMANY. Germany, by this time, will be leading a united Europe, a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire—the prophetic beast power of Revelation 13 and 17. We have commonly warned our readers of this, and more information on what to watch for can be found on page 15 of this issue.

God will use the German-led European Union to punish the U.S. and Britain: “O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets” (Isa. 10:5-6).

At this point, we can pause and make another point about what to watch in the times ahead: These verses provide prophetic proof that Britain will *not* remain in the European Union! Britain’s sense of national identity is in tatters. It is increasingly dependent on Europe for its financial well-being, and yet it is doing the balancing act of maintaining its sterling markets in the face of a Europe that officially adopted the euro as its means of exchange this month. Still, Britain has failed to find a comfortable role for itself in Europe.

Britain WILL BE LEFT OUT. Europe is prophesied to CONQUER Britain. In Isaiah 28:3, God refers specifically to Britain (Ephraim) being trodden underfoot.

God says this military attack on Britain and the U.S. will not only destroy another ONE THIRD of their inhabitants, but it will utterly level the cities not already destroyed by the “pestilence.” Ezekiel 6:6 mentions the cities being “laid waste” and “desolate” (see also Hosea 5:9). Even more graphic, the Bible shows that these cities will be left *without one inhabitant!* (Isa. 6:11; Jer. 2:15; 33:10). The cities of an-



“I WILL SCATTER” WWII concentration camps are just a foretaste of the captivity to befall Anglo-America.

cient Israel were not destroyed in this manner. In fact, these prophecies could not have come to pass until the advent of nuclear technology.

How utterly astounding to imagine cities like New York, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, London and Sydney being leveled and left empty by nuclear destruction! But it is coming!

Captivity

The third and final phase of God’s punishment toward Israel will then be carried out:

“... AND I WILL SCATTER A THIRD PART INTO ALL THE WINDS, AND I WILL DRAW OUT A SWORD AFTER THEM” (Ezek. 5:12). The survivors of the pestilence, famine and nuclear attacks will be taken captive by the German-dominated Europe.

God says He will cast Britain out of His sight (Jer. 7:15). Hosea 9:3-6 shows that they will be taken as captives into Assyria and Egypt—where the beast power will also dominate during this nuclear world war (Dan. 11:42).

The suffering of this bondage will far outweigh that of any previous time (Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:21). The ghoulis concentration camps of Nazi Germany in World War II were merely a small taste of what this captivity will be like. And it will affect one third of Anglo-America—millions of people forced to suffer under the iron fist of a revived German regime!

Jeremiah 30:3 states, “For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring AGAIN the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord” This clearly is referring to an *end-time* captivity.

But, thankfully, as the last half of Jeremiah 30:3 indicates, Israel *will* repent as a result of these heavy trials, and God will respond with mercy. Those Israelites who do not die in the Tribulation will turn to God in heartfelt, genuine repentance (Ezek. 6:7-9). As World War III comes to a close, as the beast power is totally defeated, God will bring His people out of captivity from the “north country” and

Egypt and other parts of the Earth (Isa. 11:11).

The Good News

This time of unparalleled suffering WILL bring Israel back to God. And that is the exact reason God allows something so utterly dreadful. Of course, if Israel were to repent and turn to God now, He promises that they could completely avoid such agonizing punishment.

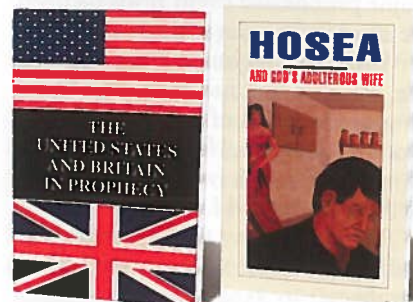
Ezekiel 33:11 states, “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: *turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*”

God does not want the nations of Israel to die. He wants them to REPENT and to BE SPARED from the greatest time of suffering. If that does not occur, the prophecies will be played out in full (Ezek. 3:7).

There is nothing to suggest that America, Britain and the other nations of Israel will turn to God in repentance. Even after a tragedy like the one suffered on September 11 of last year, there was more talk of PRIDE in the “American spirit” than there was self-evaluation, humility and repentance. But YOU, on the other hand, *can* change the destiny of your life. You do not have to suffer the unparalleled misery of the Great Tribulation.

God promises protection to those who repent and surrender to Him (Psalm 91:5-7). If you will commit yourself to obey His laws, He will count you worthy to escape all these frightful things (Luke 21:35-36). The decision is YOURS. ♦

For your free copies of these booklets, visit www.pcog.org to order online, or see the inside cover of this magazine for how to order by phone or mail.





ON GUARD An Israeli border policeman watches over Jerusalem's Temple Mount

CRONIS

famed spitfire toughness—its determination to shoot any attacker at the knees; this has brought every war in Israel's history to a swift and decisive end. The second is the support Israel has enjoyed from the mighty United States, which has often deterred potential Arab aggression.

What we can expect in the years ahead—in fact, what we already see—is both of these protective walls CRUMBLING, bringing a shocking end to the modern nation of Israel!

The second Mideast power—the one that is *rising* as Israel falls—is IRAN, and a future coalition of states surging with ISLAMIC RADICALISM. Even as a worldwide war on terrorism is being fought, radical Islam is gaining popularity with terrifying fury. It is a growing force that will play a more significant role in events to come than most realize.

However, quite remarkably, the demise of the Jewish state will not happen, as one would assume, at the hands of this Islamic power. Why? The answer to that question draws together virtually every other strand of biblical prophecy that you will read about in this issue of the *Trumpet*.

Let us seek to understand how these diverse elements will coalesce to bring about the smashing climax of future events in the Middle East.

Israel's Decline

What is happening in Israel today?

After 15 straight months in this latest round of fighting, little has changed; the battle has become a wearying, soul-sapping dirge of Palestinian suicide bombings and Israeli military reprisals. And the two sides are further from negotiating a deal than ever.

But the Palestinians have everything to *gain*, and Israel has everything to lose. So as the warfare continues without resolution, the Palestinians become more hostile, and the Jews, more frustrated.

Pure logic and a basic understanding of human nature prove that *deterrence* is the only way tiny Israel can survive. Nevertheless, the Israel that clawed its way to independence in 1948 and fought off numerous assaults on its very existence over the next three decades has been replaced by a country that believes in its bones that, ultimately, *negotiation* is the answer. In other words, the first of its protective walls is already virtually gone. The belligerent-

MIDDLE EAST



The Beating Heart of Prophecy

ETERNAL HOTSPOT The Mideast represents the beginning and end, the focal point, of what to watch in the years ahead.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE MIDDLE EAST IS NOT ONLY THE cradle of civilization, the backdrop of the beginning of the age of man. It is also the primary setting and focal point for the unfolding drama of Bible prophecy.

In the Mideast the fuse will be lit; in the Mideast a chain of cataclysms will occur; in the Mideast the climactic battle of history will be waged.

One specific location represents the center of gravity around which every major prophesied event finds its orbit: the eternal city—Jerusalem.

Watch this region with an educated eye, and you will recognize the beginning of the death of a civilization. But more importantly, like the patriarchs of old, you will have the hope of the birth of a new world.

The Middle East is the starting and ending point of what lies ahead in prophecy.

Two Powers

This region is witnessing the clash of two great powers—one rising from obscurity and the other falling from nobility.

The nation in *decline* is ISRAEL: small, isolated, disliked. This is a tiny, Western-style democracy of less than 6 million—80 percent of whom are Jewish—crowded by hostile, autocratic monarchies and Islamic republics with combined populations approaching 400 million. From the day of its foundation in 1948, Israel's mere existence has aroused explosive anger within its neighbors. Some of the fiercest hostility comes from the Palestinian portion of its own population, which has fought an off-and-on war for independence from the beginning.

How has Israel survived? Principally, two ways. The first is its historically

cy of the Palestinians is proof of that fact: They no longer fear Israel.

What about the second protective wall—the U.S.? Already, U.S. pressure on Israel to make peace with the Palestinians has depleted much of the Jewish nation's will. But as long as the U.S. suffers from delusions of potential peace between Israel and its neighbors, as long as it remains committed to the impossible ideal of bringing the two sides together for a paper solution, it will face determined resistance from huge segments of the Mideast population. And the longer this goes on, the weaker the U.S. appears and the less effective it is as a deterrent to violence.

Now, the U.S. and Israel have officially conceded the idea of the need to establish a Palestinian state, and yet the resistance has continued.

THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS CONFLICT IS SUDDENLY CLEAR. It can no longer be seen as a war between those who want a Palestinian state and those who don't. Rather it is a war between those who want a JEWISH STATE and THOSE WHO DON'T!

The radical terror group Hamas is fast becoming the most powerful political force among Palestinians, surpassing even Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization. The greatest source of its popularity? *That its suicide bombers kill Israelis.* Arafat has publicly advocated a peaceful two-state solution in Israel, and, for that, his organization is rapidly losing popularity. Hamas has a more militant plan: First drive Israel out of the West Bank and Gaza, then *drive them out of the Mideast altogether.* They want Israel GONE. Many Mideast nations share this goal with a growing number of Palestinians.

The bottom line is, Palestinian resistance will continue to grind Israel down. It will be increasingly bolstered by other Mideast countries that also have the goal of eliminating the State of Israel. Arafat, or at least the idea of striking a peace deal with Israel, will be drowned out in the cacophony. Israel will be pitted directly against extremist groups, with both sides fighting for absolute control over the territory. Violence will continue to escalate.

As the reality of the U.S.'s failure to bring peace becomes more clear, and

Israel gets more desperate for a way out, an alternative arbiter of Mideast peace will increasingly present itself: Europe. This trend has already noticeably picked up in this "last hour" of prophecy. Europe is swooping in on the Middle East with startling speed.

The European Union says it wants a two-state solution. But Bible prophecy shows that the ultimate solution it will impose on the region is ONE STATE of an entirely different nature than either Jews or Arabs expect. More on this later.

Islam's Rise

What is happening with Iran today? And with radical Islam?

Most notably, Iran is being courted as an ally in the U.S.'s war on terrorism—despite its being the

NUMBER-ONE STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM IN THE WORLD. In addition to having deep links with terror groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, it is bristling with stockpiled weapons and delivery systems, biological and chemical agents—and, most distressingly, developing nuclear weapons and production facilities. Through its terrorist activities, Iran has destroyed the peace process almost single-handedly. It aims to galvanize the Islamic world by conquering Jerusalem and isolating or obliterating little Israel. Ultimately, it seeks to rule the Middle East.

Perhaps the U.S. believes Iran is too big to pick a fight with, yet knows that no war on terrorism can be won without dealing with Iran; thus it is deceiving itself into thinking the Iranians can be wooed rather than conquered. A terribly foolish line of reasoning that GUARANTEES FAILURE in this war on terror.

How Iran ended up looking like a good guy once terrorism became the world's worst enemy is difficult to rationalize. But the situation has left Iran stronger, and it will only get more so. Meanwhile, the possibility exists that the U.S.'s next target in its war may be Iraq. Historically, the U.S. has wanted both Iran and Iraq, staunch enemies, to remain strong enough to keep each other in check but weak enough to not pose a threat to anyone else. Upsetting that balance of power would give Iran unquestioned supremacy in the re-

gion. *Trumpet* Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry has forwarded the possibility that Iran will conquer Iraq.

However it may happen, all indications are that Iran will be the kingpin in the Mideast. Watch for Iran to continue to draw the Islamic world into its plans against Israel—even if, at first, only indirectly through terrorist groups. It is referred to in Bible prophecy as the "king of the south" (Dan. 11:40). The Islamic nations have never been able to unify deeply, and nothing in prophecy states they will be terribly cohesive. Nevertheless, fueled by the fervor of radical Islam spreading throughout the region, Israel's demise is one goal they can agree upon.

The atmosphere in the Middle East is increasingly ripe for this unification. As the U.S. prosecutes its war, it is stirring the hatred of millions of Muslims who consider terrorists like Osama bin Laden heroes.

In addition to the Mideast countries likely to ally with Iran, there are states farther afield that may be drawn into the conflict. The vast majority in the populations of Northern Africa, for example, are Muslim—Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Niger, Libya, Sudan, Egypt; some are almost 100 percent so. The radical element within these states is growing. The Iranian Revolution in 1979 is a model of how quickly a country's politics can be transformed with a change in leadership riding a popular uprising. Even within the more moderate countries, such as Egypt, an assassination could have a profound and immediate effect. This presents another collection of possibilities we can watch for in the time ahead.

Jerusalem's Split

So—the stage is almost set for an upheaval in the balance of power in the Middle East, as a wave of religious extremism overwhelms the Jewish state, with Jerusalem being the center of the conflagration.

Notice the prophecy: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh ... and THE CITY [JERUSALEM] SHALL BE TAKEN, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zech. 14:1-2).

Today, Israel controls the whole of Jerusalem. At the peak of the conflict

This conflict can no longer be seen as a war between those who want a Palestinian state and those who don't. Rather it is a war between those who want a Jewish state and those who don't!

with this Islamic power, the city will be split down the middle, and Israel will lose East Jerusalem. Already we see this area, which includes the holy sites on the al-Aqsa plateau, or Temple Mount, being the most hotly contested real estate in the world. It was Ariel Sharon's visit there last September that triggered the current *intifada* still raging.

Look again at these verses. Half of Jerusalem being taken is presented in the same context as the Day of the Lord. This, as Mr. Flurry has said, shows that the fall of East Jerusalem will trigger a series of cataclysms that leads directly to the Day of the Lord and the return of Jesus Christ. "In other words, the current dispute over East Jerusalem is a strong sign that the Day of the Lord is almost here!" (Gerald Flurry, *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, p. 29).

When East Jerusalem is taken, Israel will realize, too late, that it was primarily their commitment to the peace process—at the expense of their deterrent walls of security—that led to this disastrous loss. But their fate will have been sealed; the chain of events will have begun.

What happens next is stated explicitly in another prophecy (which we will quote a little further on). Feeling helpless, Israel will turn to *Germany* and the European Union for deliverance from the Islamic extremists. Why not the United States? As we indicated, U.S. peace-making efforts are prophesied to fail. The indications are that by this point, the U.S. will be too crippled to be of any help! The article on page 8 details some of the possible reasons. But the fact that, in every prophecy from this point forward, superpower America isn't once mentioned is extraordinarily significant. *It will not even be a factor in what plays out in the Mideast!* Quite a turnaround from the recent past.

Follow the logic: While Israel falls and Iran rises, a parallel situation is occurring between the United States and the European Union. The balance of power is being transferred dramatically—even today—from a *former superpower* on the wane, to a *future empire with a lean and hungry look*. WATCH as it happens before your eyes in the time just ahead!

Follow the logic: While Israel falls and Iran rises, a parallel situation is occurring between the United States and the European Union. Watch as it happens before your eyes.

The Middle East peace process provides *plain evidence* of the power shift.

These corresponding, synchronous trends are creating two new substantial world powers—one in the Mideast, one in Europe—that are destined to clash in astounding fashion.

Germany's Invasion

First, back to Israel's predicament. Drawing on help from a weakened Britain, the Jews will turn to their former archenemy Germany. Here is

Hosea's prophecy: "When Ephraim [Britain] saw his sickness, and Judah [Israel] saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian [Germany], and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound" (Hos. 5:13).

What is Judah's "wound"? It is the present-day peace process that will lose them East Jerusalem!

It is the fatal naivety that compels them to negotiate rather than defend themselves. It is their complete lack of faith in God and compulsive trust in untrustworthy men—a wound so deep it drives them into the arms of the very nation that perpetrated the grisly Holocaust! It is a wound that only God could heal.

This verse clearly suggests that *both* Israel and Britain approach Germany for help. They are both succumbing to this deadly weakness, even now.

What will happen next? How will Europe respond to Israel's request?

The fact is, the Jews and Muslims are not the only ones with designs on Jerusalem. It is also the holiest site in CHRISTIANITY. By this time the German-led European Union, strongly influenced by the Vatican, will be a mighty military machine. It will begin exerting much greater pressure to bring peace to the region.

But tensions with the zealous and newly emboldened king of the south will reach fervid temperatures! The king of the south, the Islamic coalition, will sorely provoke Europe. "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south *push* at him [Europe] ..." (Dan. 11:40). Perhaps it will try to punish Europe for interfering by cutting off their oil supplies.

Whatever means the king of the

south uses, it will be enough of a push to arouse blazing indignation in Germany's Europe—the "king of the north." The full force of its military might will be turned against the Islamic forces with blitzkrieg decisiveness!

Daniel 11:40-43 describe the assault: "... and the king of the north shall come against him LIKE A WHIRLWIND, with *chariots*, and with *horsemen*, and with *many ships* [probably launched from a European outpost in Cyprus]; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall *overflow and pass over* [conquer and overwhelm]" (v. 40). The following verses say "many countries shall be overthrown," including Egypt and other North African nations.

The king of the south, poorly trained, militarily inferior, likely uncoordinated as a fighting unit, will be obliterated.

But is this European incursion into the Holy Land all intended for the benefit of the Jews? Hardly.

Jerusalem's Desolation

The Israelis will most likely invite Europe in to maintain peace in Jerusalem. The European armies will march in and surround the area, perhaps in an apparent move to turn Jerusalem into an international city. The long-sought-for peace in the region will seem imminent.

Jesus Christ described this scene, accompanied with a fearsome warning: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem *compassed with armies*, then know that the DESOLATION thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20). In Matthew's and Mark's accounts of this conversation, these European armies are called "the abomination of DESOLATION"—or, as Daniel put it, "the *abomination that maketh desolate*" (Dan. 11:31; 12:11). Mark says it will be "standing where it ought not" (Mark 13:14)—the Holy City, Jerusalem.

Those armies will be directed by a powerful church lusting to *possess* the holiest of cities. Thus, what will appear to be Jerusalem's ultimate salvation will shortly become Israel's deadliest holocaust!

Ezekiel 23 describes the terrible double-cross perpetrated by Europe—not only against Israel, but against Britain and America all together (Hos. 5:5). Understanding this prophecy will change your perspective on everything Europe does in its dealings with Israel, Britain and America today! Watch

carefully, and you do not see a true ally in Germany and Europe—you see the seeds of mistrust, competition, and future betrayal!

This double-cross is the next event in the chain, setting off what Matthew describes as “great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matt. 24:21)—an ever-escalating nuclear world war that would, if not stopped, culminate in the extermination of every living person on Earth! (v. 22).

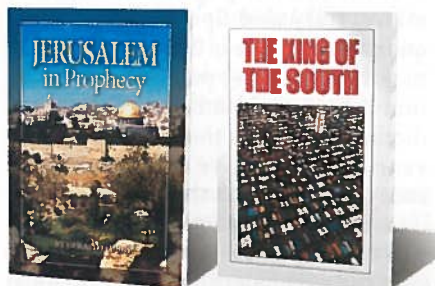
God’s Tool

Realize that God will allow all this suffering as a tool to motivate humankind to *repent*—to deeply realize and to change from the error of our ways of living (Ezek. 33:11). Realize too that, in His mercy, throughout this terrifying period, God will *protect* those who have *already turned to Him in repentance*. He never administers punishment without cause.

YOU can know how to correctly interpret and react to these prophetic events as they unfold. Our booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* gives more explanation. And, if you truly want to turn your life to God, to respond with heartfelt repentance to the warning you are receiving, contact us with your request for a visit from a Philadelphia Church of God representative.

In the meantime, watch the Middle East! After the violent climax of humanity’s greatest world war, it is to the Mideast that Jesus Christ will return. It is from the Mideast that He will establish His rulership. It is in the Mideast that THE PEACE OF THE AGES will begin! The Middle East will be the cradle of a *new civilization*—the backdrop of the beginning of the age of God! ♦

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EUROPE

The Rise, and RISE, of Europe

MODERN PHOENIX Of all the phenomena on the world scene this past year, none can match the acceleration of Europe’s rise as a major global player. How powerful will Europe get?

BY RON FRASER

THE FEDERATING POWER OF THE European Union (EU) entered the year 2001 overtaking and replacing the U.S. as having the world’s number-one economy. It enters 2002 undertaking an unprecedented initiative: *the world’s biggest ever cash changeover*—the launch of the euro, replacing the sovereign, national currencies of 12 of its member nations.

What does the future hold for this emerging Euro-superpower?

Speedy New Europe

Of all nations or groups of nations (apart from the United States, which was on the receiving end), it is the *European Union* which responded most *dramatically* to the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C. that fateful morning of September 11, 2001. “For a crisis that came out of nowhere, the European Union has been responding with *unprecedented speed*” (*Europe*, Nov. 2001; emphasis mine throughout). September 11 seemed to kick the gnomes of Brussels into high gear. “By comparison to its divided and hesitant reactions during the Gulf War, *the EU is moving with unprecedented speed on several tracks at once*” (ibid.).

It took only 72 hours for the EU to crank \$40 billion in instant liquidity, via the European Central Bank in association with the Bank of England, into the U.S. financial system to help keep it afloat. When Germany wanted to take the diplomatic lead in Pakistan—a country that assumed vital diplomatic importance as the U.S. and its coalition partners initiated war in Afghani-

stan—the Eurocrats sliced through their usual mass of red tape to assemble a special financial package to lubricate the EU’s relationship with the Pakistani administration.

Within one month, the EU heads of government agreed on a joint plan for judicial and police cooperation between their 15 member nations and the U.S. Within the same period, Brussels agreed on stepped-up aid for “moderate” Islamic nations and *moved to commence trade talks with the greatest national sponsor of terrorism, Iran*.

Such speedy action from this club of 15 vastly different nationalities is *unprecedented*.

What does this mean? Where is all this sudden European economic, financial, legal and diplomatic shuffling leading?

The King of the North

Perhaps no book in the Bible compares to Revelation in its colorful and dramatic description of the events which take place in the final hour of man’s civilization as its demise ushers in the glorious age of peace under Jesus Christ’s rule.

In the 13th verse of Revelation 8, we read of *three great woes* yet to come upon the inhabitants of the Earth. These three woes are synonymous with the final three of seven cataclysmic events which are heralded, as depicted in verses 6-12, by seven trumpet-blowing angels.

Students of Bible prophecy have long understood that the first of these three final woes is explained in Revelation 9:1-11. Here we see a *powerfully destruc-*

tive force at work. The Apostle John was inspired to use colorfully descriptive analogies to describe some very modern military technology, *devastating* in its effect on whole populations.

Here is how Herbert W. Armstrong explained these verses: "The power that causes the destruction, this time to men, comes out of the symbolic 'bot-

tomless pit.' This is interpreted in Revelation 17:8-14. There we learn that a rebirth of the ancient ROMAN EMPIRE is the power which emerges out of 'the bottomless pit' or abyss—a condition of *underground* existence not visible to the world. Verse 7 shows this FUTURE power will be a WAR-making, revived *fascist* power. It is described in prophecy as a power to the NORTH of the Holy Land, because the prophecies always speak from the focal point of the Holy Land—to the north, and west" (*The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*).



ON THE MONEY Europeans celebrate in front of a large euro coin in Frankfurt during a ceremony to launch the currency, December 17, 2001.

tomless pit.' This is interpreted in Revelation 17:8-14. There we learn that a rebirth of the ancient ROMAN EMPIRE is the power which emerges out of 'the bottomless pit' or abyss—a condition of *underground* existence not visible to the world. Verse 7 shows this FUTURE power will be a WAR-making, revived *fascist* power. It is described in prophecy as a power to the NORTH of the Holy Land, because the prophecies always speak from the focal point of the Holy Land—to the north, and west" (*The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*).

Mr. Armstrong possessed the vision to see the *reality* of that which is shaping up in Europe today—and he saw it well over 50 years ago. With masterful insight, he wrote, "The day that war ended, the Nazi organization went underground! Their plans for coming back have been proceeding, under cover, since 1945" (*1975 in Prophecy*).

This statement meshes, in a sense, with Revelation 9:2 and 11:7, which speak of a beastly power rising up out of a "bottomless pit." This language is strongly suggestive of the words used by Herbert Armstrong indicating that the most beastly power the modern world has known, that of Hitler's Nazi organization, at the end of the war went *underground, undercover!* Much has been written over the years, in a

War arisen—to weave its insidious web throughout the institutions erected by those Europhiles, supported by the U.S. in particular, who put their weight behind a new push to unify Europe.

This idea of a unified Europe is as old as the ancient Roman Empire. Your Bible prophesies this empire would be resurrected seven times from the time of Justinian's imperial restoration commencing A.D. 554.

At the death of Herbert Armstrong in 1986, six of those resurrections had come and gone. The final, seventh remaining leader of the last resurrection of that empire, and the beastly imperial power he is to lead, was yet to come. When he comes on the world stage, he "must continue a short space" (Rev. 17:10). This refers to the ten *kings* or *kingdoms*, typified by the feet of iron and clay of Nebuchadnezzar's vision in Daniel 2:41. (Write for *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* for a more complete understanding of the image described in Daniel 2.) These kingdoms are equally divided between the eastern and western "legs" of the resurrecting Roman Empire. Remember, the old empire had two capitals—Rome in the West, Constantinople in the East.

This is what is now emerging rapidly in Europe: the promised final resurrection of the old Roman Empire, led

by a great false religion, typed as a scarlet whore in Revelation 17:1-6. Your newspapers, newsmagazines, Internet news sites and radio and TV newscasts do not use this colorful, analogous biblical language to describe this great prophesied event. Nevertheless, for those who possess a "mind which hath wisdom" (Rev. 17:9)—the revelatory Spirit of God—daily the international news reports speak of this empire's rapid rise to global dominance and an ugly return to ways of the past. Here are a few of those insights.

Neo-Nazi Racism

"In Germany, where last year a Mozambican man was casually kicked to death by three skinheads, the interior ministry admits that racist crime—from murder to the chanting of Nazi slogans—rose last year by 45 percent to around 14,000 incidents" (op. cit., *Europe*).

A 45 percent increase in racist crime! That's a whopping leap over the previous year. Imagine how the U.S. or Britain would react to an almost 50 percent increase in racially related crimes in their countries. It would amount to a political disaster for the incumbent government. Yet in Germany, the leading nation in the EU, it rates little mention! This is deeply worrying and foreshadows worse to come as demographic factors weigh heavily on Germany's inability to replace its own work force by natural increase in its population.

The seething neo-Nazism sweeping Europe is reminiscent of the mood, particularly in Germany and Italy, prior to World War II, a war which brought the rise of the sixth era of the Holy Roman Empire. It bespeaks an innate cruelty below the surface.

Labor Shortage

Sharp population decline is cutting a swath across Europe from Italy to Russia. Demographic reports indicate that the natural populations of Germany, Italy and Spain will shrink a quarter by the year 2050. In Russia, a major EU trading partner, the situation is far worse, with statisticians predicting that more than half of the 16-year-old boys alive in that country today will not reach the age of 60.

Some estimates indicate that the EU will need up to 75 million immigrants over the next half century. EU member

countries generally reflect a xenophobic attitude when it comes to addressing this problem. With national governments not keen to import foreign labor to see wages repatriated to non-EU countries, the population gap could cause the EU economy to contract severely.

The prophecies of the solution to this challenge are foreboding—among the merchandise in which the beast power is to trade are “slaves, and souls of men” (Rev. 18:13). This solution was tried during the previous war in Europe. It became a *final solution* to many!

Pan-European Judiciary

The Europeans are on a roll. One of the initiatives of the Eurocrats has been the creation of a *federal system of law and order* to be imposed on the Union.

The imposition of such a system is deeply worrying to concerned Euroskeptics in Britain. European law is based on the old Roman tenet “guilty till proven innocent,” the very opposite of British law, founded anciently upon the principle of “innocent till proven guilty.” The two systems are *poles apart*. Yet, seizing the bit between the teeth, EU ministers in Brussels are using the pretext of protecting Europe against terrorism to create a virtual pan-European system of law and order.

Germany is of real concern in this context: “Germany is discarding half a century of self-restraint in matters of internal security since the defeat of Hitler and his Gestapo, to enact laws giving police extra powers to eavesdrop, to monitor private bank accounts and to deport ‘undesirables’” (BBC News, Dec. 3, 2001).

Fears are rising that the EU is hurriedly laying foundations which could turn Europe into a *police state*!

“It is also noteworthy that the Belgians are saying more or less openly that they are exploiting the events of September 11 to achieve the result they desire, that of creating a *single European judicial and criminal system*” (European Foundation Intelligence Digest, Dec. 12, 2001). The Roman Empire’s internal cohesion was aided by the imposition of such a system.

Defense

Since the Maastricht Treaty was signed by EU members in 1992, the EU has been bent on a course of establishing a *European army*. Further treaties

concluded by members of the EU in Amsterdam in 1997 and Nice in 2000 raised the prospect of the development of a European “rapid reaction force.” In language which took due care not to raise alarm or revive memories of the military horrors of 55 years ago, the Eurocrats couched the proposal for this military force in terms that bespoke a force for *crisis management and peacekeeping*—a sort of support to the UN’s traditional role.

But, once again, using the events of September 11 to justify their unseemly rush, the Eurocrats, who agreed to a target of 2003 as the year to launch this combined military force, brought forward this initiative by more than a year and announced they were kickstarting it last month on December 14!

Not only this, but even before launching this fledgling force—no longer seeing the need to allay the fears of those who still have a memory of the history of Europe’s two greatest wars—“The EU is studying the possibility of *extending the mandate of the future EU reaction force beyond crisis management and peacekeeping and eventually include common defense* ...” (www.EUobserver.com, Nov. 30, 2001).

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, brashly disregarding concerns over German history of the past two centuries, “told the press Germany supported an *extension of the present mandate of the future EU force to allow it to cover the whole range of operations relevant to the security of the Union*” (ibid.).

Former British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Alun Chalfont bluntly declared, “What is now being proposed is nothing less than a *European army*—like the common currency, a *potential building block in the construction of a Eurostate*. ... [It reflects] the determination of some European leaders to turn an economic union into a *single European state*” (Salisbury Review, Autumn 2001).

The rotten heart of the lying core of this serpentine union of European nation states is revealed in Lord Chalfont’s following comment: “[T]he meeting in Helsinki in December 1999 ... outlined

the Common European Policy on Security and Defense. ... The conclusions of the conference insisted that this ‘does not imply the creation of a European army’—a mantra repeated endlessly in the debate about this matter. Of course, it is a European army and in the minds of many people that is what it is intended to be. To quote the words of Romano



ON THE MARCH People gathering for a neo-Nazi rally in Leipzig, Germany, in September

Prodi, the President of the EU Commission, “When I was talking about the European army, I was not joking” (ibid.).

Enlargement

Ancient Rome was a colonizing power. A powerful military force was fundamental to the success of its colonizing prowess. This was the case from the time of their overseas excursions as a republic in 282-146 B.C. to the rise to imperial greatness and the birth of the Byzantine Empire in the 4th century.

All subsequent resurrections of this ancient empire, from Justinian to the alliance between Mussolini and Hitler, were aggressive in their efforts for increased hegemony. This was particularly the case under the Germanic emperors, who constantly strove for *Lebensraum*—living space.

We should not be surprised, then, to see the consequence of Germany’s first foreign-policy enactment upon its reunification in 1990. As our editor in chief points out in his article on page 2, it was Germany’s unilateral action in recognizing Croatia and Slovenia as nation-states separate from the Yugoslav federation that caused the Balkan wars of the 1990s, culminating in the virtual economic takeover of that volatile peninsula by the EU. The Balkans are now held to ransom by the

German-dominated EU via a German-initiated reconstruction pact funded by EU largess and secured by mostly EU military personnel. This is designed to ultimately give the Union *political* control over this vital crossroads of the European continent. With the Balkan Peninsula fairly well secured, the EU is feeling more aggressive in its intent to extend its colonization to other areas.

Bible prophecy gives us a lead in terms of which direction that hegemony will head.

In the prophecy of Daniel, an allegorical "little horn" is said to have "waxed exceeding great," in a time setting revealed as "the last end" (see Dan. 8:9, 19). Our *Daniel* booklet explains how this prophecy has dual application in terms of prophetic world events and also events to occur within God's true Church. In its physical application, note that this king of the north moves to extend his territory "toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land [Israel]."

Where is the European Union seeking to extend its membership today? Toward the south (Mediterranean and northern Africa) toward the east (ex-Soviet satellite countries) and, increasingly, in terms of diplomatic involvement in particular, toward the Holy Land!

Slippery Diplomacy

Within that which British economist Bernard Connolly describes as "the rotten heart of Europe," there is a desperate evil. It will consummate in the elevation of one leading individual who is described in Daniel's great prophecy as a common flatterer: "And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries" (Dan. 11:21).

This word *flatteries* comes from a Hebrew term meaning smooth, treacherous, slippery. The king of the north will be an especially *slippery customer*! Watching the backslapping and rubbing of hands of a couple of the EU's top leaders certainly reminds

one of the slippery nature of EU politics and diplomacy.

This treacherous diplomacy seems particularly suited to the changeable nature of the German character. Stolid, supremely well organized, brilliant in engineering, favored in the appreciation and perpetuation of high culture, industrious, the Germans have *one great character flaw*—their *mutability*.

That masterful commentator on the nature of the Europeans, Luigi Barzini, an anti-fascist journalist, had a common-sense view of where the EU was leading even before unification was a reality: "The future of Europe appears largely to depend today once again, for good or evil, whether we like it or not, as it did for many centuries, on the future of Germany" (*The Europeans*).

Barzini had a thorough grasp of the unstable nature of the German character, likening it to the mythical Proteus: "It is therefore once again essential for everybody ... to keep an eye across the Rhine and the Alps and the Elbe in order to figure out, as our fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, the ancient Romans, and remote ancestors had to do, who the Germans are, who they think they are, what they are doing, and where they will go next, wittingly or unwittingly. *This, of course, was always impossible to fathom.* How can one tell? Germany is a *trompe l'oeil* protean country. As everybody knows, only when one tied down Proteus, the prophetic old man of the sea, could one make him reveal the shape of things to come. But he couldn't be pinned down easily; he continued to

change. He could be a *roaring lion*, a *harmless sheep*, a *slippery serpent*, a *charging bull* ..." (ibid.).

Thus it is that this protean German character has, under the leadership of the chameleon-like Chancellor Schröder, come out of the closet to bury the past and assert itself on the world stage as a diplomatic and political force to be reckoned with.

In the words of one newspaper, Mr. Schröder said the September 11 attack on the U.S. "had prompted a turning

point in Berlin's foreign policy, with its role as a 'secondary player' in international affairs now over. ... 'We Germans, more than anyone, now have a duty fully to meet our responsibility,' said the chancellor, referring to the former West Germany's reliance on the U.S. and European partners for its security. Mr. Schröder made clear that the new phase in foreign policy would be characterized by a *readiness to accept military commitments on a scale not comparable with the past*. ... 'This is a new phase in German foreign policy,' said Karsten Voigt, coordinator for German American relations in the foreign ministry. 'Germany is showing itself increasingly prepared to bring in the military element as a component of foreign policy'" (*Financial Times*, Oct. 12, 2001).

Those with a deep appreciation of history and the changeable nature of the German character would do well to think on three occasions over the past 130 years when German chancellors and ministers of government made similar assertions—1870, 1914 and 1939! The words of Friedrich Nietzsche, the darling of Western socialists, powerfully echo Schröder's claim of the uniqueness of the German duty to the world: "One must seek to make amends for one's superiority. To be ashamed of one's power. To use it in the most salutary way. ... Awe-inspiring power. The only way to use the present kind of German power correctly is to comprehend the tremendous obligation which lies in it" (*The Europeans*, p. 93).

Yet it is not only the Germans who need watching in Europe. "Fifty-six years after he was shot and strung upside-down in Milan's Piazzale Loreto, Benito Mussolini is enjoying a revival as Italy's shame about the dictator yields to fascination. ... 'This present rehabilitation of the man who allied himself politically and militarily with the Nazis, who persecuted Italian Jews without prompting from Hitler, who dragged Italy into a disastrous war, is not surprising.' *It is a reflection of serious changes in Italian society and politics*," wrote James Walston, a historian at the American University in Rome ... " (*Guardian*, Sept. 10, 2001).

Spain too is feeling its Euro-oats: "The Spanish foreign minister, Josef Pique, has threatened Britain with a 'very negative' deterioration of relations if Spain does not get what she



"We Germans, more than anyone, now have a duty fully to meet our responsibility."

Gerhard Schröder

wants over Gibraltar. What Spain wants is that Gibraltar becomes Spanish" (www.panorama.gi, Sept. 19, 2001).

The Shape of Things to Come

As historian Walston has seen, *serious changes are afoot in Europe*. The pendulum has swung, and Europe is uniting—or rather *being united*—by a powerful Franco-German politicizing and bureaucratizing influence in Brussels. By force of Teutonic diplomacy on the world scene it is moving into the role of aggressive “peacemaker.”

The current resurgence of Europe is *deeply rooted in history and clearly delineated in prophecy*. Here’s what to watch for over the coming months and the years just ahead, based on the “more sure word of prophecy” (II Pet. 1:19).

Watch for a *continuing rise in neo-Nazi disturbances* associated with Europeans of fascist leanings coming out of the closet, as Europe continues its *political swing to the right*.

Watch for the *betrayal of Gibraltar* by the British government in a hand-over of that crucial sea gate from British to Spanish sovereignty.

Watch for the *stitching up of the Balkans* under EU administration and military security tied to the *withdrawal of U.S. troops*.

Watch for continuing, more overt diplomacy by German-led EU missions to Pakistan, Russia and Iran as the *EU asserts its role to influence the outcome of the war in Afghanistan*. At risk is access to Middle Eastern oil, crucial for the European economy.

Watch for the EU to play off Russia and the U.S. to its advantage—particularly in relation to *Caspian oil*.

Watch for a strengthening of *more open alliance* between the Vatican and the EU, and for the EU to play a stronger mediating role, via *trade and aid*, in bringing *Roman Catholicism* and *Eastern Orthodoxy* closer together, as this Union enlarges eastward.

Watch for the U.S. to be replaced by the EU as chief negotiator of peace in the *Middle East*.

Watch for the rise of the *old alliance* between Germany and Japan to take on greater significance as Japan looks increasingly away from the U.S. and toward the EU as its major trading partner—if only temporarily.

Watch for the drafting of a *European Union constitution*, based on a

common currency, common police, judicial and security system, and a common defense force, which will revive the old imperial system of the ancient Roman Empire in this 21st century.

Watch for *economic and social destabilization* in Europe to rise in the wake of the launch of the euro.

Watch for the coming destabilization of society in Europe to spawn the political, economic, social and religious climate ripe for *the rise of a treacherous demagogue*, who gains office by *flatteries*, destined to wreak great havoc on the world scene.

Broken in Pieces

As the image in Daniel 2 of Nebuchadnezzar’s great vision of world-ruling empires, from Babylon to Rome, portrays, the final resurrection of that ancient Roman Empire is sown with *division*. It has feet of iron mixed with clay—not destined to hold together for long.

In fact, *division* will be a *continuing feature* of this beast power, even as it has been over the years as its *fractious Eurocracy* has striven to resurrect this ancient Babylonish system based on *treaty upon treaty*—from the original European Coal and Steel Community agreement to its most recent summit in Laeken, Belgium, this past December. At this summit the final two key elements of the old Romish, fascist, Nazi dream—a *European presidency* and a *constitution* binding imperial Europe together in a huge federation of global impact—were finally tabled.

The wraps are off! It’s there for all to see. The masses who were tricked into believing a united Europe was to be but an innocuous union of trading partners may stand aghast at the religio-politico-military beast that is emerging from the cleverly deceitful rhetoric of decades of Eurocrats. These leaders simply took that ancient dream that went underground with the Nazis 56 years ago and



“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: . . . it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.”

Daniel 2:44

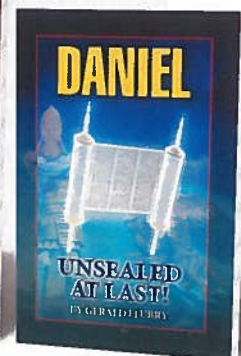
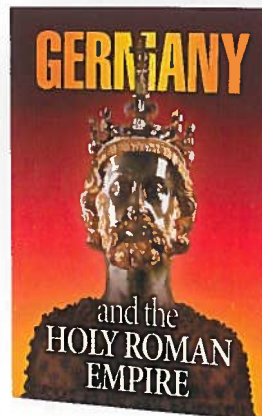
breathed life back into it to the point that its hot breath will one day, soon, threaten to engulf the globe.

Yet there is hope in all this! For prophecy reveals that the resurrection of this great beast power, a union of *ten kings* or kingdoms under *one demagogue*, dominated by a single *great false religion* (Rev. 17-18) is but a *sure sign* of God’s imminent intervention to cut short the pain of man’s continuing inhumanity to man.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44).

That is what to ultimately *watch and pray for*—“*thy kingdom come!*” The Kingdom of God—a global empire founded upon perfect *justice* based upon immutable *law* administered by a perfect *King of kings* (Rev. 17:14)—*will* be established on Earth. Of *this* we can be *certain*. “The dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure” (Dan. 2:45). ♦

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LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA The Resource War

BY MARK JENKINS

THE MAJOR EVENTS OF HISTORY HAVE often been driven by the quest for natural resources. Spain approved Christopher Columbus's mission to the Americas because of the many goods available in the West Indies that could not be found in Western Europe. The Middle East has frequently held the world's attention because it possesses vast amounts of oil. In World War II, the Axis powers' invasions were often motivated by the hunt for resources, both natural and economic. In fact, many of the wars throughout time have been sparked by the quest for resources abroad not available at home.

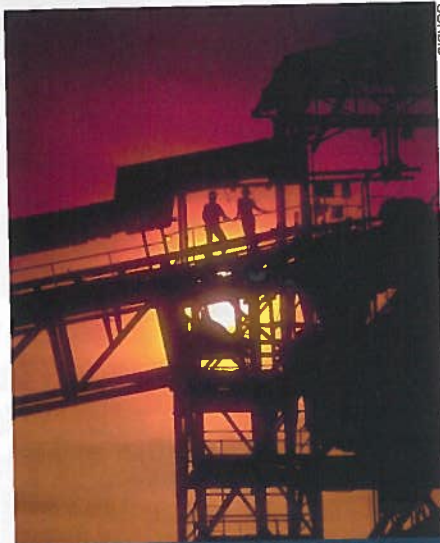
The Bible speaks of three great powers in the end time: the king of the north, the king of the south and the kings of the east. Students of Bible prophecy will be able to easily identify these three combines as the rising European Union, the Islamic nations (led by Iran) and the Asian hordes (predominantly Russia and China).

The Bible also has a great deal to say about the West: the United States, Britain and the other nations descended from biblical Israel (as explained in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

But what about the rest of the world? Although regions such as Latin America and Africa do not fall into any of these groups, they do factor in because of their abundant natural resources. At the expense of the entire world, the king of the north in particular will exploit both Africa and Latin America in the very near future. They have, in fact, already begun to do so.

Europe's Best Friend

There is a long history of cooperation between the European powers and the countries of Latin America. For example, during and after World War II, Argentina, in particular, was "an outspoken friend of Hitler, sheltering Nazi officers and men, offering safe haven for Nazi ships and submarines" (*Plain Truth*, Oct. 1957).



ALL MINE An iron mine in Mexico, a resource that attracts EU interest.

More recently, Latin America's RESOURCES have been highly valued by Germany. Europe needs the abundant natural resources—such as silver, tin and iron ore—that Latin America can provide. As of late, the EU has made great strides toward economic cooperation with that region of the world.

In May 1962, the *Plain Truth* predicted Latin America would be economically conquered by Germany. In the words of T.H. Teten in *Germany Plots With the Kremlin*, "South America will be conquered by business agents, not by guns." The *Plain Truth* commented, "Germany's plans in South America were temporarily halted by her defeat in World War II." At the same time, it predicted U.S. involvement would dwindle: "[T]he United States is going to be left out in the cold as two GIGANTIC trade blocs, EUROPE and LATIN AMERICA, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce" (ibid.; emphasis mine).

These two trade blocs now have names: the European Union and Mercosur, an economic union of Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina, with Chile and Bolivia as associate members.

The February 2000 *Trumpet* showed just how far this cooperation between the EU and Mercosur had progressed, as trade agreements were being planned between Europe and the Latin American countries. Since that time, considerable progress has been made. Both the EU and Mercosur have made proposals for implementing these agreements. The most recent offer came from Mercosur, which in October 2001 proposed to cut tariffs on EU imports. The offer covered \$7.5 billion in agricultural and industrial-product imports over a ten-year period.

"It is clear that Patten [EU commissioner for foreign relations] wants to establish strong, non-trade relations with Latin America, combining economic and political ties and presenting a counterweight to the United States," said Carlo Binetti, who earlier this year took over as the European representative of the Paris-based Inter-American Development Bank" (*Europe*, Jul./Aug. 2001). In the very near future, that "counterweight" will outweigh the United States. In fact, "the EU is by far Mercosur's largest export market" even now (*European Report*, Oct. 31, 2001).

EU interests in Latin America are, however, not limited to those countries that are a part of Mercosur.

In July 2000, the Comprehensive Agreement—a trade agreement between the EU and Mexico—took effect. Since that time, exports to the EU from Mexico have increased 40 percent. Mexico's imports from the EU have increased 30 percent. According to Manuel Lopez, head of the EU delegation to Mexico, automotive exports have increased almost 80 percent! (EFE News Service, Nov. 13, 2001). Clearly, the EU is making inroads into Mexico, a country that has always considered the United States its top ally. This cooperation between the EU and Mexico will continue to grow, while we can expect Mexico-U.S. involvement to decrease.

U.S. involvement in other Latin American countries is already dwindling. A *Washington Post* article, "What About Latin America?", clearly showed that the U.S. does not consider Latin America a priority: "The focus is low on the radar screen vis-à-vis the previous administration," said one disappointed Latin diplomat in Washington. "It's just the opposite of what we expected" (Aug. 6, 2001).

As United States interest remains focused on the war on terrorism, we can safely say that U.S. interest in Latin America will only continue to decrease—and the European Union will happily fill the gap.

The *Plain Truth* warned that Latin American resources would flow toward the king of the north: “Flowing across the Atlantic to feed the hungry furnaces of the Ruhr and the other industrial complexes of Europe will come the rich mineral resources of Latin America” (July 1965). Europe has no better friend in the world than Latin America.

And of course, the EU’s interest in Latin America goes beyond economic advantage and the exploitation of natural resources. More than half of the world’s Roman Catholics live in Latin America, and the Vatican is highly supportive of the EU.

In the time ahead, expect cooperation between Europe and Latin America to increase. Given the progress thus far, Mercosur and the EU will probably finalize a trade agreement this year, which will greatly speed Europe’s ability to exploit Latin America’s resources.

The World’s Nightmare

Imagine the news media reported 2.3 million American deaths in a single year from a single disease, and that another 28 million people were infected and expected to die within a decade. Imagine the outcry that would come from every citizen and public official.

Now let us presume that the president announced that all land would be seized from its current occupants and redistributed to the descendants of the Native Americans present when the first colonists settled in Jamestown.

And then, imagine the horror of our citizens if the world reacted with relative disinterest.

In other words, imagine you were living in Africa.

No region of the world has been filled with the suffering that Africa has. It is plagued with disease, violence and dictators who do not care about their own people. The *Trumpet* has written about the problems besieging South Africa, Zimbabwe and the other African nations many times, and those problems have only escalated in the time since the beginning of the “last hour” was announced by our editor in chief on May 5 last year.

Two months after that announcement, at the July G-8 summit, G-8 members invited the African nations to discuss their many problems, but “failed to propose or support any new relief initiatives” (www.stratfor.com, July 27, 2001). No meaningful progress was made toward halting the AIDS-induced death of millions and the collapse of the African nations.

In November, the Zimbabwean government banned 1000 white farmers from cultivating their fields and gave them three months to vacate their land. Five thousand farms have been targeted by the government for redistribution to the black majority (*Sun News*, Nov. 13, 2001).

Although AIDS is a terrible threat in South Africa (one in nine is estimated to carry HIV), the major cause of death in the nation is *violence*, according to South African Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang. In addition, there is currently a widespread fear that President Thabo Mbeki will begin the same type of land seizures now happening in Zimbabwe.

Various self-interested rebel groups are also taking advantage of the continent’s resources. In many countries, *diamond smuggling* is being used to fund rebel groups, giving the benefits of one of Africa’s best resources to criminals rather than to the people who need them. According to BBC News, November 2, 2001, Angola’s deputy minister of mines, Antonio Sumbula, admitted that a million dollars worth of diamonds were still exported illegally from Angola each day.

That is only one African nation; 15 to 20 percent of world diamond production leaves Africa illegally, leaving a trail of death and murder behind it. In fact, the illegal sale of diamonds has provided millions of dollars in virtually untraceable funds to al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations in recent years.

The focus of the world is not on Africa, and this situation will not change anytime soon. The destabilization of that region is only going to intensify as time continues. Exploitation of the continent’s resources will only

increase, as the world remains largely unsympathetic to the African plight.

Watch

The northern African nations—Egypt, Libya, Ethiopia, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Tunisia—are comprised of more than 90 percent Muslims. When the king of the south emerges, these Islamic nations will likely stand in support of Iran. After the king of the north overcomes the king of the south (Dan.

11:40), the natural wealth of these African nations will be at Europe’s disposal. “But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps” (Dan. 11:43).

The lower parts of Africa have been sold into slavery before. Will they too become slave labor for the European king of the north? If history is our guide, the possibility cannot be ignored.

As Africa’s resources continue to fall into the hands of dictators, its people become poorer—a situation that shows no signs of improvement. The AIDS death rate continues to rise. Africa’s plight is terribly severe, yet the great powers make little effort to intervene.

In the future though, the African people *will* receive the attention of the world’s great powers, who will come, not as saviors, but to exploit African resources one final time before the return of Jesus Christ to the Earth.

The Bible instructs us to “watch and pray” (Mark 13:33). We certainly should watch the hotspots of the world such as the Middle East, Germany and the United States for developing news. Some of the most interesting developments in these parts of the world, however, are fueled by areas that may not play as significant a role in Bible prophecy. To gain a global perspective of world events, keep up with what is happening in Latin America and Africa. This will give you further insight into the actions of Germany and Middle Eastern countries.

Focus on the hotspots, but don’t forget to watch the rest of the world. ♦

Africa’s plight is terribly severe, yet the great powers make little effort to intervene. In the future though, the African people will receive the attention of the world’s great powers, who will come, not as saviors, but to exploit African resources.



"PEACEMAKING" POPE
The pope receives Yasser Arafat near the Vatican.



THE VATICAN

The Unifying Power

BY ERIC ANDERSON

SURELY NO AMBASSADOR OR PUBLIC figure is more associated with man's unending search for peace than is the pope.

Since October 1978, when Cardinal Karol Wojtyla was elected as Pope John Paul II, every major event in Europe has reflected the rising politico-religious influence of this Polish pope. For nearly two dozen years now, he has been cavorting about the globe as the most visible and celebrated pope in Vatican history. In fact, the 81-year-old pontiff has logged more miles of travel than all 262 other popes combined.

Throughout his tenure, John Paul II has held numerous high-level talks with world leaders about peace. He has visited with virtually all prominent presidents and heads of nations in power today.

Early in his term (1982), the pope met with the queen of England, striving to create a "spirit of peace and unity" between Rome and the Church of England. Since then, John Paul has made many inroads into England.

The pope has worked behind the scenes, carefully and methodically, to

influence peace negotiations in the Middle East. He has met with Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat on ten different occasions.

John Paul II's papal administration is perhaps most renown for its contributions to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989 and the breakup of the Balkan Peninsula in the early 1990s. Even so, many dismiss the Vatican's role in current events. The question is, how does the Vatican figure in Bible prophecy? God's Word is the only Source that can tell us whether its role will fade or, in fact, grow to even greater, world-changing significance.

An International Power

First let us better understand the precise role of the Roman Catholic Church in modern affairs. Only a few comprehend how the Vatican views its relationship to the governments of this world, and the nature of its commitment to world peace.

Vatican City has a civil GOVERNMENT—patterned after the system of government of the ancient Roman Empire. It has been a separate, inde-

pendent STATE—sovereign from Italy—since 1929. Vatican City has its own secretary of state and foreign minister, and is an international power in its own right.

Since the small principality (Vatican City is a mere 109 acres) is a legally constituted country, the pope sends and receives ambassadors just like the leader of any other country.

In his book *European Union and the Roman Catholic Influence in Britain*, David N. Samuel writes that this "world's longest surviving international organization," in addition to having ecclesiastical influence, is, at heart, an extremely political enterprise. "Wherever Rome is at work she seeks not only spiritual but also political power."

Today, the Vatican exchanges ambassadors, called apostolic nuncios, with nearly 100 countries. Vatican diplomats are also assigned to the United Nations and other international organizations such as the European Union, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization.

Not many realize that the Vatican is one of the best-informed centers on international affairs in the world today. Millions are spent annually to keep this important "listening post" supplied with breaking news from around the globe.

A Call for Recognition

Unnoticed by most, the Vatican—as in centuries past—is again becoming an international FORCE. It is manipulating world events in ways unrecognized by the average person. Indeed, the Vatican is well on its way to becoming recognized as a *major power* in international politics in the 21st century.

With its pro-integrationist stance regarding European Union (EU) politics and economics (the Vatican replaced the Italian lira with the euro as its official unit of currency this month), and with the pope's reputation as a "peacemaker," several top-ranking churchmen and politicians are beginning to feel that the *future of the world* may depend on the success or failure of the Vatican's peace efforts in the geo-political arena.

Last November, the pope hosted a private meeting at the Vatican with Romano Prodi, the president of the European Commission. During the meeting, the pontiff discussed the Vat-

ican's priorities regarding the EU, including "the reform process for the Union treaties and its expansion with new members. The two men recalled the engagement of the European Community in the fight against terrorism and the search for a just peace in the Middle East." The pope also noted "the contribution which the church in Europe can offer and THE NEED FOR AN ADEQUATE LEGAL RECOGNITION INSIDE THE UNION" (www.cwnnews.com, Nov. 30, 2001; emphasis mine).

The pope's comments are of *phenomenal importance*—for they announce the Catholic Church's present drive to support and prod the nations of Europe into a more fully integrated Union, *which will soon be dominated by its own spiritual influence*.

Without a doubt, the Vatican's political activism reveals an effort that will radically alter the *course of world history* in the years ahead!

Master of Emperors

To fully understand the Vatican's future also requires understanding the past. Let us briefly look at the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

In the Middle Ages, the church was the most powerful institution in Europe. Through a hierarchy of cardinals, archbishops, bishops and priests, papal authority was diffused throughout the continent. The authority of the church crossed political borders unrestrained.

Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne emperor in A.D. 800. "The future of Europe was bound up in that event, and the *alliance between the papacy and Germany* has been of GREAT SIGNIFICANCE ever since" (David N. Samuel, op. cit.). This watershed event formally linked the spiritual power of the pope with the secular power of the emperor.

The church at Rome became considered God's chosen instrument in *spiritual* matters. The empire became regarded as God's chosen *political* organization over Western Christendom.

This marriage of church and state served the needs of both institutions. The empire exercised its political and

military powers to defend religion and enforce religious uniformity (Sunday worship, for example). The church, in turn, acted as the glue for Europe, binding together the differing nationalities and cultures within the empire by the common denominator of religion. To this day, the Catholic Church views its greatest accomplishment to have been the Christianization of Europe.

Throughout the Middle Ages, pope and emperor were regarded as God's vice-regents. The Vatican, however, never took this to imply coequality.

Pope Gregory VII (A.D. 1073-1085) stated, "The pope is the *master of emperors*." Another pope, Innocent III, asserted in 1198 that *kings derive their powers from the pope*, just as the moon derives its light from the sun. The Vatican declared that the "infallible" pope was *above* all nations and independent of every secular sovereign, which is, in ecclesiological terms, just one step down from God.

Despite their frequent wrangling, the empire and papacy worked in close association throughout the Middle Ages. Theoretically restricted to spiritual concerns, the Vatican—by the nature of its asserted supremacy over the civil powers—was a powerful force in the political realm, especially when it came to establishing and maintaining peace.

Medieval examples of the secular

side of papal "peacemaking" are manifold. Not always, however, could political disputes in Europe be settled without military involvement. Under certain circumstances, popes were not loath to assume the role of power-broker, engaging in political concerns even to the extent of all-out, no-holds-barred warfare. The Crusades, for instance, were a series of Catholic "holy" wars to wrest control of the Holy Land from Muslims, which produced some of

the bloodiest battles in history.

One reigning pope even promised absolution to anyone who would assassinate Elizabeth I, Protestant Queen of England.

Though the prestige and influence of the papacy had plummeted dramatically by the 16th century (due to the rise of

nationalism and the advent of the Reformation), the Catholic Church never lost sight of its perceived *right and duty* to remain politically involved in European policies and peacekeeping efforts.

Future Diplomacy

Though long reluctant to be seen reassuming a strong political role, the Vatican now feels that the time has come to make its voice heard more openly on the international scene as a promoter of world peace.

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, the pope has been even more outspoken in his assertion that the peoples of Europe must act cohesively in the fight against terrorism to protect their existence and freedom by proportionate means against an unjust aggressor. John Paul's discussions with Romano Prodi in November 2001 clearly demonstrated the Vatican's goal of steering the EU toward full integration.

The pope has also repeatedly reminded Europeans to remember their *heritage*. Commenting on his native country's bid to enter the EU, the pope said in December that in "becoming a member of the European community, Poland must not lose any of the material and spiritual benefits that generations of our ancestors defended at the price of blood" (Associated Press, Dec. 3, 2001).

As the aging pope approaches the end of his life, Vatican initiatives are not abating. A growing number of cardinals and other top Catholic churchmen are relentlessly pushing to *increase* the papacy's strength. They want to see the diplomatic muscle of the *next* papal administration even more overt than that used by John Paul II.

The Pope of Popes

As the *Trumpet* has reported over the past 12 years, this powerful papal drive to *unite Europe* was prophesied in the Bible thousands of years ago. The book of Revelation shows, in particular, that efforts toward full European integration WILL succeed in the near future.

In the 13th chapter of Revelation, the Apostle John wrote, under divine inspiration, of a powerful bloc of nations that would unite economically, politically and militarily in the last days. He used a wild "beast" to symbolize the strength of this government, which is none other than a revival of the ancient ROMAN EMPIRE!



CHARLEMAGNE
crowned by Pope Leo

Verses 11-16 discuss a second beast that is "like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." This is a *religious* beast closely allied with the *political* beast of verses 1-2. It deceives by *miracles* (v. 14) and causes men to *worship* the political beast and accept its mark or die! (vv. 12, 15-16).

Revelation 17 describes this same religious power as a *woman*—a powerful, wealthy but inherently *evil* woman—which is often a biblical symbol of a CHURCH (II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:22-27; Rev. 19:7). In verses 1 and 15, this church is pictured as ruling over *many nations*. In verse 2, we find that it has *deceived* those nations. Revelation 18:3 confirms that this church has deceived *all nations* to one degree or another.

The woman of Revelation 17 actually types the "HOLY" element of the resurrected ROMAN EMPIRE—the *religious* force that leads and influences the Eurobeast government!

Notice, verse 3 depicts this great false church as riding atop the beast—actually *guiding* and *controlling* it. Verse 5 identifies her as "MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT." And verse 18 shows us that the woman is "that GREAT CITY, which reigneth over the kings of the earth!"

The prophetic events mentioned in the book of Revelation are *certain* to happen! Jesus Christ Himself said God's word cannot be broken (John 10:35).

The astounding union of a German-dominated United States of Europe with a great church—and a *pope above all*—is PROPHESED TO OCCUR!

Once this powerful church-state combine fully emerges in the years *just ahead*, it will attempt to establish "peace" throughout much of the world—that is, converting people to *its* version of Christianity *with the sword*! As its history shows, when the Vatican puts its hand to establish peace, it can have terrifyingly bloody results.

The Lady of Kingdoms

Isaiah 47:5 describes this church as "The lady of kingdoms." Verses 7-8 read, "And thou saidst, *I shall be a lady for ever* Therefore hear now this,

thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I SHALL NOT SIT AS A WIDOW, NEITHER SHALL I KNOW THE LOSS OF CHILDREN."

The Vatican and its right-wing leadership, working behind an ailing pope, have made unprecedented efforts recently to unify all religions with the "mother church." Without question, John Paul has taken amazing strides to unify a divided Christendom.

What is ahead for the Vatican? Watch for it to make more radical steps

The Vatican and its right-wing leadership, working behind an ailing pope, have made unprecedented strides recently in efforts to unify all religions with the "mother church." Watch for more radical steps at religious unification in Europe.

toward religious unification in Europe. When it finally unites all of Europe under the banner of the mother church, it will BRING ABOUT THE WORST WAR MAN HAS EVER WITNESSED (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:15-22) as the resurrected Holy Roman Empire conquers the Israelitish people (the U.S. and British nations) and the whole of the Middle East and northern Africa. In its crusade, it will show "no mercy" to those delivered "into thine hand" (Isa. 47:6).

Yet peace WILL come.

It will *not* be established gradually or slowly, by successive political stages. It will be established *SUDDENLY, divinely, and without* the assistance of men (Dan. 2:44-45).

Jesus Christ is soon to return as the "Prince of PEACE" (Isa. 9:6). As the true *Author* of peace (1 Cor. 14:33), He shall overthrow the warring nations of this Earth and *forcefully* impose peace on the nations (Rev. 19:15).

The Vatican's reign of terror, as linked with a resurrection of the Roman Empire—a united, German-led Europe—will come to an end. Other verses in Isaiah 47 and the whole of Revelation 18 refer specifically to the church's final fall.

After 6,000 years of human history, mankind's problems will finally be solved at the return of Jesus Christ. That is the CLEAR MESSAGE of the Bible!

For full details on this subject, request our free publication *Unveiled At Last: The Royal Book of Revelation*. Also, you may obtain personal counsel and help in understanding the Bible by our own trained representatives all over the world. ♦



ASIA March

FORMIDABLE FOE Soon the most powerful, numerous army ever assembled will make its way to the battle that will determine rulership of the world. What is the status of this huge alliance right now?

BY RYAN MALONE

IT ACCOUNTS FOR OVER 60 PERCENT OF the world's population and roughly 25 percent of its land mass—containing four of the top ten largest countries and seven of the top ten most populous countries. For all the physical space it takes up and the people it includes, could the Asian continent be ignored in Bible prophecy?

Thankfully, it is not. For perhaps nowhere else in the world is there as much uncertainty about the future than in Asia. Prophetic Bible guidance is desperately needed to know what lies ahead for this region and its peoples.

A Disoriented Continent

"Asia is the cauldron of civilizations," Samuel P. Huntington wrote in *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. Culturally, Asia can be broken down into seven civilizations: Orthodox, Sinic, Buddhist, Japanese, Hindu, Muslim and Western.

"East Asia includes one stable democracy, several new and unstable democracies, four of the five communist dictatorships remaining in the world, plus military governments, personal dictatorships, and one-party-dominant authoritarian systems" (ibid.). "The seeds for conflict among [Asian] states are plentiful in East Asia," particularly the two Koreas and the "two Chinas" (China and Taiwan), according to Huntington.

China brings up a plethora of issues: its relations with Taiwan; its historic rivalry with Japan; the potential of an enemy in India; its claim to Tibet and Mongolia possibly resurfacing; its

Toward Armageddon

dispute over the Senkaku Islands (southwest of Okinawa) with Japan and Taiwan. Then there is the complex dispute over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea with Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. And while China occupies the Paracel Islands in the same vicinity, Vietnam and Taiwan also claim them.

Boundary issues are tender at the moment between nations of the Indochinese area (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam). India, in addition to the natural disasters it has had to put up with over the past couple of years, is facing several border disputes with Bangladesh and, more notably, Pakistan.

Japan turned a lot of heads among its Asian neighbors in the latter half of 2001—from the prime minister's controversial August visit to a war shrine considered to be the symbol of Japanese right-wing militarism, to its refusal to change history books which currently gloss over atrocities of the Second World War. Then there is Japan's recent decision to send its military westward to assist its American ally in the war against terrorism—an unconstitutional first for the country's military since World War II.

Domestic disputes also rock the region—from a fractious Indonesia to Maoist uprisings and a troubled monarchy in Nepal.

Then there is Russia: One of the world's largest countries, it sits astride two continents—the Ural Mountains dividing its European portion, where Moscow resides, and its vast Asian portion to the east. The great Bear has always vacillated politically between the West and the East. It currently seeks to strengthen its strategic partnership with the European Union. Yet, because of its loss of European satellites at the end of the Cold War, it still has found greater friendship in the East. In Asia, however, Russia has transnational issues to deal with, particularly a dispute with Japan (with whom it has never formalized relations since World War

II) over the Kuril Islands.

This current situation in Asia sets the stage for us to understand what the Word of God predicts will become of this region toward the end of this last hour. The Bible is boldly specific about where Russia and the other Asian countries will stand in end-time events.

Asia in Prophecy

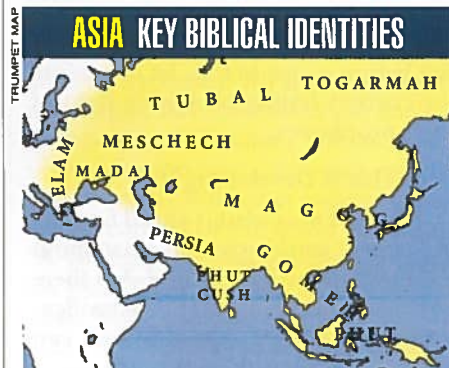
According to the Bible, Asia eventually will UNITE INTO ONE MASSIVE POWER BLOC. And despite the marginal disputes that pepper the region with unease, many current events now point to the future alignment of these large, populous countries.

Even if you are not fully schooled in the ins and outs of Bible prophecy, you have probably heard the most popular word in prophecy: *Armageddon*. It appears only once in the Bible—Revelation 16:16: "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Just prior to its mention is this account: "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the KINGS OF THE EAST might be prepared" (v. 12).

Armageddon is a gathering place for man's armies, one of which is described as the "kings of the east." Who are these kings of the east?

Ezekiel 38 specifically names the players of this alliance of nations. "Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal ..." (v. 2).



The term "chief prince" is more appropriately translated the "prince of the chief" or the "prince of Rosh." In the original Hebrew, *Rosh* is intended to be a proper name and refers to the leader of the white Russians. Meshech and Tubal are the modern cities of Moscow and Tobolsk in Russia.

About Gog, apparently a tribal subdivision of Magog, students of prophecy generally agree that it refers to the vast regions of northern Eurasia extending from the Baltic to the Pacific.

The descendants of Magog, in addition to dwelling in the northern countries, also came to settle in the eastern parts of the continent and some dwell "[confidently] in the isles" (Ezek. 39:2, 6—the Bible gives directions as they relate to Palestine). Magog, therefore, refers to Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan and other islands of the Pacific.

These countries, along with Russia, are the main players of the Asian combine. Other countries will be "Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet" (v. 5). *Ethiopia* and *Libya* should be translated Cush and Phut. Though some of Cush and Phut migrated to African nations, some of these settled in parts of India and Pakistan. Though *Persia* would seem to indicate Iran's membership in this alliance, this Islamic country will lead a different biblically prophesied power bloc—the king of the south. Persians were also known to settle in India, which this verse is likely referring to. "They are among the wealthiest class in India, where they are called 'Parsees'" (*Plain Truth*, July 1957). So we have Russia, China, Korea, Japan and now the Indian subcontinent—some of the most populous areas in the world!

Also, there is "Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee" (v. 6). Gomer's descendants settled in southeast Asia—the Indochinese peninsula and the southern archipelagos of the region. "Togarmah of the north quarters" includes the Siberian Russians and the people of Tibet.

Put these peoples together, and a remarkable, almost incomprehensible prophecy regarding this power bloc begins to seem less unlikely: that the army of this alliance of nations will amount to *200 million men!* "And the number of the army of the horsemen were TWO

COMING WORLD CRISIS ASIA

SEQUENCE OF WORLD WAR III

FIRST 2½ YEARS

King of the north defeats king of the south, takes over Middle East and northern Africa (Dan. 11:40-43).

DAY OF THE LORD (1 year): Daniel 11:44-45; Revelation 8-9, 11:15-18; 16; 19:19

Day of the Lord begins with four supernatural trumpet plagues.

Wary of an Asian enemy, the king of the north launches a pre-emptive strike.

Eurasia's 200-million-man army strikes back, defeating the king of the north.

Christ's return announced; seven supernatural plagues follow. Armies gather in Armageddon to fight Him.

HUNDRED THOUSAND THOUSAND: and I heard the number of them" (Rev. 9:16).

Consider it: All the citizens of these countries right now account for OVER HALF of the world's population!

Sequence of World War III

Identifying these nations is not enough, however, to grasp what lies ahead for Asia. Neither does the Bible stop here at revealing things about this alliance.

We must backtrack from the time of "Armageddon" to the events leading up to it. The outline of these events is given at the end of Daniel 11.

Daniel 11:40 describes the conflict that starts it all—between the "king of the south" and the "king of the north": the Muslim-Arab confederacy of nations and a united Europe. This conflict begins a war that will last 3½ years (Dan. 12:7; Rev. 11:2). It is critical to understand this time sequence, as it tells us WHEN the kings of the east come into play.

After completely overcoming the king of the south, the European powers will march into "the glorious land" or Israel (Dan. 11:41-43). This time of suffering lasts 2½ years, until God sends what are known as His trumpet plagues upon the Earth—a period called the "day of the Lord" in many Bible passages (a "day" indicating a full year of God's wrath—the final year of this 3½-year period).

The first four of these trumpet plagues are supernatural in design. The fifth trumpet, however, involves another military clash.

Daniel 11:44 foretells of this clash: "But tidings out of the EAST and out of the NORTH shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many." The king of the north is troubled by news reports or rumors from the east and north—those countries to comprise the Asian hordes! For 2½ years-plus, this king of the north will have enjoyed unchecked dominance of the West and Middle East—that is,

until Asia unifies into one bloc to offset the European empire.

Out of fear, the king of the north will make a preemptive strike against the Asians. This strike deals death to millions. But it will be followed by an Asian counterstrike where the king of the north "shall come to his end, and none shall help him" (Dan. 11:45). The European power bloc will be utterly overwhelmed by the massive Eurasian force. This battle is described as the sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:13-19). The casualties from this battle amount to a "third part of men" (vv. 15, 18).

The Bible is not scarce on details about the fall of Babylon (another term for the king of the north) at the hands of the Asians: Jeremiah 50-51, Isaiah 13 and Revelation 18 describe these events in graphic detail. The book of Nahum is devoted to the punishment that Germany (Europe's leading nation) will receive from these Asian armies (write for our free booklet on *Nahum*).

"Behold, a people shall come FROM THE NORTH, and a great nation, and MANY KINGS SHALL BE RAISED UP FROM THE COASTS OF THE EARTH. They shall hold the bow and the lance: they are *cruel*, and will *not show mercy*: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, every one put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon" (Jer. 50:41-42). The Eurasian hordes "spare no arrows" (v. 14) and do unto Babylon as they did to others (v. 15), rewarding it *double* according to its works (Rev. 18:5-6).

The biblical narrative now comes to the infamous march to Armageddon. But before we get to this, let us analyze the current setting of Asia in light of these prophecies.

How This Is Developing Now

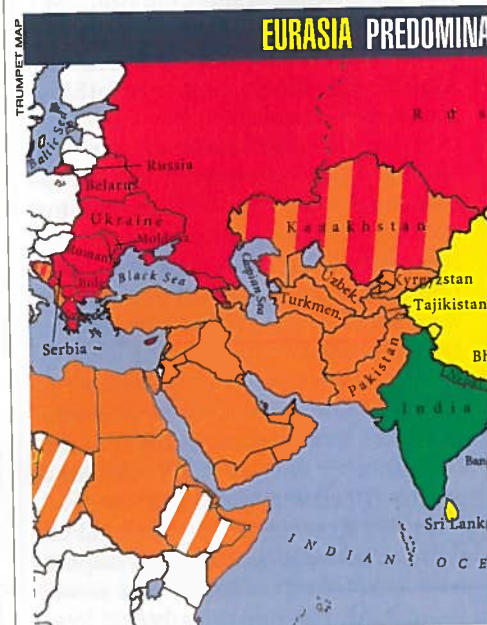
Yes, we know what is ahead for Asia in the next world war. But what about the more immediate future? Are there any signs that such a powerful unification could occur? If so, then we can know that Armageddon is near!

Imagine, if you can, the geopolitical situation created by the events of Daniel 11:40-43. At that point in prophecy, the "West" really will only comprise Europe. The U.S. and Britain will be completely out of the picture. Imagine an Asia with no American presence. Asia is already on its way to complete self-reliance economically and militarily.

What is most remarkable about this global situation is that the next world war is essentially a war between religions—Islam in the south and Catholicism in the north. This is important to consider as we understand Asia's participation. This crusade of all crusades will capture the attention of Asia and its various religions, as the "Holy" Roman Empire conquers Islam.

Religious Unification in Asia?

Since the Bible foretells Asia WILL unite, what could unite such a region? Throughout the 20th century it appeared it would be communism. But a decade of perspective since the Cold War's end should show that this ideology, in addition to having *failed* the East, would still not have been enough to unite several key countries into this coalition—though commu-



nism may be represented within it. But if we look at current trends in Asia in light of what the Bible reveals, some strong indications of uniting factors can be seen.

Will it be religion? This would *seem* impossible, because there is no ONE religion to champion, as in Europe and the Middle East. But *one* religion may not be necessary.

Religion has seen an increase within formerly communist states since the end of the Cold War. Orthodoxy has had a major resurgence in Russia. This cannot be ignored, because, as Huntington writes, "The Orthodox countries of the former Soviet Union are central to the development of a COHERENT RUSSIAN BLOC in Eurasian and world affairs" (op. cit.; emphasis mine throughout).

Orthodoxy is likely what will rally to their mother the Russian satellites: those peoples of the world identified in the Bible as Elam (today inhabiting areas from the Adriatic to the Baltic seas) and Madai or Media (inhabiting Ukraine and surrounding areas). Both Elam and Media are mentioned as part of the armies that will be used to punish Babylon (Isa. 21:2, 9; Jer. 51:11, 28), indicating that Ukraine, at least the eastern and Orthodox half, will ultimately reunite with mother Russia. Huntington comments, "The Russian-Ukrainian relationship is ... the core essential to unity in the Orthodox world."

Religion is also growing in influence in East Asia. Lee Kuan Yew, who led Singapore to independence and

reigned as the first prime minister until 1990, explained, "If you look at the fast-growing countries—Korea, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Singapore—there's been one remarkable phenomenon: the rise of religion" (ibid.).

"Singaporean leaders trumpeted the rise of Asia in relation to the West and contrasted *the virtues of Asian, basically Confucian, culture responsible for this success*—order, discipline, family responsibility, hard work, COLLECTIVISM ... —to the self-indulgence, sloth, individualism ... responsible for the decline of the West" (ibid.).

The bottom line is, a single, overarching religion that binds all of Asia together will almost certainly never come into being. But religion may unite smaller, otherwise disparate units within the larger whole.

Consider, also, a quality of these East Asian religions that may smooth the unification process: East Asians put a great deal of cultural emphasis on COLLECTIVISM OVER INDIVIDUALISM.

And, despite many differences among countries, what the Asian nations have in common, in addition to collectivism, is an emphasis on *non-Westernism*.

Anti-Western Unification?

Asia's embracing of things Asian because they are non-Western could be the common ground its countries find when threatened by a "Christian"-run Western behemoth. It is possible that the one unifying factor that all of Asia will see, from Orthodoxy to Confucianism to Hinduism, will be an ANTI-Western, ANTI-Christian movement, especially at a time when a dominant Catholic regime has just conquered a massive Islamic movement.

Coalitions have formed for much less. For example, what unites the coalition fighting the current war on terrorism? What do any of these nations have in common other than being AGAINST terrorism? All the religions of Asia would have as a common enemy the European "Christian" union.

Huntington states that nations will "bandwagon" with other nations based on the context of the world situation. "A younger boy will bandwagon with his older brother when they confront other boys; he is less likely to trust his older brother when they are alone at home" (p. 233). Despite conflicts of in-

terest between Asian states, a common foe would undoubtedly unite them.

This was not out of the question a few years ago, when NATO involvement in Yugoslavia caused Russia, China and India to consider a tripartite axis to balance what appeared to be an emerging unipolar world. How will Asia react when the world is more blatantly UNIPOLAR during a nuclear World War III?

In the context of this anti-Christian sentiment, consider also the percentage of Asians who subscribe to Islam. Much of the Indian subcontinent adheres to it. It is popular among the Asian satellites of Russia. Then there is Islam's most populous country: Indonesia.

Might a Catholic victory in the Middle East cause Indonesia and other Muslims of the Orient to unite with their Asian brothers to strike back at those who defeated the Muslims to their west?

Economic Self-Reliance

A good example of how Asia is becoming less "Western" is in the economic arena. Asians see the West not as the model for economic development but as a competitor. They see themselves eventually surpassing the West economically. And with good reason.

The economic development of East Asia has been an outstanding phenomenon, starting in Japan, then moving into Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea, and finally China—which officially entered the World Trade Organization on December 11, 2001. Also India, after the Soviet Union's collapse, joined the world economy by embracing capitalism—and its economy has grown steadily ever since. "The exception is thus no longer just Japan, it is increasingly all of Asia," Huntington observes (ibid.).

Asia's economic rejection of the West is most visible in China—a country predicted by some to have the world's largest national economy early in this 21st century. Three of the economic "tigers" are Chinese entities—Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore. Asia's economy is becoming more Chinese-centered and Chinese-dominated. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked at establishing an East Asian Free Trade Area, and a summit last November saw ASEAN+3 (China, Korea and Japan) leaders agree to establish an ASEAN-China Free Trade Area.

China is also turning its economy



north and west, as is evidenced in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization—a grouping of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan that aims to bring economic stability, development and increased trade relations to the region, not to mention greater security to a region threatened by terrorism and separatism.

Why consider this economic strength? Because money is power. If the Bible prophesies of the largest army in the world, it is implicitly prophesying of the largest economy in the world—one that can feed, clothe, arm and mobilize 200 million soldiers!

So what will unite Asia? Though religion may have a lot to do with uniting the Russian side of Asia with Russia and Chinese side with China, it will most likely be a *common religious, economic and military enemy* that will unite the whole region.

Finally, let us turn our attention then to two major areas to watch: 1) Asia's military buildup, and 2) the increasingly good relationships among Asian countries.

The Arming of Asia

An arms buildup is ALREADY occurring in Asia, and the infrastructure is in place for these societies—some largely agricultural—to turn to war.

With countries like Korea, Taiwan, India and Pakistan standing as formidable forces in Asia—several of them possessing nuclear capabilities—probably the region's most remarkable military currently is Japan's. Its industry-driven economy is dependent upon steady manufacturing of military equipment.

While Japan will undoubtedly contribute a modern naval force to the Asian alliance (its navy is second in size only to the U.S.'s), China will contribute endless manpower and vast geographic reach—through the Little Chinas and the myriad of seaports China claims throughout the world. Nonetheless, China too has sought to modernize its military and upgrade its maritime forces. Along with other Asian countries—like Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia—it has heavily increased military spending. As of

March 2000, it had seen 11 straight double-digit percentage increases in defense spending. India increased its spending in 2000 by more than 20 percent—its largest hike ever.

In the north, Russia—with a great stockpile of weapons since the Cold War ended—has helped supply its Asian neighbors. It recently signed a defense cooperation agreement with Myanmar and India, making India the largest purchaser of defense equipment from Russia.

Friendly Orientations

Despite the plentiful seeds for conflict in Asia, efforts at building good neighborly relations among Asian countries are increasing. China is seeking better relations with India, despite a long history of tension. In June 1999, Beijing and New Delhi began a security dialogue and resumed border talks. China insists this will not harm

ties with Pakistan.

Asian countries, notably China and Japan, are interested in contributing help to and settling issues facing Indonesia.

India's economic relations with Japan are improving. Though Japan condemned India and imposed severe economic sanctions in response to its nuclear display in 1998, relations are turning more friendly. When each country was visited by the other's prime minister, the head of state did not stop at the other's political capital first, but its technological and commercial hub. This is indicative of a strong economic relationship which would not only offset overdominance in the region by China at the present, but eventually would add muscle to a coming Asian union.

And despite the historic Kuril Islands dispute between Japan and Russia, Russia's president made it clear over a year and a half ago that "Japan must be a strong factor in international and regional policy. This is in Russia's interests" (*Interfax Russian News*, July 4, 2000).

Watch for greater collusion between the Asian giants: Russia, China, India and Japan.

Finally, of course, there are the developing relations between Russia and China, perhaps more visible than any other bilateral relations discussed to this point. Watch this situation as well (as expounded in our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*).

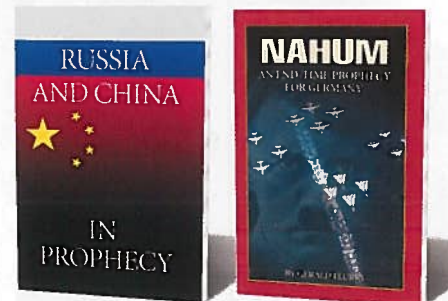
Armageddon

In the near future, a culturally and religiously diverse Asia will ignore its differences, celebrate its similarities and join economically and militarily to form the most gargantuan army in history. Challenged by the European powers to its west, it will strike back with the most devastating force ever unleashed on one entity—ultimately annihilating that church-state union once and for all.

This will lead to the march to Armageddon. The blast of the seventh trumpet angel announces the return of Jesus Christ, coming just in time to save mankind from nuclear annihilation (Matt. 24:22) and to take the reins of rulership on Earth (Rev. 11:15). Of course, unrepentant mankind will not be happy about this (v. 18). The nations will be so angry toward Christ, in fact, that what is left of the beast power and the kings of the east will form an alliance of their own—a reaction to the greatest power and army of the universe, God's army—to *fight* the coming King of kings! This is when the river Euphrates will be dried up, to prepare the way for the kings of the east to gather in this valley just northwest of Jerusalem.

This 3½-year war will conclude with Christ utterly wiping out man's futile efforts to maintain control of the world (Zech. 14:12), at which time Christ will set up His perfect, PEACE-producing, world-encompassing government. ♦

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JOEL HILLIKER

The Great Multitude

Why it is critical that you remember this *Trumpet* issue

GOD IS LOVE. LOVE IS THE SOURCE OF ALL HIS ACTIONS. Do you believe that truth? Many people recognize it in God's sending His Son to pay for the sins of mankind. But many have a hard time seeing it in the God of the Old Testament—in His plagues and punishments and prophecies.

This *Trumpet* has focused on biblical prophecy, most of which has been painful to think about. Now, ask yourself this: *Can you recognize the God of love in those prophecies?*

Biblical prophets were never popular. Their message was despised. Many of them were martyred. Their warnings are still maligned today.

Jesus Christ condemned hypocritical religious leaders who said, "If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets" (Matt. 23:30). These were the very men who were plotting to kill Christ Himself.

Notice—it is the *God of love* who sends prophets. "Wherefore, behold, *I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify ...*" (v. 34). Christ prophesied the popular rejection of God's message would continue!

Why is prophecy so important to God?

Consider: God's way leads to *life*—abundant *life*. Any contrary way leads to misery and death (Deut. 30:19; Prov. 10:17). When people are off course and rebelling, God tries to *WARN* them—as any truly loving father would—of the consequences of their actions.

Prophecy is God's method of showing you the END RESULTS of the way *YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE—good or bad*. For every prophecy about great tribulation, there is another about great exultation! Which of them applies to you depends on your choices.

Consider the scriptures that speak of the Great Tribulation. As sure as those prophecies are, so too are others that speak of a small group of people whom God will *protect* from that ordeal (i.e. Rev. 12:13-14). These will be individuals who have *already accepted* God's correction, who have *already turned* from the way of death. God has no need to inflict the Tribulation upon them. He never punishes without cause, and then only after exercising enormous patience. Respond to God's warning today, and you will be *protected*.

We must deliver this warning whether or not you respond. The message is as unpopular as it ever was. As the prophets of old learned through experience, the vast majority of those who hear do not heed. Christ Himself, though He attracted great crowds and healed countless people, had a loyal following of only 120 at the end of His ministry (Acts 1:15). Though this magazine goes out to hundreds of thousands, only a handful have *chosen* and *committed* themselves to God's way of life.

But there is a prophecy that gives us in this work tremen-

dous hope—it drives us to keep sending out free literature and broadcasting on television—even if few respond today.

It is found in Revelation 7, just following that book's description of the Great Tribulation. "After this I beheld, and, lo, a GREAT MULTITUDE, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes These are *they which came out of great tribulation*, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood

of the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9, 14). The world will have endured the horrifying time of Satan's greatest wrath—described in explicit detail in this *Trumpet* issue. But a multitude *so great it cannot be numbered* will COME OUT of the Tribulation, having ACCEPTED God's correction, *repented*, and been spiritually washed by Christ's shed blood. A sobering yet fantastic picture!

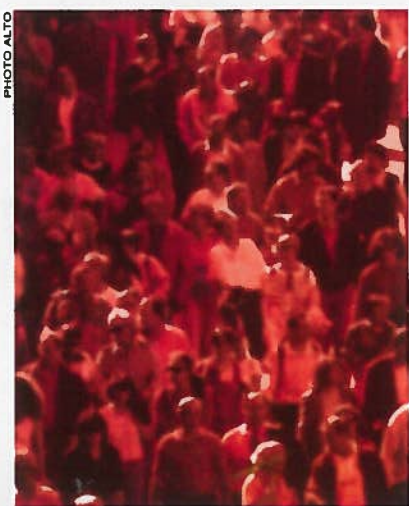
These undoubtedly will be people who are familiar with God's warnings—people LIKE YOU, who study them in the Bible, who read literature from God's true Church. They will watch in terror the tragic and nightmarish FULFILLMENT, step by step, of everything they had read and heard about! Sadly, it will take being plunged into that shocking reality before

they will *finally realize* how deadly serious God was in issuing His warnings. Nevertheless, these people will finally recognize the *God of love* in those prophecies, and will turn to Him in heartfelt repentance. When they do, God will mercifully protect them from any further hurt. They will live to see the dawn of the Kingdom of God.

Thus, much of the fruit of God's work today will not be borne until this future time.

You, reading this *Trumpet*, have been given a comprehensive overview of the future of world events. If you do nothing about the warning contained in these prophecies, you are described in Ezekiel 33:30-32. There God tells the Prophet Ezekiel, "And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for THEY HEAR THY WORDS, BUT THEY DO THEM NOT."

Which choice will you make? If you heed the warning of God's representative today, you can be protected. If you choose to *ignore* it, all we ask is that *you do not FORGET it*. Remember—as you watch it *come to pass before your eyes*. Remember what God says of YOU and of all who heard His message and KNEW in advance what would happen: "[W]hen this cometh to pass, (LO, IT WILL COME,) THEN shall they KNOW that a PROPHET HATH BEEN AMONG THEM!" (v. 33). REMEMBER—so you can recognize the *God of love* in that terrifying punishment, and then ACT upon this precious message of love.



THE KEY OF DAVID IS BACK ON WGN

8:00 am ET, Sun
7:00 am CT, Sun

6:00 am MT, Sun
5:00 am PT, Sun

NEW SEASON
Tomorrow's News Today



Television and Radio Listings

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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 8:00 am ET, Sun
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, Plattsburg—WVNY 7:00 am, Sun
New York, New York City—WWOR 7:30 am, Sat
North Carolina, Asheville—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—
KSBI 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 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable—WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Alberta—CKRD 9:30 am, Sun
British Columbia/Vancouver—CHEK 7:30 am, Sun

Ontario—CFMT 8:30 am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal—WVNY 7:00 am, Sun

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
Puerto Rico—WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 7:30 am, Sat
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
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Dish Network—WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network—WWOR Chan. 238 8:00 am ET, Sun
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Belize—WGN 7:00 am, Sun
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Jamaica—WGN 9:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:00 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;
Star World 5:00 am, Sun
Fiji—Star World 5:00 am, Sun
Singapore—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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