BURSTING BUBBLE
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MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD
Iran's radical new president

Man With a MISSION

THE PHILADELPHIA
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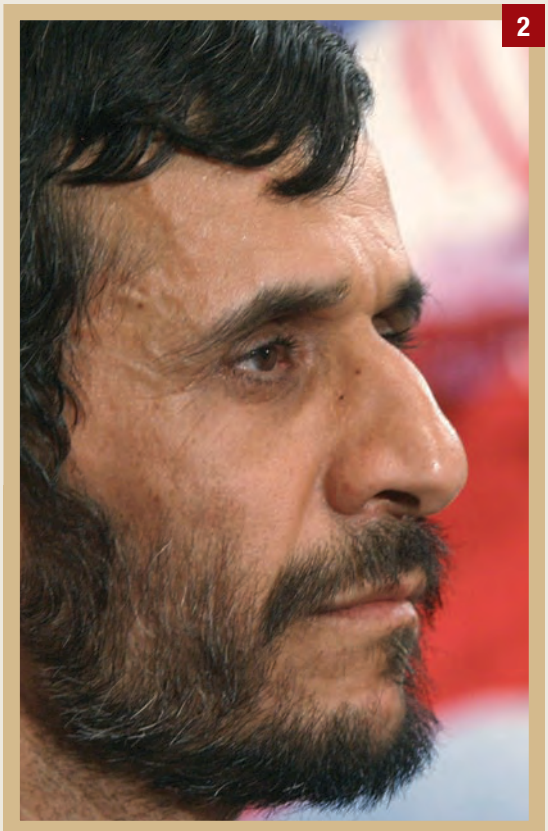







WORLD

2 A Man With a Dangerous Mission
A stunning election put a hardliner into the Iranian presidency. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad wants to make Iran a paragon of Islamic national power—just like the mullahs who put him into office.

4 Khatami Was No Slouch

36 The World Accommodates Iran

DEPARTMENTS

15 Advertisement: The *Trumpet* Online

34 Letters

38 *Key of David* Television Listing
***Trumpet* Literature Request Information**

For a free subscription in the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

WORLD

6 "Clay" Nations Trouble Europe
Non. France and the Netherlands rejected the EU constitution because of who they are.

8 The German Shapeshifter
Among the prodigious talents of the Germans is a penchant for organization. This will factor prominently in the EU's future.

10 Who Started World War I?
Was Germany really to blame?

16 WORLDWATCH
GERMANY Who Will Lead Europe? ■ Military Wants Stronger Role ■ **BRITAIN** Europe's Punching Bag ■ **VATICAN** Flexing Political Muscle ■ **ECONOMY** Sky Wars—Europe Vs. America ■ Americans Fear Losing Jobs ■ **MIDDLE EAST** Hezbollah Sweeps Southern Lebanon Elections ■ Nuke Plans on Black Market?

ECONOMY

13 The Housing Bubble—Everybody's Talking
Last year, the *Trumpet* warned of a housing bubble about to burst, while some experts were ridiculing the notion. Recent reports have silenced these critics.

LIVING

20 The Clean Life
A healthy life is sustained through healthy food, pure water and clean air.

22 Real Fake Juice

24 Addicted to Junk Food

25 The Best Medicine

25 Kick Start Your Day

TRUMPET ARCHIVE
26 What Are the Secrets of My Youthful Vitality?
A question answered by Herbert W. Armstrong at the age of 82.

SOCIETY

34 SOCIETYWATCH
ECONOMY Modern Slavery Spreading ■ **EDUCATION** Preschool Expulsion ■ **FAMILY** Fatherless America ■ **MASCULINITY** Metrosexual Madness ■ **DIVORCE** Breaking Up Bad for Health

RELIGION

1 From the Editor: Do We Attack Other Religions?

28 Understanding Daniel the Prophet
Answering Daniel's critics

37 Commentary: A Warning of Hope

COVER
The winner of June's presidential election in Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Reuters

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Gerald Flurry

Do We Attack Other Religions?

A few of our critics have accused us of attacking other religions. But that is not true. Allow me to be a little more *spiritual* than usual and explain why.

We publish a thoroughly researched newsmagazine. Our writers are well educated and believe the Bible. They write biblically based news articles that occasionally will offend some religions. However, we don't want to offend people any more than is absolutely necessary. We attack issues or false beliefs, but not people. As it has been said, we attack sin, not the sinner.



FREDERIC CIROU

We believe God is going to save Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants and Jews—all religious people. But God is going to do it His way and according to His time frame.

We proclaim a warning message in this magazine. God always warns the world before a great catastrophe. And we are facing the worst time of suffering ever on this Earth because of our wrong way of life. The need for changing human nature should be obvious to everybody. But it isn't—*yet*. We must suffer until that lesson is learned. Much of our wrong way of living is *religiously* motivated. God gives mankind a choice. People can heed God's message now and be protected from the coming holocaust. Or, if they—collectively or individually—reject that warning, then they will suffer as never before.

God uses that suffering to bring men to repentance—even if they die and must repent *after* they are resurrected from the dead.

God has an inspiring plan to save most of humanity—even if people rebel now. Of course, that means they are going to suffer a great deal more. God is also going to save *nonbelievers* when they repent, and most of them will. The Bible teaches that there will always be a certain percentage of people who will reject God's way of life.

Speaking about His Second Coming, Christ refers to only a "little flock" that obeys Him before He returns. But surely we don't think a loving God will be content to convert only a "little flock"! Christ died for the whole world—not a little flock.

Christ converted only 120 people when He came the first time. That was His *little flock*. He actually spoke in parables to keep the masses from understanding! (Matthew 13).

Will the rest of humanity, not called at Christ's first coming, be lost forever? Obviously, Christ knew that was not the best time to call most of those people. But how could a God of love ever say they are lost when He hasn't even called them or opened their minds spiritually?

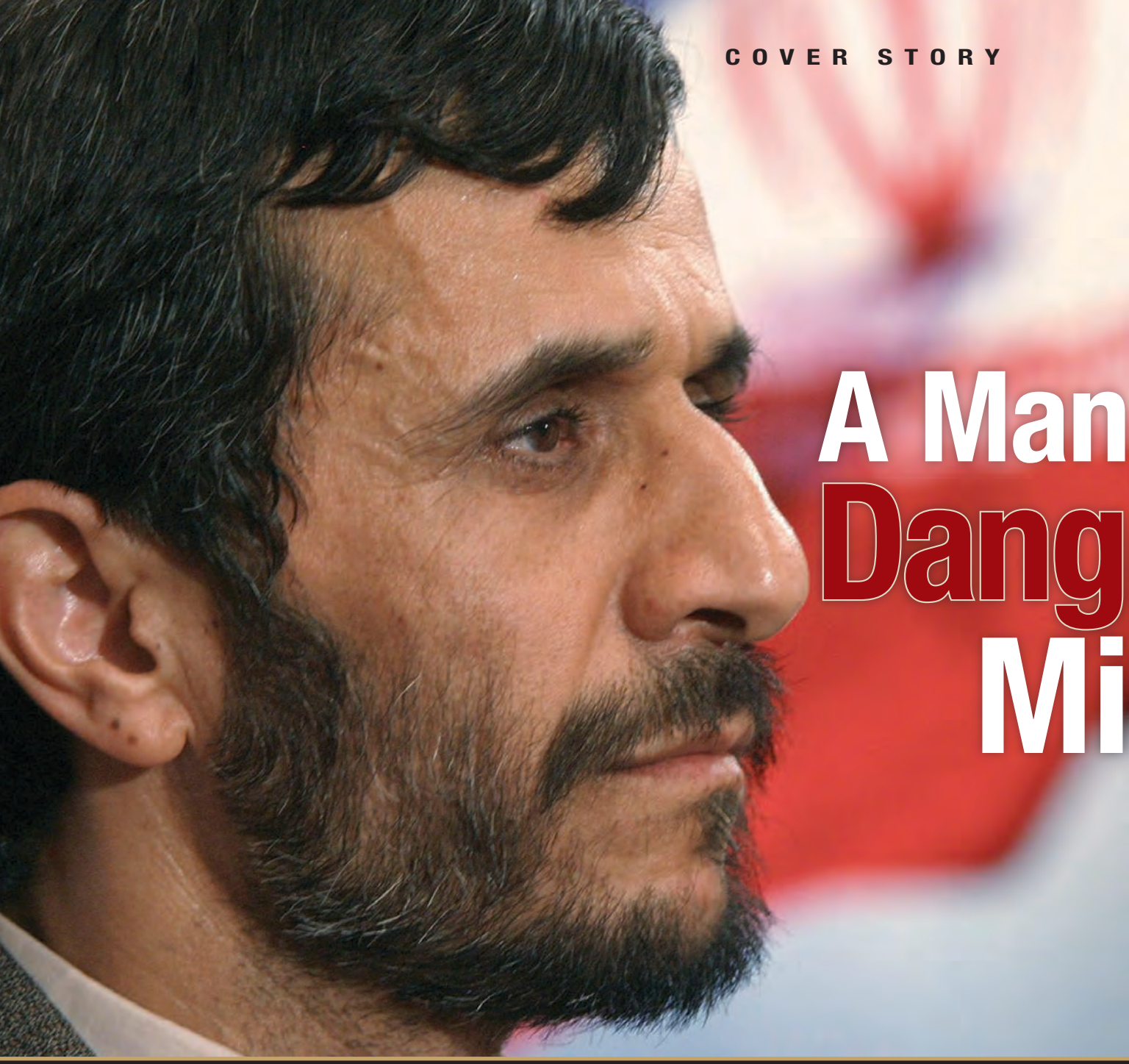
Generally, people in the Old Testament didn't even receive God's Holy Spirit! Are they lost? Of course not. God has a time frame—a master plan to save humanity. People will come to know God for the first time when they are resurrected and given God's Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 37). No persons or religions are consigned to *gehenna* fire unless they have already known God and rejected Him.

God is love. He is filled with mercy. He is also a God of judgment. But only that little flock is being judged today (1 Peter 4:17). The whole world is deceived (Revelation 12:9). That means the people of this world don't *yet* know God. They will be judged after Christ returns.

Our message may offend some people today. But soon the world will see that it was God's message of love. It was a part of His plan to save mankind.

Write for our full-length book *Mystery of the Ages* to thoroughly understand this hugely inspiring subject. ■





A Man Dang Mi

BY JOEL HILLIKER

He came out of nowhere and flipped an election on its head.

In the lead-up to Iran's June 17 presidential vote, polls showed the front-runner to be Hashemi Rafsanjani. When he was president from 1989 to 1997, the conservative Rafsanjani openly supported terrorist attacks and assassinations and oversaw a massive military and arms buildup. But for this election, he recast himself as a "moderate"—the only candidate savvy enough to stay on good terms with Iran's religious leaders but strong enough to stand up to them when necessary. The strategy seemed to be working.

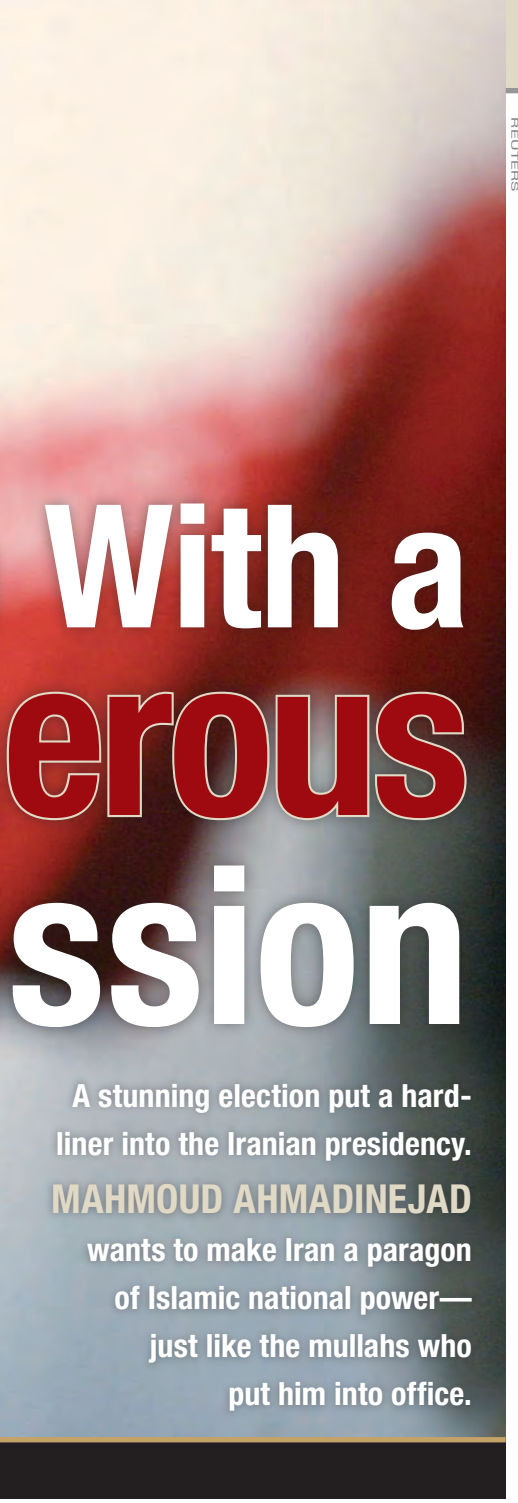
Polls can lie. On election day, Rafsanjani's surprisingly poor showing necessitated a runoff vote with the second-highest vote getter. This was, astoundingly, hardline contestant Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Tehran's mayor was a dark horse no one had paid much attention to. Cast in the image of the ruling religious regime, the most anti-Western of all the candidates, he actually does make Rafsanjani seem "moderate" by comparison. Polls just days before the election put him in *sixth place,* with a mere 3 to 4 percent of the vote. But the runoff election a week later was a stunning upset: With about 60 percent of eligible voters participating, Ahmadinejad won in a landslide, gaining 61.7 percent of the votes compared to Rafsanjani's 35.9 percent.

What happened? The result left governments across the globe in shock. It seemed to be a realization of all their worst fears.

With a erous ssion

A stunning election put a hard-liner into the Iranian presidency. MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD wants to make Iran a paragon of Islamic national power—just like the mullahs who put him into office.



REUTERS

Since the 1979 revolution that made *Islam* the supreme source of its political doctrine, Iran's chief strategic aim has been *to dominate the Middle East*—in particular by serving as a model of Islamic national rule to Muslims worldwide.

Ahmadinejad, after his victory, signaled his zeal for this goal. "My mission," he said, "is creating *a role model of a modern, advanced, powerful and Islamic society.*"

This election is a *defining moment* in Iran's ascent to regional supremacy. It falls in step with what the *Trumpet* has prophesied will occur and signals a dramatic *acceleration* in Iran's fulfilling its critical role in end-time events.

WATCH IRAN. Its ambitions are about to be realized.

Who Is This Man?

The new president, age 49, holds a PhD in engineering from Iran's most elite university, making him the best-educated of any president in Iran's modern history.

Ahmadinejad is a child of the Iranian Revolution. As part of an ultraconservative faction of the radical student group Office for Strengthening Unity, he participated in the infamous takeover of the Unites States Embassy in Tehran in 1979. He then got a job as an interrogator in Tehran's Evin Prison, notorious for its brutal treatment of political prisoners.

During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, he became a commander in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (responsible for Iran's missile and nuclear weapons programs) within the intelligence and sabotage arm called "Jerusalem Force," which handles terrorist attacks and assassinations. For his work in targeting Iranian dissidents abroad, he has been identified by Western intelligence sources as a suspected planner in the killing of Kurdish dissidents in Austria and Germany.

Ahmadinejad worked as a *basiji* in the state-sponsored militia that disciplines civilians for violating Islamic codes of conduct and dress. He also helped organize Ansar-i-Hezbollah, a semiofficial paramilitary group that serves a similar function. When he was appointed mayor of Tehran in 2003, he organized comparable enforcer groups to patrol the capital city.

Widely described as deeply religious and having a manner that recalls the strict early days of the revolution, Ahmadinejad has begun his press conferences with Koran readings and recitations. A *New York Times* reporter made these observations in a June 27 piece: "Ahmadinejad does not appear overly concerned about what anyone outside Iran is thinking of him. He speaks with a nationalist pride, and a determination to have Iran treated as an equal, not as a second-class party at the negotiating table. At the news conference, the new president carried himself as a rehearsed politician …."

Of course, in the theocratic republic of Iran, the real power rests not with elected officials, but religious leaders. Under Iranian law, the ayatollah (now Khamenei, successor to Ayatollah Khomeini, who led the 1979 revolution) can override the president on any action he wishes, and the 12-member clerical Guardian Council can scrap any decision of the elected parliament. Islamic leaders head the revolutionary court, the Tehran Justice Department and the special court for the clergy.

That's just fine with Ahmadinejad. Compared to Iran's past presidents, he has an unprecedented level of ideological unity with the clerics. In his victory speech, he highly praised the government structure that makes him, and all elected officials, accountable to the religious rulers. "Religious democracy is the only path toward human prosperity, and it's the most advanced type of government that humans can ever have," he said.

After he was elected, Ahmadinejad reaffirmed his solidarity with the religious ideals of the 1979 revolution by saying, "We did not have a revolution in order to have democracy." In one of his first acts as president-elect, he paid his respects at Khomeini's shrine.

Gone, then, are the days of tension and struggle between the secular and religious arms of Iranian rulership. Ahmadinejad's victory convincingly ended Iran's dalliance with a slightly softer, more secular government, represented by President Mohammad Khatami. Ayatollah Khamenei can now lead as he pleases, without the encumbrances posed by a reform-minded president. One Tehran-based political scientist said the new president will effectively function as Khamenei's "executive secretary." Young Iranians are calling him "the Supreme Leader's personal chimp."

This election represents a defining moment in Iran's ascent to regional supremacy.

For the first time, the ayatollah will control all the levers of power.

The real victor in the election, in effect, was Ayatollah Khamenei.

The Ayatollah's Choice

How did Ahmadinejad move from invisibility to landslide within a week?

Some analysts have called the hardliner's victory a popular backlash against the status-quo clerical corruption represented by Rafsanjani and against perceived meddling in Mideast affairs by the U.S. In truth, the opacity

of Iran's election process makes it difficult to determine the degree to which this outcome actually reflects the will of the Iranian people.

In the end, however, it doesn't matter: Ahmadinejad *clearly* reflects the will of the mullahs. They were the muscle behind the victory. Ahmadinejad's win is a convincing indicator of *their urgency in attaining their goals.*

The Supreme Leader specifically chose the short list of presidential candidates who were allowed to run. Thus, over a thousand hopefuls—including all consequential reformists—were eliminated from contention.

But that was only the beginning of the clerics' strong-arm tactics. After the first round of voting, Iran's Interior Ministry publicized allegations of an organized vote-buying operation; others, including Rafsanjani's campaign staff, claimed that military personnel—even top-ranking officers—illegally interfered by campaigning and intimidating voters, something that would not have happened without Khamenei's blessing.

The Guardian Council promptly dismissed as false all the allegations and proceeded with the runoff as scheduled.

Then came a massive rally behind Ahmadinejad—including endorsement from a bloc of 132 members of the conservative-controlled parliament and a group of Koran experts and publishers, who called him the only candidate capable of achieving Ayatollah Khomeini's ideals. Ahmadinejad made strong appeals to poor, rural areas, with promises of "putting the petroleum income on people's tables"—distributing more of Iran's oil profits to them. The poorest provinces ended up providing bushels of votes for him.

Allegations of fraud dogged round two as well. The director of parliamentary affairs for the Interior Ministry told reporters he saw Guardian Council interference at all the polling stations he visited. "The monitors of the Guardian Council were not only filling out the tariffs and controlling the voters' IDs, but also constantly issuing orders for everyone," he said.

A senior Iranian official linked Ahmadinejad closely with the ayatollah's son, Mojtaba Khamenei, as well as Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, who leads the Guardian Council. Furthermore, his campaign was backed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Basij.

Time reported, "The opposition in Iran grumbles that Khamenei's hand—and funds—may have given the modest Ahmadinejad's campaign a huge and unfair boost" (July 4). According to Iranian author Amir Taheri, "Ahmadinejad's chief asset, and the main if not sole reason for his victory, is his relationship with and fierce loyalty to the Supreme Guide, Ali Khamenei, the true and almost absolute ruler of the country. The two met in 1979 when Khamenei served as deputy defense minister and have been close ever since" (*Australian,* June 27).

In the end, despite the fact that fewer people voted in the second round compared to the first, Ahmadinejad's vote count jumped from 5.7 million to 17.2 million in one week. Even if one factors in his receiving the 5.8 million votes that went to other hardliners in the first round, the *tripling* of his support is truly remarkable. And no accident.

However they managed it, the clerics got themselves just the man they wanted.

As Sadegh Zibakalam, a political analyst at Tehran University, said, "The people of Iran would be naive to believe that Ahmadinejad was one of them, a simple man with no backing. Ahmadinejad is just the tip of the iceberg. Behind him are the regime's most powerful political and military institutions" (*Time,* op. cit.).

The fact that he was chosen over Rafsanjani is significant. As London's *Guardian* put it, "the hardliners could not even reconcile themselves to coping with a skilled old political operator of his kind, or face the prospect of him offering some sort of rivalry to Khamenei" (June 27). *They feel it's time for* ACTION—*and want nothing in their way!*

Having orchestrated a similar outcome last year in order to regain control of Iran's parliament from reformists, the anti-Western conservatives have now secured complete control over the executive and legislative branches, as well as the judiciary, security and armed forces—every elected and unelected institution in the nation.

Having aggressively gained this power, they are bound to aggressively use it. There is nobody inside Iran now to slow them down in their desire to push. This means they will naturally keep pushing their terrorist foreign policy until somebody *outside* Iran accepts their challenge.

Nuclear Program

The most migraine-inducing question on the minds of Western leaders is how Ahmadinejad's election will affect Iran's nuclear program. This issue plainly reveals the position of strength from which Iran is operating—as well as the weakness of the West.

For years, the Islamic Republic has played coy games over its nuclear activities—carrying on with charades of ne-

Khatami Was No Slouch

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM is that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad replaces a real loser. Iran had a two-term "reformist" president in Mohammad Khatami, but because he was handcuffed by the religious leaders, he achieved virtually nothing. "The people actually did test the reformists during the last eight years, but they didn't see much from them," said one 23-year-old Ahmadinejad supporter. "So people here decided to return to the people who are promoting revolutionary values and see if they can bring about change."

It's true that in terms of social and economic freedoms, the reforms Khatami squeezed through came far too slow for many. But in the larger geopolitical scheme, President Khatami was not the hamstrung underachiever many portray him to be. He actually pulled off a feat critical for the realization of Iran's ambitions.

Under Khatami's rulership, Iran effectively moved from being a pariah state—an outcast—to becoming a bona fide partner to many countries, particularly Russia and China.

Khatami's visit in 1999 to Italy was the first for an Iranian leader to Europe since the 1979 revolution. Several other European nations opened diplomatic talks with Iran under his presidency. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visited Iran in September 2001; Britain's exports to Iran increased 144 percent that year. Even members of the United States Congress said they didn't see any "axis of evil" and wanted a better relationship with Iran.

Khatami also stimulated unity within the region, promoting agreements with, among other neighbors, Pakistan and India—even, to some degree, Saudi Arabia.

It appears, despite the radical change in Iran's leadership, that many of these relationships will stick. The world is too entangled with Iran to pull out. Immediately after Ahmadinejad was elected, Russian President Vladimir Putin affirmed his commitment to the relationship; other countries, including Japan and Pakistan, also vowed solidarity with Iran.

Khatami achieved a lot for Iran: He garnered the global support that enabled Iran to juice up its political and economic stature and strengthen its military, and soon nuclear, might.


AP/WIDE WORLD

PUTTING IT IN WRITING

With the political legwork and behind-the-scenes maneuvering done, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei signs his ballot in June's runoff election.

gotiation while furtively developing the technology. Finally, in March, it virtually admitted to having a secret nuclear weapons program—betting that, as OPEC's second-largest oil producer, it is too valuable to the West to be targeted. The U.S. being overstretched in Iraq and depending on Shiite support to suppress the insurgency there also gives Iran leverage.

Its gamble has worked: Europe and the U.S. have effectively ruled out any pressure tactic beyond talk—and talk has proven utterly ineffective. German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder recently described even *sanctions* as being an unsavory option, because they might jeopardize Europe's valuable supply of Mideast oil.

theTrumpet.com

For more about U.S. and EU efforts to halt Iranian nuclear production, read "Hate Triangle" from our January 2005 issue.

The Iranian election had EU officials so worried they openly threw their support behind *Rafsanjani* of all people, calling him the best hope for forestalling the Iranian nuclear threat. Pitiful proof of how much the world's hands are tied over Iran: Despite widespread uneasiness over its nuclear program and terrorist activities, no one is taking action—for the time being, that is.

All this happened under the watch of a "reformist" president. What will happen now that a hardliner is taking over?

Some say it will help—that, with the true nature of the regime unmasked, the West will be more apt to take action against it. Much more likely is that Ahmadinejad's presidency will *accentuate the feebleness of the West's approach.*

Ahmadinejad isn't playing coy. A proud believer in Iran's right to its own nuclear technology, he campaigned on a brash pledge to keep the program rolling. After the election, he confirmed it will continue—albeit for "peaceful" purposes. "Nuclear energy is a result of Iranian people's scientific development, and no one can block the way of a nation's scientific development," he said. "This right of the Iranian people will soon be recognized by those who have so far denied it."

That's not to say that all the charades are over. There will likely be more talk. We may even witness military strikes on Iranian nuclear sites. But Bible prophecy strongly indicates that talks will fail and any action will not be tough enough to deter Iran in the long run.

Iran will get its nukes.

One can easily see how gaining nuclear capability will increase the nation's political standing and national sense of stature and destiny.

But even in the short term, thanks to Ahmadinejad's presidency, the world is about to get to know a more radical and determined Iran.

"Out of Step"?

The U.S. State Department glibly said the election result shows Iran to be "out of step with the rest of the region in the currents of freedom." American officials continue to cling to the line that, given enough time, democracy will triumph: Iran's reform-minded population will find a way to dump the mullahs and install a moderate, more West-friendly government in their place.

This is wishful thinking—and it misses the point. No matter how many Iranians are disappointed with the election result, the fact is that the mullahs have the motivation—and the power—to drive the country in exactly the direction they want it to go.

Time will show Ahmadinejad's win to be *not* "out of step," but *a peek at the future.*

That future belongs to the mullahs—still seeking regional dominance for Iran—still working toward the universal rule of Islam. It belongs to the man with a self-proclaimed mission to create in Iran "a role model of a modern, advanced, powerful and Islamic society."

A generation on from the Iranian Revolution, this ambition still resonates with an apparently huge swath, if not a majority, of Iranians. Spengler wrote in the *Asia Times,* "Most of the country remains sunk in misery, but the humblest Iranian farmer still has the pride of a conqueror in his heart.

"That is the great gift of Islam, which offers much more to the faithful than the ordering of traditional life. *It promises to impose the system of traditional life upon the world.* Islam is the vengeance of tribal society upon the cosmopolitan empires, first against the Sassanids and Byzantines, then against the Holy Roman Empire, and now against the West. The Muslim does not cower in his village waiting for the inevitable encroachment of a hostile world, but seeks to impose his will on the world" (June 28; emphasis mine).

The U.S. may not want to believe it, but several analysts warn of one probable ripple effect from the election: *an expansion of Islamic extremism.*

Kaveh L. Afrasiabi, a Tehran University political science instructor, wrote, "The 2005 presidential election in Iran is a vivid reminder of the lingering ethos of Islamic revolution long considered dead by so many simplistic experts. … Clearly, the spirit of Islamic revolution lives on" (Asia Times, June 28).

We are witnessing nothing less than the rise of the Iranian Revolution's second generation.

And this time, Iran will succeed in rallying other nations to its cause.

Throughout the Mideast, Islamic fervor is growing; great portions of the region are falling *in step* with the move toward more austere commitment to

See MISSION page 36 ▸



AP/WIDEWORLD

NON, MERCI
French advocates of a "no" vote march a week before the French reject the EU constitution, helping propel Europe into a state of crisis.

"Clay" Nations Trouble Europe

The French and Dutch rejections of the EU constitution—and the fuss over the treaty coming from other EU nations—is Bible prophecy coming alive! The countries causing the most trouble are identified in the Bible as being "clay" mixed with iron—making Europe "partly strong and partly brittle." BY RYAN MALONE

On May 29, the French—in a legally binding referendum—rejected the proposed European Union constitution. Three days later, a Dutch referendum submitted an even more dogmatic rejection of the charter. These two events are fulfilling a major prophecy about end-time Europe that few understand.

The all-important key to understanding Bible prophecy—and, by extension, world events—is identifying *Israel* in those prophecies. Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains, in thorough, riveting detail, how the American and British peoples largely fulfill this prophetic role.

When you understand that the U.S. and Britain are the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, upon whom the birthright of Israel was conferred millennia ago (see Genesis 48:16-20), world events leap into focus. Ephraim and Manasseh were sons of Joseph, who was one of the patriarch Israel's 12 sons. The descendants of another of Israel's sons, Judah, now inhabit the small nation in the Middle East called Israel.

Identifying Israel's descendants is not only vital to understanding the Anglicized world and the Middle East in global affairs, it is also crucial to understanding *European* events, because Israel's other 10 sons inhabit mainland Europe today.

The united Europe we see today is currently composed of *Israelite* nations as well as *non-Israelite* (or Gentile) nations. That awkward mixture is at the heart of Europe's woes. Believe it or not, this was prophesied in your Bible!

Daniel 2 contains a prophecy of four major world-ruling kingdoms that would exist from the reign of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon down to our day. This prophecy is described through a visual aid—a great image of a statue with head of gold (the Babylonian empire), breast and arms of silver (the Medo-Persian empire), belly and waist of brass (the Greco-Macedonian empire) and two legs of iron (the Roman Empire).

The feet and the toes of this image, however, show the iron mixing with "miry clay" (Daniel 2:43).

God tells Israel, in Jeremiah 18:6, that He is the potter and it is the clay.

Notice how this clay will affect the final resurrection of the Roman Empire, which we see rising in Europe *today*—currently under the name of "European Union": "And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of *potters' clay,* and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the *strength of the iron,* forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay" (Daniel 2:41).

Yes, this final resurrection of the Ro-

man Empire will have the strength of the previous empire, but there's more. Verse 42: "And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken [or *brittle*]."

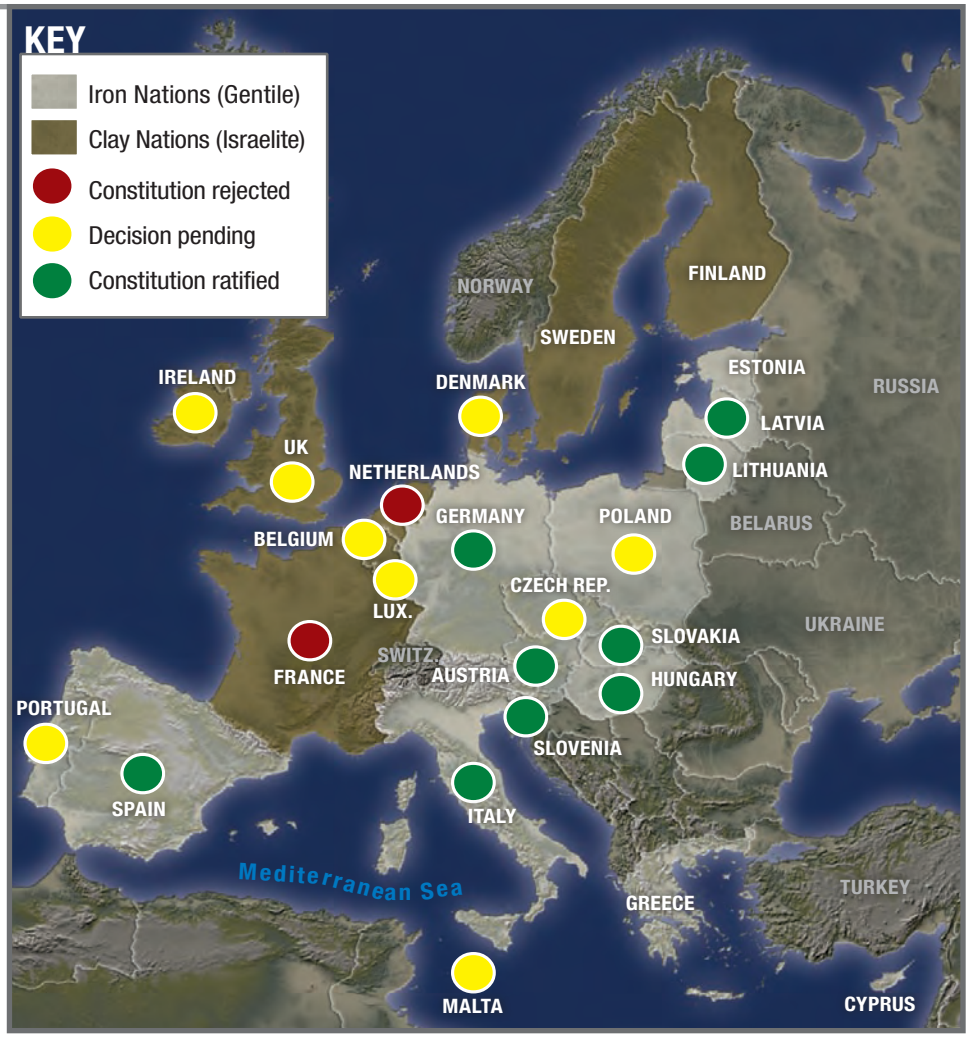
How brittle is the European Union today? What is the *cause* of this divisiveness? Well, just take a look at the nations creating the fuss over the EU constitution as a characteristic example.

There has never been more turmoil over Europe's constitution—even the Union's very existence—than in the months leading up to the French referendum on whether the nation should ratify the document. Poll after poll showed that the French would reject the treaty, even if narrowly. This sent Europe into a panic. Eurocrats scrabbled up all sorts of ideas—from helping the French leadership campaign for the treaty to devising a plan B should the French reject it. One plan was to let the rest of Europe ratify it and then take it back to the French a second time (Denmark needed a repeat referendum over the 1992 Maastricht Treaty; Ireland likewise for the 2002 Nice Treaty). Germany did all it could to help the effort; it completed its own parliamentary ratification process just two days earlier, hoping that would help boost French support.

France (modern-day Reuben) *couldn't* reject it, or so many insisted, for France was a founding member—and a core one at that—of a European federation. Adding insult to injury, three days after the French rejected the constitution, Holland (Zebulun's descendants), another founding member of the united-Europe idea, gave an even more resounding "nee" in its referendum. This too was disheartening to European policymakers.

Notice too which other nations have provoked fear among Europhile politicians, who so desperately want their charter to be implemented. Far-right parties in Belgium (Asher) campaigned hard against the constitution, which is one of the reasons Belgium decided not to have a referendum. Britain and Denmark (modern-day Dan) actually suspended their plans to have a referendum on the constitution.

In fact, as far as taking the matter to the people, of the 10 European nations that originally planned to do this, six are *Israelite* nations—countries more rooted in the Judeo-Christian way of thinking. And the countries that had already ratified the treaty by the week of the French and Dutch referenda were all non-Israelite.



Bible prophecy stands revealed in Europe! Israel certainly is the "clay" in this union of nations. It is mixing with the strength of iron and making the resulting union *brittle*.

Where are they now?

The 12 biblical tribes of Israel—and what nations they primarily make up today.

Reuben	France
Simeon	Scattered
Levi	Scattered
Judah	Israel
Zebulun	The Netherlands
Issachar	Finland
Dan	Denmark, Ireland
Gad	Switzerland
Asher	Belgium, Luxembourg
Naphtali	Sweden
Joseph	U.S./Great Britain
Benjamin	Norway

This final resurrection of the Roman Empire, though strong as iron, will be short-lived because of its unnatural composition. As Daniel 2:43 states, "[B]ut they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." Letting the Bible interpret itself in identifying the "clay," we can know that *some* Israelite nations will be involved in a united Europe—at least for a period of time. We can be sure Britain will *not* be, however, as the Bible prophesies it will be one of the major *victims* of the European conglomerate. The point here is that what presently WEAKENS the iron nature of this empire are the nations that are "clay"—as we can see is the case today.

But before its collapse, a united, iron-strong Europe will dominate this world—and it will directly impact *your life*. Though it will be for only a short time, these nations of iron and clay will unite under one strong political leader. For more on where this is all headed, visit theTrumpet.com to read our December 2003 article "Are We Wrong About Europe?"

The German Shapeshifter

Among the prodigious talents of this people is a penchant for organization. This will factor prominently in the EU's future. BY RON FRASER

In Greek mythology, Proteus was a sea god with the power to assume different forms.

The character of the Germanic peoples has been described as Proteus-like. Italian author and journalist Luigi Barzini described Germany as "the strangely malleable country."

Truly, each nation has its own innate strengths and weaknesses. It has been said that in a perfect world the Jew would be the economist, the American the businessman, and the Briton the policeman.

What of the German? Does the German have a particular strength that would place him in a school of his own in terms of a unique national character trait?

Study the history of the Germanic peoples. They are descendents of Asshur, son of Shem, son of Noah, who built the ancient capital of the Assyrian Empire, Nineveh. Ancient Austrian chronicles even catalogue the fact of Noah appointing Shem ruler over the area generally occupied today by Austria and Germany following the population explosion within the first century and a half of the ark landing on Mount Ararat. These ancient documents also give account of the visit by Abraham to the region of the upper reaches of the Danube River, in particular to the area we presently know as the nation-state of Austria.

From the time of ancient Nineveh, the peoples descended from Asshur—known to historians as Assyria—had a tendency for collectivism. They were a living paradox. Always outward-reaching in efforts for territorial gain, they yet remained insular in that their true comfort zone was among themselves. For this reason, they did not make successful colonists. Unlike Rome, or much later Britain, the kingdom of Nineveh failed for its inability to effectively *integrate* the peoples it conquered in its ever-continuing quest for *Lebensraum*—living space!

A particular strength of the German people is a highly developed sense of *organization*. Fly over Germany and notice the precision and orderliness you observe on the ground in buildings, farmyards, fencing, roads and infrastructure. There's a form and symmetry to it all that is unique to this country.

Attend a symphony concert in Vienna or Berlin. The discipline of the musicians is superb, the quality of the music unsurpassable, the decor within the concert hall ornate in a display of impeccable taste. Then you realize that even the music itself was scored by a famous Teutonic composer—Brahms, Beethoven, Strauss, Mendelssohn, Handel or any number of the highly talented authors of high musicianship who so richly populated later German history, leaving Western civilization a lasting legacy for the inspiration and uplifting of all.

Whether it be an art gallery or one of these nations' wonderfully organized libraries, Germanic high culture is powerful in its presence within Austro-Germany. Their artists of renown, great authors, thinkers and philosophers are all represented here—the walls and the shelves replete with examples of unique Teutonic creativity.

Attend a German social function: The geniality is plentiful; the music made to dance to; the reverie abundant. Here is a



NEW GERMAN ORDER?

Christian Democrat leader Angela Merkel, speaking to the Bundestag, is looking to lead Germany out of unrest and into peace and order.

fun-loving people—yet it is all still highly *organized* … and herein lies the conundrum.

The German can be innately cultured, excessively friendly, exuding real warmth and ready to share his abundance with all, *until his organized life is disturbed by some event, influence or loss that encroaches on that innate need for a highly organized, controllable lifestyle*. Then, *watch out.* For it is then that the most profound weakness of these wonderful people rises dramatically to the fore. *That's* when we see a Protean *change* in the *national mood* of the German people.

At such times we ought to take warning! "What is the German mood?" Barzini asked. "Are they happy, as happy as human beings can reasonably be? (It is when they are disconcerted and fretful that they can be most dangerous.)"

Today the German economy is in recession. Today the Teutonic dream of a pan-European federation appears to be in tatters. Today the Germans pine for their beloved deutsche mark as they watch their economy negatively impacted by a sliding euro and escalating prices. Today the German people feel their territory increasingly encroached upon by the foreigner. Today the Germans feel a gnawing hunger for a moral anchor to lift their flagging national spirit. Today the Germans yearn for a real, *powerful* leader to rescue them from their collective woes! A leader who will allow the German character to revive and once again gain the respect of the world as a genuine power to be reckoned with! The Germans will not again be "happy" until that is achieved.

History has constantly demonstrated that the Germans—once given a certain type of leadership—are capable of "obeying orders like automatons." Barzini said it's "as if each German refused to raise his head to look where he was being led and diligently concentrated his attention on the small job entrusted to him" (*The Europeans*).

This trait has led to an unfortunately repetitious history through the ages, such that when the Germans are at war—which they have been too often—"they do the job, as they do it in peacetime, as thoroughly, efficiently and expediently as possible, without looking left or right, like the good obedient workmen they are. They never bother about what the rest of the world will think. Scruples and doubts might slow them down" (ibid.).



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The unsettled mood within Germany today is awakening a renewed spirit of nationalism. The segment of German population most prone to be influenced by this spirit is the nation's youth. They seek a *cause* and an *authority* to give certainty and real direction to their young lives in times of uncertainty and destabilization within the continent of Europe, and, indeed, the whole globe.

For this reason, the *Trumpet* believes that the annual conference of Catholic youth—due to be held in Cologne, Germany, in August; just one month before a probable federal election—should be carefully watched.

Papal Politics

Pope Benedict XVI will address this annual conference of Catholic youth. He is expected to draw an audience of over 2 million in Cologne. This is the first time that a German pope will address such a conference—a reality to which both the pope and his audience will be highly sensitized. Benedict's message to the youth will have particular appeal to a segment of the German population that presently hungers for inspired leadership in times most unsettled and unsettling.

Germany will not give up on its dream of a pan-European federation.

Should this German pope find a powerful following within the country's current generation, he may be instrumental in igniting a political force that will clamor for a more conservative leader at the upcoming German elections in September.

We have no axe to grind concerning the German people. They are richly talented and have much to offer this world. Indeed, history records that they are the only nation to have ever repented, as an entire nation, and turned to God in response to a grave warning from one of His prophets (Jonah 3:5-10).

But in times like these we do need to be cognizant of one particular aspect of their character. "Which is the shape of the German Proteus this morning? Which will be its shape tomorrow? … [T]he day may come when someone lifts the mask. … [T]he face that appears may be less full-cheeked and rosy than today's. … Is the German, as Nietzsche wrote, still 'acquainted with the hidden paths to chaos?'" (ibid.).

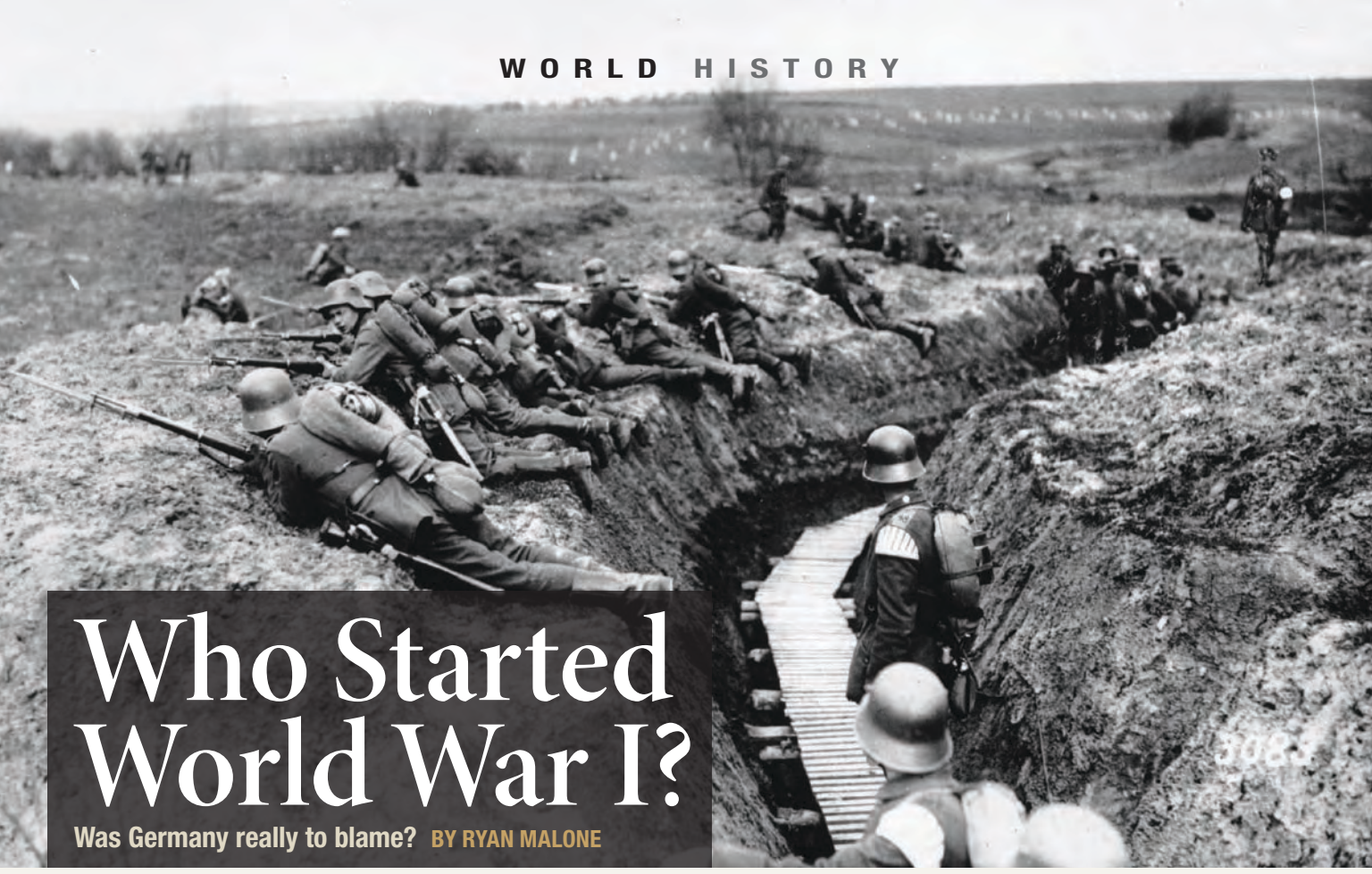
It is this changeable nature of the Germans, together with their efficiency (specifically in warfare), that God will in fact use for His purpose: to chasten the rebellious nation of biblical Israel—primarily America and the other English-speaking countries today. In Isaiah 10:5-7, God describes Assyria (Germany today) as "the rod of mine anger" against a "hypocritical nation." But, in verse 7, He says, "Howbeit *he meaneth not so,* neither doth his heart *think so;* but it is *in his heart* to destroy and cut off nations not a few." In Habakkuk 1:6-12, God again says that He will "raise up" the Germans to correct the nations of Israel, and in this context refers to a "mind change" of the German leadership (verse 11).

It is in this context that we watch closely the changing moods of Germany. God will soon use that nation to punish America and the British peoples for their hypocrisy and rebellion—in hopes of *turning them to Him.*

Germany will not give up on its dream of a pan-European federation. We would do well to remember ex-chancellor Helmut Kohl's warning via a 1994 paper produced by the Christian Democratic Union's Parliamentary Committee on European Affairs: "Never again must there be a destabilizing vacuum of power in central Europe. If European integration were not to progress, Germany might be called upon, or tempted by its own security constraints, to try to effect the stabilization on its own and *in the traditional way."*

The apparent fracturing of the dream of obtaining a united Europe by multiple edicts and endless treaties issued by a faceless bureaucracy in Brussels appears, on the surface, to be doomed. But Germany has made its case quite clear: It *will not retreat* from its determination to lead the unification of Europe.

We have thus reached a time when, as Barzini said, "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. … 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."



Who Started World War I?

Was Germany really to blame? BY RYAN MALONE

As the *Trumpet* warns of an impending World War III, we emphasize that it was Germany that instigated both the previous world wars. Our critics tell us that it is absurd to believe that Germany started the First World War.

So what of it? What is the truth about World War I? Was it caused by Germany? Or Austria-Hungary? Perhaps the British, knowing they had to contain Germany before Berlin upset the power balance on the Continent? Was it the Russians—after all, didn't they support the Serbs and mobilize their troops before Germany did? Or was it the assassination of Habsburg's archduke in Sarajevo that prompted it all—91 years ago last month? Or was it the result of an unintended chain reaction on a continent where every country wanted peace but was tangled in alliances that had to be honored?

Even though so many records concerning events in the summer of 1914 have mysteriously disappeared (more so in Germany than anywhere else), historians over the past half century have been able to piece together evidence that gives us a clear picture of how this war came about.

A German historian in the 1960s, Fritz Fischer, was the first to compile evidence that implicated Germany's military leaders in the outbreak of Europe's Great War. His book, *Germany's Aims in the First World War,* created such controversy that he released another book several years later to back up his findings: *War of Illusions: German Policies from 1911 to 1914.*

His conclusions are further substantiated in a modern volume by historian and author David Fromkin: the critically acclaimed book *Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?*

This book, published last year, argues that avenging the archduke's assassination was merely a pretext for Austria-Hungary to go to war with Serbia—and that Austria-Hungary going to war with Serbia was merely *another* pretext for Germany to go to war with Russia.

Let us briefly examine this history. It is vital for us to understand the track record of a nation that is destined *once more* to plunge the world into war!

The facts prove that World War I was not somehow an inevitable chain of events. Rather, *deliberate* moves by certain countries initiated a somewhat *planned* chain of events. The warning signs were there. Flare-ups in the Balkans and in North Africa—along with an accelerated arms race—should have alerted Europeans to the rising danger. But then again, Europe hadn't experienced a major war for half a century—and never a war of this magnitude.

Turn-of-the-Century Germany

Since the creation of the German Empire in the 1870s, Germany had been making attempts at continental domination. It annexed bits of French territory after the Franco-Prussian War. It attempted to rival Britain as a naval power in the early 1900s, and sought colonies in other parts of the world. Unfortunately for Berlin, those parts of the world had already been colonized—so it sought to gain territories by taking them from other European powers. Though no one had Morocco yet, France had been eyeing it for a while. When Germany went after Morocco in 1911, Britain came to France's aid—and Germany's alliance with Italy proved no help whatsoever.

Also of no help was Austria-Hungary—which, when it had annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina, Germany had supported.

At this time, Germany's leaders awakened to two facts. One: Its alliance with Austria-Hungary was one-sided. Berlin was prepared to back Vienna, but Vienna, it seemed, wouldn't necessarily back Berlin. Kaiser Wilhelm II said, "If it comes to a war, we must hope that Austria is

AP/WIDEWORLD

attacked so that she needs our help and not that we are attacked so that it would depend on Austria's decision whether she will remain faithful to the alliance" (James Joll, *The Idea of Freedom,* 1979).

Germany also awoke to the fact that it was weaker, not stronger, than the other powers. "[T]he chief of the general staff felt that Germany ought to launch a war as soon as possible precisely because the chances of winning it would be less every year. War was necessary, in other words, not to accommodate German strength, but to accommodate German weakness" (Fromkin, op. cit.). To Germany, not liking its position in the European order, the necessity of war was a given—it was just a question of timing.

It is well documented that Germany's army chief of staff at the time, Helmuth von Moltke, believed a European war was inevitable. Given Germany's ambitions on the Continent, German policy-makers knew that the only path to take was war. In *that* sense, it was inevitable. According to the movers and shakers in Germany, the longer Berlin waited to go to war (considering the growth of Russian, British and French forces), the smaller were Germany's chances of emerging victorious. Not only that, they realized that to improve its chances of success, Germany must somehow get Austria-Hungary onside.

After the Moroccan crisis, Germany began focusing on developing its land armaments. Its arms spending in 1913 was at record levels, but it couldn't afford such expenditures much longer—unless, of course, it went to war.

But public opinion wasn't ready for it, and this was important, according to Moltke. The people had to be rallied around the cause. As he said the year before war broke out, "*When starting a world war* one has to think very carefully" (Imanuel Geiss, *July 1914—The Outbreak of the First World War: Selected Documents,* 1967; emphasis mine throughout).

Secret Conference

According to Fromkin, backing up Fischer's research, the German kaiser convened a meeting Dec. 8, 1912. "This secret conference was drawn to the world's attention only a half century later, when the historian Fritz Fischer showed that it could have been evidence of a deliberate plan by the kaiser and his military chiefs to bring about a European war in June 1914" (op. cit.).

The kaiser had called the meeting after hearing from his London ambassador about which side Britain would be on were Germany to attack France. The kaiser, according to one account, left the meeting extremely agitated and "in an openly war-like mood." He realized that, if Germany went to war, it would have to plan on fighting Britain too.

Additionally, that December, during the Balkan wars, the kaiser stated publicly that Austria "must deal energetically" with Serbia, and "if Russia supports the Serbs, which she evidently does … then war would be unavoidable for us, too" (John Röhl, *The Kaiser and His Court: Wilhelm II and the Government of Germany,* 1994). In other words, the kaiser went on record as pushing Austria to take action against Serbia—even though he knew this would result in Russia and Germany getting involved in a war!

Fromkin wrote how General Moltke said that "'we ought to do more through the press' to build up popular support for a war against Russia." Even though the meeting didn't seem to produce any concrete decisions, one German official did, in fact, transmit to the chancellor "the kaiser's order to use the press to prepare the people for a future war with Russia" (op. cit.).

Röhl concludes about this conference, "Ever since Fritz Fischer publicized evidence of the council, historians have wondered whether it could be a coincidence that one and a half years later the war did in fact break out. (Shortly after the council ended, Wilhelm told the Swiss minister that the racial struggle 'will probably take place in one or two years')" (op. cit.).

It Wasn't the Assassination

Just about every schoolchild in the West learns how World War I started with the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, by a Bosnian Serb nationalist on June 28, 1914. But when you understand how Europe reacted to the news of the assassination, you see that this is faulty logic—based not just on an over-simplified explanation, but a flat-out erroneous one.

The media throughout Europe recorded little public excitement over the assassination. French papers were more interested in a scandal involving a former prime minister.

Least outraged, amazingly, was the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Emperor Franz Joseph didn't necessarily see eye-to-eye with Ferdinand, the heir apparent, and didn't want the archduke to succeed him on the throne. So, though being no friend of Serbia, the emperor in one sense considered the act a favor.

Even among the Viennese, where one might have expected the biggest outcry, the reaction was largely apathetic.

In and of itself, the assassination would not have provoked retaliation.

Enter Germany. Exploiting Austria-Hungary's hostility toward Serbia, together with the death of the archduke, Germany *encouraged* Franz Joseph to take things further.

Kaiser Wilhelm II, who had been fairly close with Ferdinand (making his actions appear all the more legitimate), gave Austria a blank check—pledging Berlin's unconditional support for whatever Austria-Hungary's actions against Serbia would be—even if Russia intervened. By doing so, Germany was essentially spoiling for a fight with Russia.

Had Vienna's actions against Serbia been caused by the double murder of Ferdinand and Sophie, surely Vienna would have acted either immediately in a hasty retaliation, or much later, after a full investigation could have implicated Serbia as part of the plot. But here is what happened: One month later (at the end of July), Austria, with German backing, gave a list of demands to Serbia—demands so stringent they were practically impossible to accept. The note was composed "so that the possibility of its acceptance is practically excluded"—according to a message sent from Vienna to Berlin (Geiss, op. cit.). (Realize too that Austria had been drafting a plan to crush Serbia two weeks before the killings in Sarajevo.)

Nevertheless, Serbia more or less accepted the list of demands, sending back a marked copy that tweaked the language.

But Austria—under Germany's influence—wasn't planning on accepting Serbia's response no matter *what* it was.

Enter the British, who tried to come to the rescue as negotiators. When they approached the Germans, Berlin forwarded London's mediation proposals to Austria-Hungary so it wouldn't *appear* to dismiss any option—all the while privately telling Austria-Hungary to ignore London's offer. German Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg said, "If we rejected every attempt at mediation, the whole world would hold us responsible for the conflagration and represent us as the real warmongers. That would also make our position impossible here in Germany, WHERE WE HAVE GOT TO APPEAR AS THOUGH THE WAR HAD BEEN FORCED


GETTY IMAGES

There were in fact two wars being waged—not one: Austria's war against Serbia, and Germany's war against Russia.

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES
German Kaiser Wilhelm II (left) and Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph (right) knew the importance both of starting a war quickly and of not seeming to.

UPON US" (Fritz Fischer, *Germany's Aims in the First World War,* 1967).

On July 28, 1914, through a telegram, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. On July 29, Russia partially mobilized in response; a day later, the Russian czar ordered a general mobilization.

Almost immediately, Germany began issuing ultimatums: one to Russia, asserting it was mobilizing against Germany, not just Austria, and ordering it to stop (Germany was hoping and waiting for Russia to mobilize for this very reason); one to France, telling it to stay neutral; and another to Belgium, ordering it to stay out of the way if Germany marched into France.

On August 1, Germany seized a railroad station in Luxembourg and—without giving St. Petersburg any time to respond to the ultimatum—declared war on Russia.

So here was Germany fighting Russia, France, Britain, Luxembourg and Belgium—all supposedly in support of Austria, while Germany was *not* actually fighting Serbia, the only nation Austria *was* at war with.

So Who Started It?

A clique of generals was plotting, long before 1914, to launch Germany into a position of power on the Continent, and war was the only way this could happen. The time would be right—for a while: Russia was weakened from a war with Japan in 1905; France, Russia's ally, was also weak; Britain was about to erupt in civil war over Ireland. And these generals were able to rally their nation behind their grand designs.

The war was not caused, as some have described, by the system of alliances that came about before 1914. Italy—tied to Germany and Austria—remained neutral until it eventually joined the *Allies.* Britain, which had no alliance whatsoever with France or Russia, came to their aid.

But the key to figuring out who started it lies in the understanding that there were in fact TWO wars being waged—not one: *Austria's war against Serbia,* and *Germany's war against Russia.* The start of aggressions hinged on one possibility: If Germany could encourage Austria to declare war on Serbia and get Russia to mobilize, then Germany could declare war on Russia.

The German strategy was to get Austria involved in a war and then try to convince Vienna to change its enemy—to drop the Serbian campaign and go after the Russian Army—that is, to support the real *German* cause. One war did not grow into the other. Rather, one was an excuse to start the other!

The Great War of 1914 was not an inevitable chain of events that no one could have foreseen. It wasn't dumped into the laps of leaders who only wanted peace. "A question asked throughout the 20th century … why, since 'war had been avoided in the immediately preceding crises—1908, 1911, 1913'—was it 'not avoided in 1914?' One answer is that in the previous crises none of the Great Powers had wanted to have a war. In 1914, two of them did. And one reason that Germany did not want to go to war in those previous crises was that it could not count on Austria—and Germany's generals were convinced that without Austrian troops holding back the Russians during the opening weeks of the war, they might not win" (Fromkin, op. cit.).

Paranoia—or Prophecy?

It is not paranoia and conspiracy theories that motivate the *Trumpet* to keep reminding the world of Germany's responsibility in *both* world wars. Herein lies the real BASIS of our concern: The Bible reveals that another empire will rise out of Europe, with Assyria—modern-day Germany—at the helm, and with the guidance of a dominant religion: that is, a final revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

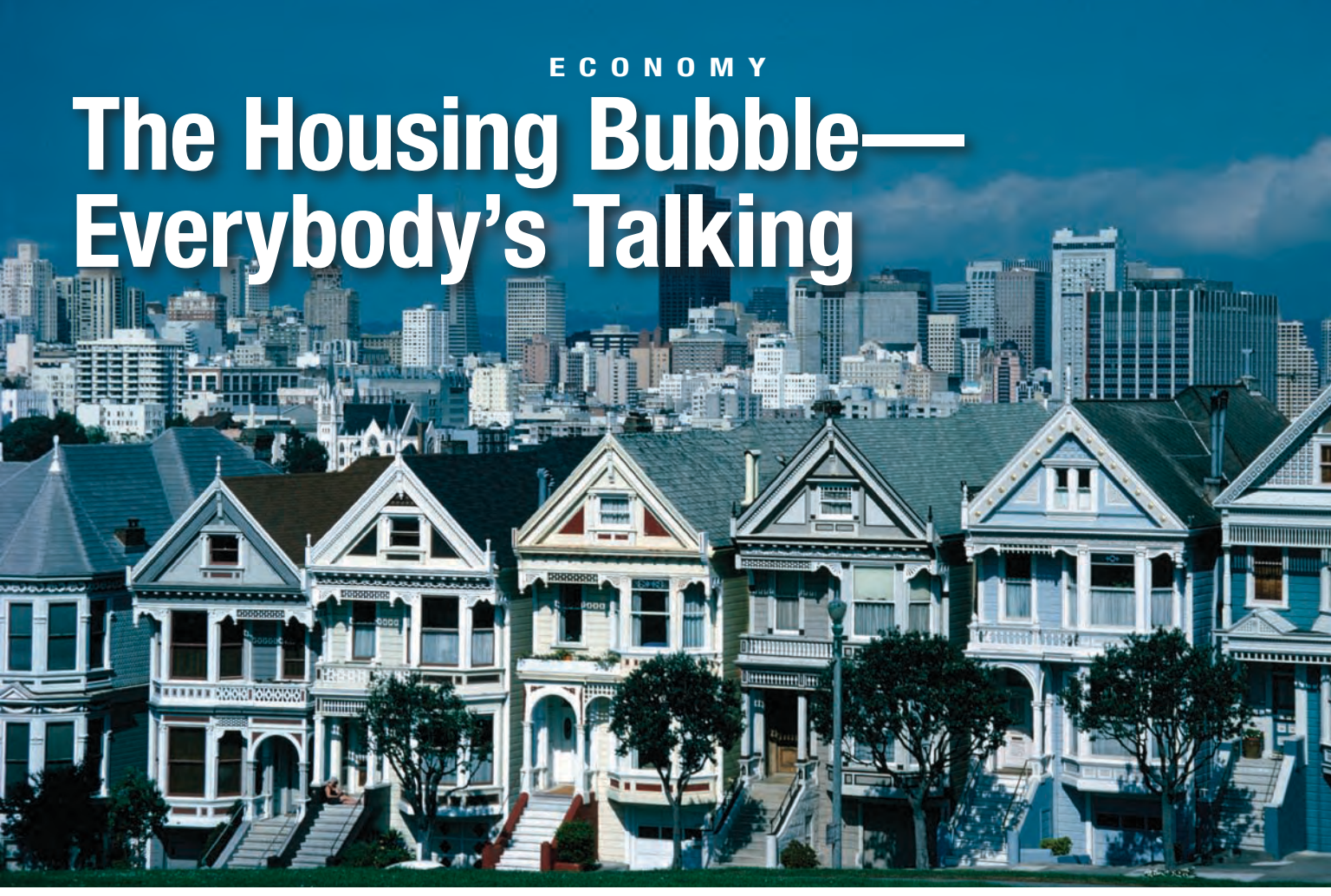
This war will not be *within* Europe. The world is much smaller these days, thanks to modern technology. Germany—unlike the nation of the early 20th century—has sought to rally Europe into becoming one dynamic power. Under the banner of a united Europe, Berlin already has a great deal of power on the Continent—something we will see increase dramatically. Soon, as a united continent—under one faith, led by a new pope—Europe will set its sights on world domination, which it will attain for a short time.

Within that period, it will wreak unspeakable havoc on the world—including *conquering the American and British peoples.* So says your Bible.

Far from us "bashing" the Germans, it is God who says that—for a season—they are *His* instrument to correct the English-speaking peoples (Isaiah 10:5). God says that this is a "bitter and hasty nation" (Habakkuk 1:6). History—and the previous world wars are just two examples—demonstrates how Germany fits this description.

When you understand all this, it becomes impossible to view Germany's and Europe's present conditions without grave concern. ■

The Housing Bubble—Everybody's Talking



BY FRED DATTOLO

Only months ago, more than a few economists ridiculed the notion of a national housing bubble. Now everybody's talking about it.

Last year, the *Trumpet* published an article that proved all the signs of a classic bubble were extant in the current housing market ("The Biggest Bubble Ever," November 2004). We advanced what many considered to be a contrarian view—that when enough regional bubbles start popping so that their impact is felt nationally, no one will question that a genuine national housing bubble exists.

They haven't started popping yet, but notice what the *Wall Street Journal* recently disclosed: "[T]he latest data suggest that real-estate values in the nation's fastest-growing markets are getting so large that the distinction between them and the national market could become meaningless." Quoting a chief economist at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the article continued: "A slowdown would not only hurt these markets, *but the U.S. as a whole*" (June 20, emphasis ours).

The newest data further confirm that *many* homebuyers (aided by accommodating lenders) are stretching more than ever to purchase an otherwise *unaffordable* home, further inflating the bubble. During the second half of last year, almost *two thirds* of new mortgages issued were of the risky adjustable-rate (ARM) or interest-only variety. So far this year, an estimated 20 percent of new U.S. mortgages are the interest-only kind—an astounding indication that borrowers are stretched to their limits.

The newest data confirm that many homebuyers are stretching more than ever to purchase an otherwise unaffordable home.

In California, interest-only loans accounted for 61 percent of new home mortgages in January and February—compared to less than 2 percent in 2002! A conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for a median-priced home is *out of reach* for 82 percent of California households, even though interest rates remain very low by historical standards.

"The situation with interest-only ARMs is just one of several very scary things going on in the mortgage industry," according to the president of a market-research firm based in New Jersey. "The rise of interest-only loans, combined with other factors … are likely to cause foreclosures to rise … 'possibly dramatically'" (*Wall Street Journal,* May 18).

In a bid to keep business booming, lenders and bankers shovel out these loans almost like the free suckers you can pick up at the bank teller window. *Business Week* makes these claims: Lending standards are looser, especially with adjustable loans whose rates will probably rise; loans are riskier—some loans now allow borrowers to *skip payments* in some months; and appraisers are pressured to deliver high-end appraisals under veiled threat of otherwise being snubbed. So as it feeds on *itself,* the bubble gets bigger and bigger.

Speculation

The latest feeding frenzy is accentuated by the rise in *speculative* activity by buyers who are not interested in purchasing a home to live in but purely as a money-making investment. Prices are climbing

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so fast that many are now "flipping" their properties—selling them quickly—and making thousands of dollars on a single property in just one month or less. Others are holding them longer hoping for much bigger gains.

Some will buy 10 or 20 homes at a time. A Phoenix homebuilder estimates that as much as 60 percent of local new housing developments are owned by investors. In South Florida, sales to investors are as high as *80 percent* in some subdivisions. Many of these buyers don't care if their rental income is less than the mortgage payment because home prices are climbing much faster than the amount they lose each month.

When the sizzling market finally cools, it will be this flood of speculators who, having the freedom to act (compared to owner-occupiers), will quickly sell their houses to maximize profits. This could easily trigger a downturn in housing-related activity and prompt a downward spiral on home prices. When others (for example, elderly retirees wanting to downsize) seek to jump on the bandwagon and "cash in" on their houses before it's too late, this roller-coaster ride will have reached its pinnacle and begun to plunge down the other side. The question is: How far will it go?

The Potential Plunge

Since 2001, a whopping 43 percent of all net private sector jobs created have been in *housing*-related industries! Today, more than 60 percent of bank assets are tied to mortgages. And thanks in large part to inflated housing equity, American households *borrowed* $1 trillion just in 2004 to buy houses and other goods! Far too many assume they can count on rising home equity to bail themselves out of debt. *This has the potential to be a huge disaster.* Here's why.

The Federal Reserve has flooded the economy with new money (doubling bank deposits in just eight years), but much of the excess liquidity found its way into housing rather than business investment, which would have theoretically boosted industrial production and raised wages. Nevertheless, consumer spending continued and has been the engine that has kept the U.S. economy moving. How? The spending has been supported to a great extent by borrowing on inflated home equity, rather than tangible increases in production and wages. In 2004, "household debt increased more than twice as fast as disposable income" (*Daily Reckoning,* June 20). In other words, it is a *debt-fed* consumption that continues to sustain the economy. That simply cannot continue.

Far too many assume they can count on rising home equity to bail themselves out of debt. This has the potential to be a huge disaster.

As we stated in our November article, "The wealth that was created is an *illusion*—not based on *real* productive activities" (op. cit.). The *Economist* agrees: "The housing boom was fun while it lasted, but the biggest increase in wealth in history was largely an illusion" (op. cit.). Rich Americans have *already* discerned that the handwriting is on the wall. The *Wall Street Journal* reported that wealthy investors (in general more savvy and informed than the average person) "cut back on their real-estate investments last year, suggesting that the wealthy believe the [housing] market has become overheated …. The drop is a contrast to everyday consumers, who continue to buy up homes and drive up prices" (June 13).

The Burst

A housing bubble bust could have severe consequences for the heavily entangled banking system, heavily invested mutual funds and pension funds, hundreds of thousands of housing-related jobs, and the typical American consumer who is debt-heavy and savings-light. In the face of a hard reality check, the jolt to the American economy could affect *millions* of Americans—and the repercussions would be global in scope.

Probably the most significant development to date is that *everybody's talking,* because "talk and high prices are the main things that end bubbles. The intensity of talk about the high prices right now is enormous, suggesting an emerging change of public thinking that may signal the end of the bubble" (*Wall Street Journal*, June 2).

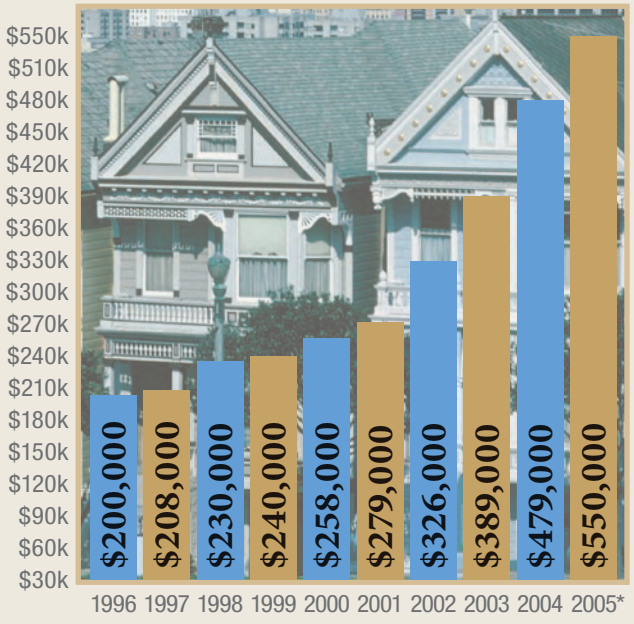
As we pointed out last November, "[T]he U.S. economy has been perking along largely because it's been propped up by the greatest housing bubble ever known. When it starts to unravel, it will likely lead to the biggest bubble bust in world history, hurtling the U.S. economy into chaos. … The shock waves could lead to a major *global* recession like we've never seen" (op. cit.). As extreme as that sounds, it's becoming an acknowledged fact of life, even in respected business magazines.

"The global housing boom is the biggest financial bubble in history. The bigger the boom, the bigger the eventual bust" (*Economist,* op. cit.). The same article said, "[T]he day of reckoning is closer at hand. It is not going to be pretty. How the current housing boom ends could decide the course of the entire world economy over the next few years."

We proffer the same advice to you now that we did in November. Prepare now to reduce your standard of living. ■

Bubble Bobble

TYPICAL LOS ANGELES HOME PRICES since 1995 after adjusting for inflation (a Los Angeles home purchased in 1996 for $200,000 would be worth over $500,000 today in real terms).



*By the end of 2005 (assuming the bubble doesn't burst by then), prices will be somewhere between $500,000 and $600,000. Until 1995, housing prices largely kept pace with inflation, but started spiking after that, dramatically rising well ahead of inflation in recent years.













The world is awash in news. It's nearly impossible to avoid the torrent of headlines—what is happening, by whom, precisely when and where in the world.

But among the profusion of news sources, few provide trustworthy analysis—few provide accurate projections of where events are leading—few supply the big picture—few talk cause and effect.

So much who, what, when and where—but very little why.

In a letter dated Nov. 29, 1971, educator and news analyst Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: "For every effect there has to be a cause! Human civilization seems always to be ignoring the cause and trying to eradicate the effect. … World peace can come only by knowing the cause of peace, and applying it!"

Mr. Armstrong, whose work the Trumpet continues, went on to describe a dire paradox: "People are bewildered! With such fantastic mind-power … with all the vast accumulation of knowledge, man still has not brought world peace, happiness, universal abundant well-being.

"Science has not produced it—nor government, nor religion, nor education, nor sociology … the crying need of this hour is a voice that can explain why—that can point the way!"

Today, the *Trumpet* is that voice.

The *Trumpet* focuses on the most important issues of this age. We show why these subjects are so critical to your life. In the obscurity of hopelessness and misinformation in the world, the Trumpet is a beacon of light. Our writers explain the profound meaning behind world news. We show you where world events are headed. Though there is a lot of bad news out there, we tell you why it's happening and where it's leading. We describe the inspiring outcome.

That is what makes the *Trumpet* unique.

For a long time, the *Trumpet* has only been able to deliver its commentary on a monthly basis. Subscribers looking to this magazine for answers have not been able to receive them until several weeks after major world events have occurred.

That is, until now.

With its redesigned website, the *Trumpet* staff now is able to deliver commentary on the news more frequently than ever. Fresh articles appear weekly, with feature articles posted on Mondays and Thursdays. Commentary on major world events often appears on the website only hours after events occur.

Subscribers looking to this magazine for answers have not been able to receive them until several weeks after major world events have occurred. That is, until now.

The website is also extremely functional as a research tool. It contains issues of our magazine dating back to March/April 1998, a library of literature offered by the Trumpet, and a complete archive of stories posted on the website—all fully and freely searchable.

In our design, we've made every effort to help our readers find more information with greater ease as they browse. All our articles are organized into categories and regions. Related articles are linked to each other. An Editor's Choice section highlights pertinent articles from our archives. Links to important articles elsewhere on the Web are provided. Soon, the *Trumpet* website will offer a free e-mail service that dispatches its front page to your inbox every week.

And all this is delivered without any clutter. We have no ads, and we never try to sell you anything. Everything we offer on the website—including our printed magazine—is absolutely free. We give you what you need to know—no strings attached.

The *Trumpet* online is not about getting the "scoop." Rather, it aims to deliver quality commentary and insightful, meaningful analysis of world-changing events and social issues as they occur. It's about improving our effectiveness in delivering what really matters to our readers.

The publication you are holding in your hands is unique. There's no other magazine in the world like it! The message it proclaims is both a warning and an inspiring and hope-filled vision of the future.

We invite you to log on to ***www.theTrumpet.com*** and partake of that enlightening message.


GETTY IMAGES

VISIONARIES **Angela Merkel—predicted to take the chancellorship in September—and her political ally Edmund Stoiber envision a stronger role for Germany in Europe.**

GERMANY

Who Will Lead Europe?

Germans are not content with their country's place in the EU, according to recent polls. Meanwhile, German newspapers are blaming current EU crises largely on a leadership vacuum. What is Germany likely to do about the situation?

Up until now, the influence of Germany—the most populous EU nation—has been relatively subtle compared to the position of power it will attain in the near future. After all, the Union's headquarters has not been Berlin, but Brussels—the capital of a tiny Benelux nation.

Now, according to a June 9 EUobserver.com article, a recent poll shows that "83 percent of Germans feel that too many decisions in Brussels are taken over their heads." Another poll found that 96 percent of Germans would have voted against the EU constitution if it had been offered to them in a referendum.

Add that to another poll finding that well over half of Germans want to ditch the euro and return to the deutsche mark, and it is clear that Germany wants change in Europe—change that means Germany ruling Europe.

At the same time, German newspapers are bemoaning the lack of strong leadership in the EU. "As the political storm clouds gather over Brussels, the talk in German newspapers is not of any remote possibility of saving the constitution, but rather a complete failure of national leaders to sell the idea of Europe to the people" (*Spiegel Online,* June 3).

Spiegel Online quoted several of these sources. "The double blow of a leadership vacuum and a constitutional crisis is creating the biggest threat to Europe: a huge lack of vision," said the center-left *Sueddeutsche Zeitung.* The financial publication *Handelsblatt* said, "Schröder and Chirac lack the credibility for the strong declaration of belief in Europe which is now bitterly needed. The task [of rescuing the constitution] will be left to the next generation—probably Angela Merkel and [French politician] Nicolas Sarkozy."

All this comes at an interesting time: Europe is in crisis, and Germany will likely be electing a new chancellor this autumn. Germans will elect someone who not only can rectify the growing economic woes at home, but also speak more boldly in Europe on behalf of Germany. It's likely that the new chancellor will be Ms. Merkel, with Bavarian leader Edmund Stoiber at her side.

The *Financial Times Deutschland* wrote: "Berlin's next head of government will play a decisive role in determining whether the EU is able to maintain its current status or whether chaos and doubt [destroy] the community."

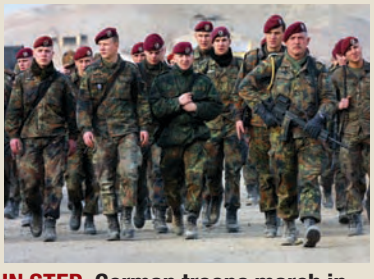
In other words, it will be up to Germany to steer Europe's fate!

We will be watching the Merkel-Stoiber duo for several reasons. Not least among them is the fact that they will take Germany into an even more prominent role in European politics. Europe will become less bureaucratic and by necessity less democratic. There will be less talk, less consultation, less wheeling and dealing, and SIMPLY MORE LIGHTNING-SPEED ACTION.

This is exactly what Europe is pining for! The crisis over the constitution has only highlighted this leadership vacuum.

Watch for European leaders to look more to Germany for the vision that the EU presently lacks. And likewise, watch for Germans to elect just the leader they need to put Germany in the driver's seat of a Europe that meets the wishes of Germans and serves the nation's grand designs.

Military Wants Stronger Role


GETTY IMAGES

IN STEP **German troops march in Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force.**

German Defense Minister Peter Struck has announced that the German Army may "consider missions beyond its current peace-keeping and stabilization mandate" in the future (Deutsche Welle, June 6). In an interview with the German magazine *Focus,* published June 4, Struck declared that the German Army should be ready to act militarily in areas where it is currently deployed if the situation should deteriorate into violence. "For those of us who were born after the war this is an unfavorable idea but we must be realistic," he was quoted as saying. "It is possible that we will consider going to other countries and separate warring parties by military means" (ibid.).

About 6,500 German troops are already deployed around the world, mostly in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

BRITAIN

Europe's Punching Bag

The blatant refusal by the French and Dutch to support ratification of the EU constitution abruptly choked off further European integration. The goal of unification appears to be faltering; the future of the Continent is at stake.

Yet, in spite of this dilemma staring them in the face, most European leaders have turned to focus on another, decidedly smaller issue: the British rebate.

Each year, Britain is handed back two thirds of the difference between its gross yearly contribution to the EU and the money it receives back from Brussels. Margaret Thatcher secured the monetary rebate in 1984 after noting how little Britain received from the Union, compared to the massive amounts of money it paid in. The rebate amounts to over US$4.8 billion to Britain annually.

Open confrontation over the issue started when French President Jacques Chirac, still frustrated by the outcome of his nation's referendum, insisted that Britain surrender its annual budget rebate. With support from German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Chirac said, "The time has come for our English friends to understand that they have to make a gesture of solidarity for Europe" (Reuters, June 9).

Within hours of Chirac's jibe, Britain's Tony Blair responded, "Britain has been making a gesture. … Over the past 10 years, even with the British rebate, we have been making a contribution to Europe 2½ times that of France. Without the rebate, it would have been 15 times as much as France, so that is our gesture." Nevertheless, leaders from across Europe began to bombard Britain with demands to give up its rebate.

EU budget talks in June, initially viewed by European leaders as a timely opportunity to get back on track toward unification, quickly broke down over the rebate issue. Despite tremendous pressure from several leaders, including Luxembourg Prime Minister, Jean-Claude Juncker, who held the rotating EU presidency at the time Tony Blair refused to accept a deal suspending the rebate.

Mr. Blair's persistence is receiving much support across Britain. But it is not going over well in the rest of Europe. Many view it as simple rebellion against the wishes of every other EU nation—a position so provocative that it calls into question London's desire to make the European Union work!



MICHAEL KAPPELER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

GLARING Germany's Gerhard Schröder (right) is one of many blaming the UK and its leader, Tony Blair, for the EU's economic turmoil.

In an unexpected way, June's budget talks did help curb the disunity presently facing Europe. As the talks progressed, European leaders grew strongly united in their ridicule of and frustration toward Britain.

Britain became Europe's punching bag.

This whole affair is another instance of Britain being isolated from the EU. The rebate issue is driving a wedge between European nations and Britain. The *Trumpet* has said it for years, but we'll say it again: Britain will soon cease to be a part of the European Union.

Watch for frustration and anger toward Britain to fester. The time is approaching when Britain will no longer remain a member of the European Union!

VATICAN

Flexing Political Muscle

From the rocky heights of the Pyrenees to the fertile plains of Poland, the Vatican has been flexing its political muscle. In Italy, Spain and Poland, the Roman Catholic Church has supported demonstrations to stop laws from being passed that contradict Catholic dogma.

These demonstrations are more than coincidences—they are a means for the Catholic Church to exert authority in Europe's political realm.

After a 20-year hiatus in Spanish politics, the Catholic Church condemned an approval by the lower house of parliament of a bill that would legalize homosexual marriage and the adoption of children by homosexual couples. Parliament approved the law June 30 in spite of the fact that many of Spain's citizens—90 percent of whom claim adherence to Catholicism—hoped it would fail. Led by 20 bishops, including the archbishop of Madrid, hundreds of thousands protested June 18 and 19—the third march in three weeks. Government figures say 166,000 protested; march organizers claimed a participation close to 2 million.



PEDRO ARMESTRE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SWELL Thousands protest same-sex marriage legislation outside a Madrid cathedral in June.

Spain's demonstration came at the same time that a march in Warsaw, Poland, took place to protest a homosexual parade that occurred the previous week. "We are the home of Pope John Paul II. There is no place for abnormality here," said a representative for the nationalist Polish Family League, an organization that provided most of the 800 protestors for the event (Deutsche Welle, June 19).

No doubt these demonstrations have been encouraged by the victory the Catholic Church recently scored in Italy. The Vatican, along with conservative politicians, called on voters to abstain from a referendum on June 16 to change Italy's strict fertility laws. The boycott, endorsed by Pope Benedict XVI, was a success, causing voter turnout to fall well below the 50 percent needed to legalize the referendum.

A newly elected and ambitious pope has made it clear he intends to lead Europe back to its "Christian" roots. By uniting with conservative politicians, a church-state alliance will soon form, and once again the pope will have sway over secular governments. Backing protests is just a beginning.

Continue to watch the church involve itself more in the political affairs of Europe as it seeks to return Catholic dominance to the Continent.

ECONOMY

Sky Wars—Europe Vs. America

If not for the European Union, the aeronautics company Airbus would not be nearly as powerful as it is. The EU has supplied the company with huge subsidies, giving it an edge on its American competition, Boeing, and angering the United States in the process.

So on May 18, when Airbus officials announced that they were applying for $1.7 billion in government support for their new plane, the A350, the U.S. said enough is enough: It announced that it was filing a lawsuit. And on May 31, the World Trade Organization began the largest litigation effort in its history.

The WTO has to decide if *the rise of Airbus was fair.* Even if it wasn't, what can anybody do about it now?

According to the Airbus website, Airbus was founded to compete against the U.S. in this market—"established in 1970 as a European consortium of French, German and, later, Spanish and UK companies as it became clear that only by cooperating would European aircraft manufacturers be able to compete effectively with the U.S. giants." A similar premise is a major reason for the existence of the EU itself.

While this latest battle in the WTO is the most heated conflict yet, legal disputes between Airbus and Boeing are nothing new.

More than a decade ago, Washington filed several formal complaints, saying that European governmental support of Airbus was tantamount to *illegal export subsidies.* The first complaint arose over an order by Indian Airlines for nineteen A320 aircraft. Washington accused Airbus of selling the A320s at less than cost, and said it violated the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade by putting political pressure on India.

In 1991, the U.S. filed a new complaint against Germany for providing the German part of the four-nation Airbus consortium a subsidy of US$470 million. Later in the year, the U.S. claimed that the four governments had provided up to $26 billion in total subsidies since 1970.

Frank Shrontz, then Boeing's CEO, showed concern: "Just think what we could have done with a $10 billion-plus subsidy" (*International Business Environment—Text and Cases,* 1995, Prentice Hall).

Mr. Shrontz was right to worry: Airbus, which was not as serious a threat at the time, now outpaces Boeing. Although the WTO became much more stringent in regulating subsidies after 1992, Airbus had already gained the advantage.



REUTERS

TAILSPIN **A scale model of the Airbus A380 is displayed at a show in Paris.**

Despite the years of scandal and battles over subsidies, new subsidy improprieties come up every year. The plans to support the A350 are especially suspect: "A midnight amendment to Germany's 2005 budget showed Germany plans to help the A350 with $890 million in government funds that originated as part of the U.S. Marshall Plan" (*Chicago Tribune,* May 20). The Marshall Plan was created to rebuild Germany after World War II; it's unlikely the drafters of the plan intended to rebuild Germany at an altitude of several thousand feet.

Now, with Boeing declining, the subsidy wars are getting a new lease on life that can and probably will hurt Boeing further. Taking Boeing's case before the WTO should prove interesting; on May 26, the WTO's next head was officially named: former EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy. It might be difficult for U.S. officials to distinguish the judge from the opposition.

Boeing has already lost its dominance in the industry—one critical to the U.S. both economically and militarily. Now the WTO is positioned to deal a major blow to Boeing by the end of the year. But all of this is just a shadow of a much larger battle developing between the EU and the U.S.

Americans Fear Losing Jobs

The same day the news came that a Chinese auto-maker was planning to export 250,000 cars to the United States in 2007, General Motors (GM) announced that it needed to lay off 25,000 American workers by 2008. Since every car-making job supports seven other jobs—from parts suppliers to related services—some experts say an additional 175,000 jobs are in jeopardy.

Americans don't seem too worried about the dominance that foreign auto-makers have over the industry. But they are worried about the unemployment resulting from it.

GM's announcement came shortly after a May poll by the Pew Research Center found that one of the top economic concerns for Americans is the availability of jobs. Six in 10 surveyed claimed that jobs are difficult to find—a sentiment shared by almost half of those earning $75,000 or more.

Americans have other *major* economic concerns, according to the study—high gasoline prices, the budget deficit, trade deficit, inflation fears, a lack of affordable housing, a stagnant stock market and worsening personal finances. The number who reported having good or excellent finances dropped from 51 percent in January to 44 percent in May.



GETTY IMAGES

Optimism about the future is rapidly declining. Last August, 36 percent felt the economy would improve, but only 18 percent feel that way today. Conversely, those who felt the economy would get worse (9 percent last August) has leaped to 24 percent.

Here is how globalization is hurting the U.S. First, Asian labor costs are very cheap compared to U.S. labor. Then, a s Asian producers become more industrialized and offer cheaper products, they gain market share. It becomes increasingly difficult for American companies to compete. What's happening in the automobile industry is also playing out in several other industries.

The flow of jobs out of the U.S. is another sign that America's position as the linchpin of the global economy is in jeopardy.

MIDDLE EAST

Hezbollah Sweeps Southern Lebanon Elections



AP/WIDEWORLD

CAMPAIGN TRAIL **Lebanese wave flags and a toy gun in support of Hezbollah.**

Lebanon's "democratic" revolution is really only giving more power to an Iranian-sponsored terrorist organization.

The *Trumpet*'s May 2005 cover story asserted that democracy in the Middle East would actually diminish freedom in the region rather than increase it—and that this would jeopardize global security. The massive electoral victory that Hezbollah—an Islamic terrorist organization—gained in southern Lebanon on June 5 confirms the veracity of these assertions. The much-hailed "cedar revolution" that was to bring Lebanon a new era of democracy and freedom from extra-national interests is instead giving more power to a foreign-sponsored terrorist organization.

Though still a minority in parliament, Hezbollah will be the voice of the Shiites, the largest religious faction in Lebanon. Shiites make up over 40 percent of the population, and Hezbollah, through the alliances it has formed, already controls two thirds of the Shiite-majority municipalities.

In southern Lebanon, not only did Hezbollah's Shiite alliance win hands down (generally by a ratio of 10 to 1 against its nearest rival), but it won on a platform of resistance to America's demands that Hezbollah disarm. Hezbollah's commander in southern Lebanon said he hoped its success would send "a clear message to the Americans that they embrace the resistance weapons" (Associated Press, June 6). The election is seen by many more as a referendum in support of Hezbollah's refusal to disarm.

This "right" to arms is also supported by the Lebanese government, for Hezbollah is its proxy military in southern Lebanon, in resistance to Israel. Lebanon claims that a portion of land in northern Israel is occupied territory that should be returned to the Lebanese.

Israel expressed alarm over Hezbollah's strong electoral showing in the region just north of its border. "If Hezbollah was only a political party, we in Israel wouldn't be as concerned as we are," said an Israeli official. "Hezbollah is obviously not simply a political party; rather it is a heavily armed terrorist organization" (ibid.).

So are free elections in Lebanon really a victory for freedom? In his article "Islamists Are Intrinsically Anti-Democratic," Michael Rubin made the point that elections alone do not make democracy (*www.meforum.org,* June 2). Once Islamists gain power, their modus operandi is not to respond to the will of the people, but rather to enforce the Islamist creed. For example, the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan through free elections and then promptly imposed an extreme Islamic regime.

"[T]he Bush administration's democratization initiative … assumes that democracy doesn't yield unpleasant results" (Stratfor, June 6). Stratfor continues, "[S]ome people the United States truly hates and fears are very popular [i.e. Islamic terrorists]. … A free election will frequently affirm them." That is exactly what has happened in southern Lebanon. The election victory for Hezbollah just confirmed the reality: This Shiite terrorist group is the popular controlling force in southern Lebanon.

Iran, however, is the ultimate winner. Hezbollah was created a quarter-century ago, primarily as a tool for Iran and secondarily to serve Syria's interests. For Iran, two of Hezbollah's primary purposes were to challenge American interests in the Middle East and to challenge Israel (ibid., March 15). Hezbollah has served these uses in a multitude of ways, not just through terrorist attacks: It is firmly entrenched not only in Lebanon's business community, but also now in its politics—just as Syria is. It's no coincidence that Iran's foreign minister visited Lebanon in late May—meeting with numerous influential leaders of all political and religious flavors just days before the elections began.

Hezbollah's political wins, coming at the same time as Hamas's success in Palestinian elections, show the fruits of democracy in the Middle East are favoring radical Islam—headed by Iran.

"[T]he two terrorist outfits that Israel and America have been trying long and hard to outwit and outgun are winning the battle of the ballots" (*Toronto Star,* June 9).

Watch for democracy in the Middle East to yield further unsavory results.

Nuke Plans on Black Market?

Several months after Libya began abandoning its WMD program in late 2003, it delivered two CD-ROMs to investigators that contained detailed blueprints for equipment necessary for making nuclear bombs. The blueprints outlined how to manufacture the components for two different uranium centrifuge systems, what resources are required, how to assemble the equipment, and how to test them. United Nations officials are concerned that several sets of these electronic drawings are still unaccounted for.

These plans are likely circulating the black market, UN officials say. "We know there were several sets of them [the digital plans] prepared," said one official. "So who got those electronic drawings? We have only actually got to the one full set from Libya. So who got the rest, the copies?" (*Guardian,* June 9).

A European diplomat with knowledge of the extent of Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan's network remarked, "This is what keeps people awake at night. … The fact that there are [nuclear] proliferation manuals kicking around is deeply disturbing" (ibid.).

The probability of a nuclear terrorist attack is disturbingly high. To understand the prophetic implications of this alarming situation, see our July 2005 article "Flat-Footed on Nuclear Terrorism."



DOE/TIME LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

ROWS **Uranium centrifuge units**



The Clean Life

Life is sustained through food, water and oxygen. A *healthy* life is sustained through *healthy* food, *pure* water and *clean* air. BY STEPHEN FLURRY



DREAMSTIME

Medicine is big business—especially in the United States. National sickness costs the American public $1.3 trillion (over one fourth of the national debt). There are over 600,000 physicians in the U.S.

At the same time, humanity is plagued with a wider variety of deadly diseases and sicknesses than ever before. And the United States, no surprise, leads the way. Twenty percent of its population suffers from some kind of cardiovascular disease, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke or rheumatic fever. Nearly 1 million Americans die each year because of it. That's like wiping out a city the size of San Francisco—every year. Another half-million-plus die from cancer. Add Oklahoma City to the death count.

If health care technology is more advanced than ever, and yet sickness and disease are increasing, something is terribly wrong. Dealing with the effect instead of the cause is *not* working. Yet that's the premise of modern medicine!

Several years ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention monitored 30,000 patient visits to physicians. In their study, they found that fewer than one fourth of the doctors counseled their patients to alter their lifestyles to reduce the risk of heart disease. In only 19.1 percent of the visits did the doctors advise physical activity; 22.8 percent counseled about diet; and only 10.4 percent advised patients to lose weight. In other words, a startlingly low percentage counsel their patients to consider the *cause* of sickness. Never mind eating better, losing weight or exercising more—just take this pill!

The answer—the cause—lies in the understanding that an all-knowing, all-wise Creator composed our bodies out of the dust of the ground—out of matter. He designed our physical bodies to function according to definite physical laws. The transgression of those laws brings a penalty: sickness, disease or debility.

If we are to live truly healthy lives, we must understand and deal with the *causes* of good health. If we do this, we can avoid the *causes* of sickness.

In order to steer clear of infectious disease, debilitating aches and pains, or terminal conditions like cancer, we have to stop them before they start.

The best way to solve a problem is never to get involved in it in the first place! Let us, therefore, examine three indispensable ingredients to clean, healthful living: fresh air, pure water, and good food.



PHOTOSPIN

Air

To sustain our temporary existence, we need a constant supply of food, water and oxygen. We can live for many weeks without solid food and for many days without water—but without a continuous supply of oxygen through the air we breathe, we would die in minutes. Continuous life depends more on a regular and adequate supply of oxygen than on any other element.

The air we breathe is primarily a mixture of *oxygen* and *nitrogen* (not to mention the elements man has added through pollution). Studies show that the prolonged inhalation of air in which the oxygen portion is much greater than normal will eventually lead to death. When creating the Earth and its atmosphere, God knew what He was doing when He carefully balanced the elements needed to sustain life.

Inhaling oxygen cleanses the blood. When the body delivers the blood to the lungs, it arrives in a dark purple color due to the carbonic acid—the impurities it contains. But when it leaves the lungs, it has regained its bright red color, having exchanged its poisons for the oxygen. The carbonic acid is released when you exhale. The cycle then repeats itself as the blood travels through the body gathering impurities before returning to the lungs to be cleansed.

That's why it says in Leviticus 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood" (see also Genesis 9:4). The purer the bloodstream, the less likely it is that a disease will be able to survive. Remember: cause and effect. In almost every case, disease thrives in an environment well suited for it. Just as insects, cockroaches, mice and rats are attracted to a run-down shack, so do viruses and diseases look for a home that has not been well maintained. Elbert Hubbard once said, "Disease comes only to those who have been *preparing* for it."

The bloodstream is purified by an abundance of oxygen, which assists greatly in eliminating poisons. Whenever possible, step outside and breathe as deeply as you can. Most of us just breathe to get by, rarely expanding our lungs to their fullest point. Breathe deeply and you'll have more energy, more color and more alertness!

The need for fresh air is what makes exercise so vital to healthful living. Exercise, especially outdoors, significantly increases the amount of fresh air your lungs take in. Just walking will increase oxygen intake threefold; vigorous exercise, even more!

Paul wrote that bodily exercise profits for a *little while* (1 Timothy 4:8). We need *regular* exercise and a continuous supply of fresh air for it to profit over the long haul.

In his book *Back to Eden*, originally written in 1939, Jethro Kloss related a story told to him by an old army surgeon. The surgeon was working in a large army hospital during a war. There was a measles outbreak during the winter season. All the patients were running high fevers. Around this time, the hospital accidentally caught fire and burned to the ground. The patients were rescued and then temporarily housed outside in make-shift tents. Living outside in the fresh air, all but one or two recovered. Back then, according to the surgeon, they would have expected dozens of deaths if the hospital had not burned.

This is just common sense. We need oxygen to keep active and healthy. When it's cold outside, the oxygen supply is higher than in the summer. That's why it's easier to stay awake and be active, mentally and physically. In contrast, put a hundred people in a hot, stuffy room and tell them to listen to a boring lecture, then watch what happens.

Open the windows more. Spend as much time as possible outdoors (especially so for children). Breathe deeply and exercise regularly. Apply these simple maxims and you'll not only strengthen your resistance to contagious bugs and common ailments, you'll notice an immediate uplift in vibrancy and energy.



Water

In Genesis 2:5, we read that before every plant of the field could grow, God had to send rain. When He did, the Garden of Eden sprang to life. The same is true with our physical bodies.

Next to fresh air, there is no other element of creation more important to sustain life than pure water. Our blood is close to 80 percent water. When you take in a good supply of water, the volume of blood increases and circulation accelerates. As the volume of blood is increased, more water reaches waste matter, which is what we need for a good housecleaning!

Then, after the water has served its purpose, it's discharged through the skin, kidneys and lungs. Through constant refueling, the cleansing cycle repeats. Like oxygen, water cleans the body. And unless we keep our "house" clean, we expose ourselves to all kinds of unwelcome visitors.

In addition to the water God provides through rain and streams, we receive water through much of our food. Many fresh foods contain between 15 to 90 percent water. (There's a reason that apple is so juicy!)

The problem with many Westerners is that we simply do not drink enough fresh water or eat enough fresh foods, like fruits and vegetables (high in water content).

Soft drinks are rapidly becoming the preferred beverage for most Americans. It's a $3 billion per year industry. The average American drinks 40 *gallons* per year.

Our blood does not need beverages loaded down with preservatives, sugar, caffeine or other injurious elements. The blood in the body needs pure water to stay healthy!

Notice what Jethro Kloss wrote about the importance of water: "When one drinks an abundance of pure, fresh water, the blood and tissues are bathed and purified, thereby being cleansed of all poisons and waste matter. Water is also an essential constituent of the tissue cells and all body fluid, such as digestive juices.

"Water dissolves nutritive material in the course of digestion, so that it can be absorbed into the blood, which carries it to various parts of the body to repair and remove waste. Water keeps all mucous membranes of the body soft and prevents friction of their surface. Water aids in regulating body temperature and body processes. Make a special effort to have pure water" (*Back to Eden*).

Do you make that special effort to have a jug of water out at the work site, or a glass of it at the office always within arm's length? It makes a difference. When the car gets dirty, the clothes become stained or the body smells, no one thinks twice about using the number-one cleaning ingredient for everything—water! No one in his right mind would wash a load of laundry with a scoop of Tide and 20 gallons of Pepsi. Yet for too many Americans, that's our primary "cleansing" agent for bathing the inside of our bodies.

Drink water—and plenty of it. And work to acquire the habit of abstaining from artificial drinks overloaded with sugar and caffeine. If you do, your energy level will shoot up, and your body will be more apt to fend off infectious diseases and steer clear of terminal illnesses.

Real Fake Juice



"Real Juice Orange Drink," "Grape Punch," "Fruit Cocktail." These are some of the misleading names you'll find on juice cartons at the supermarket. These labels give the impression that their contents are extracted from real fruit. Many assume fruit drinks are the same as fruit juices. But how accurate is that supposition? Most people would be astonished to know how little fruit juice these beverages actually contain. The majority of "fruit" beverages, in fact, contain 10 percent or less real fruit juice. What does the other 90 percent consist of? Mostly sugar, water and preservatives. These "fruit" beverages offer little or no nutritional value and are essentially flavored sugar water.

Fruit drinks are stripped of vitamins that pure fruit juices naturally provide (just because a fruit drink is fortified with added vitamins doesn't make it nutritionally equivalent to fruit). Real fruit contains fiber—which slows absorption of the juice's natural sugar into the bloodstream. And fruit juice has naturally occurring, disease-fighting phytochemicals often absent in sugared beverages.



PHOTOSPIN

Food

God provided our bodies with five senses that cry out for gratification. This is not in itself wrong. God expects us to use those senses. But too many *misuse* them, especially when it comes to food. Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "God created us so that we must eat food to live. He equipped us with the sense of taste. God gave us this sense so that we might enjoy the necessity of eating. We should, therefore, exercise our senses to distinguish true, natural, health-building food from those false foods which destroy health—and then give God thanks, and really enjoy the eating!" (*The Missing Dimension in Sex*).

Eating, when done within the bounds of God's physical laws, is good and wholesome. But if we're not careful, we can easily eat to satiate carnal lusts and wrongful desires. Just because it tastes good doesn't necessarily mean it's good for you.

When the Israelites came out of Egypt, one of their first sins was lusting after food (Numbers 11:4-5). This was considered a sin, and they were lusting for *healthy* food—fish, cucumbers, melons, onions.

At least 90 percent of all sickness and disease is either directly or indirectly related to what we eat! Yet most physicians do not hammer this point home because they refuse to tackle the cause of poor health. It's not as lucrative. And it doesn't necessarily sound scholarly to keep teaching people, "You are what you eat." Instead they bring antibiotics, surgery, therapy and other modern practices into the equation. All those do is complicate things!



DREAMSTIME

Soft drinks are rapidly becoming the preferred beverage for most Americans. The average American drinks 40 gallons per year.

Keep it simple. Listen to the God who created us. In Genesis 3:19 He says, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

We came from dust—the ground. There are over 100 elements in the ground. Some of the elements are organic—living matter. (Inorganic elements, like gold, are not living.)

The human body is composed primarily of 16 living elements. Those 16 elements are supplied by foods that *grow out of the ground*. We grew from a tiny ovum to a full-size adult because of food from the ground. And our material bodies are sustained when those 16 elements are replenished—again, through food from the ground.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "So it is literally true that you are what you eat—and 'dust you are.' Since you *are* merely food converted into a human body and mind, is it not plain that whatever food you put into your mouth has a very great deal to do with what you are—and with your health, or lack of it?" (*Plain Truth*, December 1967).

The 16 organic elements that comprise food come in two forms: acid and alkaline. Twelve of the elements are alkaline (like iron, calcium, magnesium and potassium). The other four elements are carbohydrates—the acid-reacting elements (carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen).

Your body requires two to three times as much of the alkaline elements. But the average American eats two or three times as much of the acid—the *carbohydrates*. A careful study into the American diet reveals *why*.

White Flour and Sugar

Wheat is almost a perfect food. A grain of wheat contains all 16 life-sustaining elements—each in perfectly *balanced* proportions. Because wheat is the principle ingredient in bread, it should be clear why, in the Bible, bread is often associated with life (John 6:48, 51).

The problem with bread in this modern, "educated" world is that most of it is made from white flour. And white flour is made by stripping all 12 alkaline elements from the wheat grain! White flour is left with only the four acid elements—all carbohydrates. After the stripping, the "flour" is then bleached to give it that pure white, cocaine-like appeal.

White sugar loses its nutritive value in a similar stripping process. William Dufty, author of the classic bestseller *Sugar Blues,* wrote, "Vegetables, fruits, berries, and nuts—these natural sources of what we now call vitamin C—had been sweets until concentrated, refined sugar was marketed. Sugar was an

unnatural sweet that had been robbed of its vitamin C in the refining process, which was when 90 percent of the natural cane was removed."

A few hundred years ago, the average person in Europe would eat three or four pounds of sugar a year. Today, most people eat over 100 pounds of it. Looking at the alarming rise in our sugar intake, it's not surprising that diabetes and low blood sugar (both sugar diseases) are both quite modern diseases.

"Sugar taken every day," writes Dufty, "produces a continuously over-acid condition, and more and more minerals are required from deep in the body in the attempt to rectify the imbalance. Finally, in order to protect the blood, so much calcium is taken from the bones and teeth that decay and general weakening begin."


DREAMSTIME

Lay off the caffeine, drink more water, and in the long run your energy level will not only be more consistent, but generally higher.

Caffeine

Another ingredient that has been most harmful to Westerners is caffeine. Our caffeine intake has skyrocketed in recent years, especially due to the increasing popularity of coffee, tea and soft drinks (coffee is a $4.8 billion industry). A small cup of coffee contains about 100 milligrams of caffeine. A soft drink contains between 35 and 50 milligrams. A straight shot of 10,000 milligrams would kill a human being. So when most Americans consume between 200 and 500 milligrams of caffeine each day, what's the big deal? Five hundred milligrams a day may not kill you instantly like 10,000 would, but common sense tells us that the cumulative effect of caffeine over years and years of consumption cannot be good!

Here is what Frances Sheridan Goulart wrote in *The Caffeine Book*: "Caffeine works by stimulating the brain—both the central cortex, which handles thought processes, and the medulla, which regulates heart rate, respiration and muscular coordination. This nervous assault produces 'coffee nerves' and that jumpy, 'hyper' feeling associated with overconsumption. Caffeine also raises the body's metabolic rate slightly, increasing the number of calories the body burns. But it also triggers the release of insulin, causing blood sugar to fall, producing feelings of hunger and letdown."

Consider this alarming quote from Paul and Patricia Bragg, who wrote *Building Powerful Nerve Force:* "Alcohol and tobacco and the caffeine drinks—coffee, tea and colas—are actually brutal whips that goad the nerves into action which they do not have the energy to accomplish. The drug caffeine stimulates the central nervous system. The coffee drinker gets a 'lift' because the caffeine activates the nervous energy from the reserve reservoirs. In time, of course, this brings on complete nerve depletion and serious troubles of the nervous system."

Again—lay off the caffeine, drink more water, and in the long run your energy level will not only be more consistent, but generally higher. Sure, you may not get that quick, temporary jolt that coffee gives, but you won't battle the drowsiness that sets in a couple of hours later. More importantly, over time, you won't dull the nervous system or experience a variety of other caffeine-related ailments.

White flour, sugar and caffeine are only a few of the problems in the affluent Western diet. Certainly, a steady diet of greasy, fatty foods or foods full of additives and preservatives are also very harmful to healthful living. Hundreds of articles and books have been written on a variety of harmful food products. But surely we could call white flour, sugar and caffeine the BIG THREE. If we could just cut way back on those three ingredients and use them only occasionally, and then in *moderation,* what a difference that would make! Instead of white flour, use whole wheat. Instead of sugar, use honey and eat fruit for dessert. Instead of caffeine, use oxygen for that lift. What a difference it will make.

Of course, if you make a concerted effort to cut way back on those harmful ingredients, you will *temporarily* suffer! You'll feel sluggish, have headaches, won't be able to concentrate. But if you can weather the storm for a few days, prepare for smooth, enjoyable travel afterward.

Addicted to Junk Food


DREAMSTIME

Most can agree that junk food is not nutritious. However, there is another problem with high-fat, high-sugar foods like burgers and candy bars: They may also be addictive.

Researchers are looking into the possibility that a fast food habit may be more than just a craving. According to scientific studies, the chemical effects of fast foods are remarkably similar to those of certain illegal drugs, including heroin and cocaine.

High-calorie, fat-filled snacks, fast foods and junk foods stimulate the release of natural opioids in the brain. Opioids are naturally occurring compounds in the brain that produce effects similar to morphine or cocaine, though less intense.

When we binge on foods high in fat and sugar, we may be causing our brains to undergo processes that make it more difficult for us to go without more junk food.

The concentrated amounts of fat and sugar contained in these products can lead to withdrawal symptoms and the need for more and more junk food in order to satisfy the addiction and get the brain back to feeling "normal" (*Daily Telegraph,* London, Jan. 30, 2003).

Scientists claim eating fast foods stimulates instant satiation followed by a plunge in blood sugar, triggering a desire for another snack and starting the cycle all over again (*Hamilton Spectator,* Jan. 30, 2003).

Experimentation with animals has shown that binging on junk food leads to significant, long-lasting changes in brain chemistry, similar to the effects of morphine and heroin. According to Anne Kelley, a neuroscientist at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, snack foods can cause an actual change in "gene expression," meaning that junk food fans can very easily become addicted to their snacks.

Do You Have Time to Live?

You might be surprised to realize how many Americans depend on sugar, caffeine and nicotine to jump-start their day because they have "no time" to sit down and eat a healthy breakfast. It seems Americans have no time to do anything that makes sense and is practical. Living life to the full does take time. It takes time to study what is required for good health. And it takes time to prepare healthy foods.

Mr. Armstrong wrote this in the December 1967 *Plain Truth:* "Another reason our bodies are being robbed of the alkaline minerals is the way our women cook. The other day I thought of writing an article under the headline: 'How to Hurry Your Death!'

"Ask a woman why she does not feed her children steel-cut oats and natural brown rice.

"'Oh, that takes too much time!' she will probably answer. So she uses the quick-cooking minute-oats or minute rice—the kind that has been robbed of all the real food value and reduced to a starch. She just can't afford to take time to give her children good health. She must hurry—and build up in their bodies anemia and diseases that will kill them before their time.

"A murder is merely ending a life before its time. Many of you are doing that on the installment plan—doing it not only to yourselves, but also to your children."

We owe it to ourselves, our children, and most of all God, to eat to live—not live to eat junk. Make every effort to eat those foods which, if left out, will spoil. (Eat them before they spoil, obviously.) Learn to appreciate the *whole foods* for their natural God-given flavor, not man-made inventions added to make everything taste really sweet, fatty or spicy.

Look forward to a more active, productive, radiant life in a matter of weeks! You'll find that you will be more awake in the morning; be able to concentrate more through the day; will sleep better; and will get sick far less!

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "The very first trouble with our deteriorating physical status is that we take sickness for granted! We seem to assume sickness is natural and necessary. … A cold or fever is merely a sudden violent elimination of toxins and poisons you have injected into your body by wrong diet which has broken God's physical laws!" (*Plain Truth*, op. cit.).

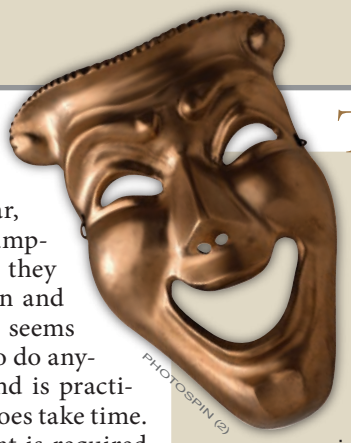
But man refuses to abide by the God-ordained, physical laws of nature. Jethro Kloss said, "Man's intelligence has made it possible for him to become grossly perverted in almost everything—food, appetite, bathing, etc. Man does not go astray from nature because he lacks intelligence or instinct, but because he wishes to *gratify his own desires*" (op. cit.).

Westerners have grown comfortable with the easy life. We can eat whatever we want, whenever we want. But the statistics are thundering right back at us! Generation after generation of unhealthy living is taking its toll.

In describing the World Tomorrow, Mr. Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages,* "The combined force of *right education* about true health, and *healing* of all sickness, when it is *repented* of, will mean perfect, utopian health."

Observing the laws of health brings rich blessings. "Health is within our reach," Elbert Hubbard wrote. "It costs nothing—only the effort which soon grows into a pleasurable habit."

Let's resolve now, with firmness of mind, to set ourselves on the right course physically; to acquire the habits that lead to active, robust living. ■



The Best Medicine

Laughter: the only medicine that is contagious. Few things in life are more satisfying than a really good belly laugh! But is it possible there could be more to laughter than simple mirth?

Medical studies have revealed that laughter actually boosts levels of endorphins (which are the body's natural painkillers) and increases the production of T-cells (which help ward off viruses, including cancer). As a way to relieve stress, laughter is beneficial in that it suppresses levels of epinephrine—the "stress" hormone.

Studies also show that exposure to humor increases levels of antibody immuno-globulin, which fights upper respiratory tract infections. Laughter stimulates the immune system, and helps antibodies penetrate infected cells. Chuckles also help lower dopamine levels (which are associated with high blood pressure).

Aside from its outstanding benefits to the immune system, laughter is considered a great cardiovascular workout that will lower your heart rate, blood pressure and improve coordination of the brain (stimulating alertness and memory). Did you know that it's possible for all 400 muscles of the body to move during laughter? One doctor even stated that 20 seconds of guffawing gives the heart the same workout as three minutes of hard rowing! That's quite a workout!

Amazingly, adults only laugh about 15 times per day—compared to children, who laugh nearly 400 times a day! Relearning to smile and laugh like you did when you were a child could have a valuable effect on your future health and well-being. As it says in Proverbs 17:22, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Kick Start Your Day

Kick start your day with an easy, five-minute routine. No money, special equipment or previous experience required. Simple, easy. Three steps:

Drink a glass of water. You wash the outside of your body, so don't forget the inside. Water will flush your kidneys. Our bodies are 70 percent water; that water needs replenishing.

Stretch. Find a place with fresh air—or open the window. Stand, stretch to loosen joints, free tension and get blood flowing. Your pet does it—it's a good idea.

Breathe. Oxygen in your blood is a sure way to get invigorated. Don't have time (or inclination) to exercise in the mornings? A quick fix—breathe. And really breathe: For a few minutes breathe deeply and fully. Breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth. Breathe with your abdomen, not your chest.

That's it! Easy. Try it. It's a habit that may just help you have a better start to each day!



This article was written in 1975, when the author was a world traveler, editor in chief of the *Plain Truth* magazine, presenter on the *World Tomorrow* television program, chancellor of Ambassador College, and pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God—all at the age of 82. His final years were the most productive of his life. He died in 1986, at 92 years old.

What Are the Secrets of

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Reprinted from the *Plain Truth,* July 12, 1975



THERE IS NO QUESTION I AM ASKED MORE often, it seems, than "What is the secret of your long life, youthful vitality, energy and drive?"

"No one secret," I usually reply. "I suppose many things enter into it."

Recently I asked a man I had never seen before, who knew something of what is being done and accomplished, but had never heard of my age, if he would guess my age.

"Well," he said thoughtfully, "I suppose in mid or late 50s—perhaps near 60." He wouldn't believe it when I told him I will be 83 in less than two months.

Many know that I frequently say jestingly, but significantly nevertheless, that I am now 37 going on 36. For a long time I went along with Jack Benny, claiming age 39. But after he admitted to a much older age, I decided to throw away a year every year.

Seriously however, I doubt that many men of 50 or 55 could stand up under the rigorous ordeal of constant global travel, writing, radio and TV interviews, public speaking, the responsibility of major decision-making in worldwide enterprises, and devoting 14 hours a day to vigorous, driving work.

Yet this very constant activity, I'm sure, is part of the "secret." I have just finished writing another article, in which some of this activity was mentioned, and that triggered the idea to devote this Personal to the same subject and carry the subject further. I think, at this point, it might be as interesting and helpful to readers as anything I could write.

Ever since I was 21 years old, I have been interested in this question of youthful longevity. This life-long interest was sparked by a Chautauqua lecture I heard in 1913. The speaker's name I do not remember, but he had been physician and physical trainer to President Howard Taft, whose term in office expired on March 4, 1913. This doctor-physician-therapist had interviewed every person in the United States of 100 years or older. He had questioned every one as to the reason for such a long life.

Various ones gave various reasons. Some said it was because they never used tobacco, but others had used tobacco all their lives. Some gave credit to being teetotalers, but others used wine, especially in their old age, and even gave that credit. And so it went.

Just one thing *every* centenarian did, yet *none* gave it any credit. Every one had taken a daily rubdown, either with a bath towel after a daily bath or with a massaging brush of some sort.

I was impressed by that. I have followed the daily rubdowns after a daily shower with near-perfect regularity ever since.

But I give that only *partial* credence.

I think my "SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS" might be applicable here. [Mr. Armstrong's booklet by this title is available for free upon request.]

Law number one is having the RIGHT GOAL. It seems most people have no goal in life at all. They simply drift aimlessly—going nowhere in life. I started my adult life with a

My Youthful Vitality?

definite goal. I had chosen the profession of advertising and journalism. But 48 years ago that was changed. I learned then that it had *prepared me* for the RIGHT goal, which became my LIFE GOAL. It is a very great commission, and it is even yet far from FINISHED. I think there is no other "secret" that has had more to do with preserving youthful vitality and zeal and keeping me alive and active 13 years past the supposed "allotted life span."

That life GOAL keeps me always looking FORWARD, in anticipation, not backward, living in the past. It impels me to observe carefully many of the other laws of success—the DRIVE, the resourcefulness, the endurance—sticking to it with perseverance, when many others would have given up, retired and decided they were too old to stay on the job.

> "A person can rust out and into an early death, but as long as I get sufficient rest and sleep and necessary short periods of relaxation, I shall never wear myself out."

Law number two is proper education to achieve the goal. Part of this education blends into the third law—maintaining GOOD HEALTH. Without good health one can accomplish little. I make it part of my education to study the factors that maintain good health. I learned that we humans are just what we eat. We came out of the ground. We are maintained by food that grows out of the ground. I learned that some famous doctors say that approximately 90 percent of sicknesses and diseases are caused by faulty diet. So I studied, many years ago, to learn about nutrition and diet. I try to avoid excesses of starches and carbohydrates. I learned that different people are of different chemical composition, and that is why ones man's meat is another man's poison. I learned that I am a combination of chemical constituencies, but that calcium seems to dominate. Therefore I have tried to always consume a reasonable amount of milk, cheese, butter and other milk products, because they are strong in calcium. Could that be the reason I have not had to see a dentist in the last 48 years—although I did, prior to learning this point of health?

I haven't followed a PERFECT regimen of diet, but I'm sure I have been more careful about the food I eat than most people. Traveling almost constantly these days, I am careful to eat only in the best hotels and restaurants, and I do not sample the strange foods of other nations, but stay on the plain and simple diet I've accustomed myself to these 48 years.

Part of my education about health has been to try to get the right amount of sleep and exercise (although I haven't been getting in as much of that as I need recently), and to get plenty of fresh air and water. In traveling in faraway parts of the world, I stick pretty close to bottled drinking water.

Education is something one must pursue lifelong, if he expects to maintain efficiency, youth and longevity. I have always, therefore, kept my MIND ACTIVE. And *that* undoubtedly has contributed greatly to still being spry and active at 83 (calendar age).

This GOAL has served to prod me constantly in the fourth law of success—*drive!* I've kept a determined prod on myself all my life, to drive, *drive, DRIVE* myself on. "Aren't you going to wear yourself out and shorten your life doing that?" one might ask.

NEVER! A person can RUST out and into an early death, but as long as I get sufficient rest and sleep and necessary short periods of relaxation, I shall never WEAR myself out. Along with this goes DETERMINATION. Often, when I feel like letting down, I have to use determination and FORCE myself to keep DRIVING on!

The combination of all these things has helped me to practice the fifth law, *resourcefulness.*

The sixth law is PERSEVERANCE—"stick-to-it-iveness." Never give up, never just lie down and quit! Many a time I've felt like it. Sometimes I have given up and quit at bedtime, but after a night's sleep it's all a NEW BALL GAME, and the next morning I'm plunging into it with renewed vigor and enthusiasm!

Then comes the most important of all, the seventh law, which is the guidance of, and faith in and reliance on, God the Creator. I'm in constant contact with Him all the day long—EVERY DAY! I seek His guidance constantly. I seek and rely on His HELP, His DELIVERANCE from troubles, His PROTECTION from physical harm. Things have happened I can ascribe only to the presence of an invisible angel. But perhaps the greatest "secret" of all is that I rely on Isaiah 40, the last four verses. They constitute a PROMISE from God, and I apply them and RELY on God to keep them! Many times when people ask me, "How do you DO IT?" or "What's your SECRET of such youthful vigor and such a long life?" I just tell them, "Read the last four verses of Isaiah 40. You'll find it there!"

Of course God expects us to do our own part. He does for us what we *can't* do for ourselves! But when you put BOTH together—*your own best* and add what God can do that's beyond what you can do—you've got a combination that PAYS OFF!

Those are my "secrets." If they have helped some of my readers, I'm very happy indeed. ■

THE BOOK PART FOUR

Understanding Daniel the Prophet

Critics claim that Daniel's book is like a historical novel. Is Daniel simply a work of fiction? Here is our answer to the critics. BY DENNIS LEAP

You need to know the book of Daniel. His prophecies on the four world-ruling empires are astoundingly accurate. Yet Daniel is not about past history—it's current news headlines! This book and the book of Revelation recorded by the Apostle John give us the *only* correct understanding of current events. Believe it or not, Daniel is impacting your life. Shouldn't you want to know the *truth* about what is happening in our world?

But who can help you grasp Daniel's writings? The majority of Bible scholars certainly cannot. Here's why.

Most Bible scholars hold an *anti*-Bible prejudice. If there is a question or difficulty related to a writer, passage or book, it is routine to assume the Bible is flawed or just plain wrong. Some scholars go so far as to say that the Bible is *purposely* false. The two most-attacked sections of the Bible are the five books of Moses and the book of Daniel. We covered Moses's writings last month. So, what's the scholars' beef with Daniel?

Problems With Predictive Prophecy

Daniel lived in the sixth century B.C. Liberal Bible scholars want to assign a later date to Daniel. (Actually, the same is true of all of the prophets.) Some critics say Daniel did not even exist. Scholars conjecture that a Daniel-imposter drafted the book to inspire the Jews suffering by the hand of Antiochus Epiphanes in the second century B.C.

Why do critics make such claims? Their problem is not a question of history. It's all about *predictive* prophecy. Most scholars simply cannot admit that an Almighty God inspired Daniel to write down events that were to happen centuries later. The visions of Daniel are so precisely and succinctly written, they are breath-taking. But the scholars, steeped in human reason and intellectual vanity, refuse to recognize the miracle of Daniel. So the silly solution to their predicament is to push the writing of Daniel forward a few centuries and claim that some unknown, well-meaning—but very deceptive—Jew fabricated the visions *after* the events happened in order to prove that God was still in control and working things out for the nation.



ART TODAY

Nebuchadnezzar's mysterious dream is explained to him by Daniel the prophet.

You must come to recognize that this anti-Bible, anti-prophecy bias is really an anti-*God* bias. For to admit that Daniel was given incredible visions of the future is to acknowledge that an almighty, *authoritative* God exists.

Here is an example. Tim Callahan, supposed Bible scholar, writes this about Daniel: "Along with the prophecies are a number of stories which purport to be historical. In point of fact the book is neither prophecy nor history, nor did its protagonist even exist. … Had the visions really been given to a man living during the Exile some of them would indeed have been evidence of predictive prophecy. In fact, however, they were written after the fact and are not prophecies

at all" (*Bible Prophecy: Failure of Fulfillment?*). In essence, this man demands that we ignore Daniel. To him it is fiction—interesting reading but with no valuable substance—no history and no prophecy. Mr. Callahan arrogantly asserts that Daniel did not exist. However, take notice, he does concede that if he *did exist* at the time the Bible says, then there is "evidence of predictive prophecy."

Who is right about Daniel? It is clear what we believe. The important question is, what do *you* believe? We cannot casually cast Daniel (or any prophet of God) aside. Where you stand on Daniel shows where you stand with Christ. Here is how the Bible describes true Christians, "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren *that have the testimony of Jesus:* worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is *the spirit of prophecy"* (Revelation 19:10). True Christians understand and preserve Jesus Christ's message, which includes the *spirit of prophecy*. No true Christian despises or scoffs at prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:20). We must be diligent in seeking to understand all prophecy.

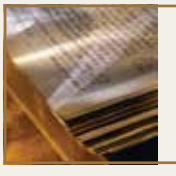
Let's be emphatic. There is no evidence that Daniel did not live in the sixth century B.C. There are no facts to support the claim that Daniel did not write the book attributed to him. In fact, the evidence demands that we approach Daniel with awe and respect. Gleason Archer, a professor of Old Testament studies, writes: "Despite the numerous objections which have been advanced by scholars who regard this as a prophecy written after the event, there is no good reason for denying to the sixth-century Daniel the composition of the entire work" (*A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*).

Let's look at the proof supporting the authenticity of Daniel.

Far-Fetched Claims

To force their way to a late date for Daniel, scholars have concocted some far-fetched claims. We'll look at several.

One argument is that three Greek words for musical instruments found in Daniel 3:5 could never have been used in the sixth century B.C. Scholars attest that since Greek cultural influence upon other nations did not reach its zenith until Alexander the Great (fourth century B.C.), these instruments would not have been used by Nebuchadnezzar. Let's be honest. The use of three Greek names for musical instruments is hardly proof that Daniel was written centuries later. Archer comments: "It should carefully be observed that these three words are names of musical instruments and that such names have always circulated beyond national boundaries as the instruments themselves have become available to the foreign market. These three were undoubtedly of Greek origin and circulated with their Greek names in Near Eastern markets, just as foreign musical terms have made their way into our own language, like the Italian *piano* and *viola*. We know that as early as the reign of Sargon (722-705 B.C.) there were, according to the Assyrian records, Greek captives who were sold into slavery from Cyprus, Ionia, Lydia and Cilicia. The Greek poet Alcaeus of Lesbos (fl. 600 B.C.) mentions that his brother Antimenidas served in the Babylonian army. It is therefore evident that Greek mercenaries, Greek slaves, and Greek musical instruments were current in the Semitic Near East long before the time of Daniel" (ibid.).



To admit that Daniel was given visions of the future is to acknowledge that an Almighty God exists.

Actually, the fact that there are so few Greek words in Daniel is proof that Daniel was written when the Bible states. Had Daniel been written in the second century B.C., there would certainly have been more Greek words in the book because by that time a Greek-speaking government had been in control of the Holy Land for 160 years.

Another shallow argument supporting a late date for Daniel is related to the fact that the Jews placed the book with the *writings* division of the Old Testament. The Old Testament canon, as organized by Ezra and the Great Assembly, did have three major divisions—the Law (Moses's books), the Prophets and the Psalms, or writings. Jesus Christ confirmed this division (see Luke 24:44). Because Daniel is not included with the prophets in the divisions as we know them today, scholars reason that this means the book was written after Malachi. Yet this argument fails when you understand that books in "the writings" are from the far distant past. The book of Job is a perfect example.

The truth is, Daniel *should* be included with the prophets. Here is why. Jesus Christ refers to Daniel as a prophet. He told the disciples, "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by *Daniel the prophet,* stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand)" (Matthew 24:15). In this same verse, it is implied that we are expected to read Daniel as a prophetic book. In addition, Josephus, a historian in the first century A.D., places Daniel with the prophets. Josephus discusses the tripartite division of the 22 Old Testament scrolls in *Contra Apionem* 1:8. He mentions five scrolls for Moses, 13 scrolls for the prophets and only four for the writings. Although Josephus doesn't specifically list the books for each section, it is safe to assume that the divisions of the books were changed some time between the first century and now. It is most likely that the Masoretes (scholars who lived in Tiberius) moved Daniel (and several other prophetic books) to the third division ("the writings") in the sixth century A.D. when they were standardizing the text. Let's agree that the placement or *misplacement* of Daniel in the Old Testament canon has no bearing whatsoever on the dating of the book.

The other claims for a late date for Daniel are similar in nature to the ones we have discussed. They are incidental and a stretch at best. All are easily explained to an open-minded person.

Daniel's History

In addition to setting a late date for Daniel, scholars have attempted to attack the historical accuracy of the book. The skeptics used to claim that Belshazzar of chapter 5 never existed. But we know today, without a shadow of doubt, that Belshazzar existed as Daniel stated. Dr. Archer writes: "The appearance of King Belshazzar in chapter 5 was interpreted by earlier critics to be unhistorical, inasmuch as Nabonidus was known to be that last king of the Chaldean Empire. Later discoveries of cuneiform tablets referring to Belshazzar as 'the son of the king' serve to discredit that criticism almost completely (one tablet from the 12th year of Nabonidus calls for oaths in the names of both Nabonidus and Belshazzar …)" (ibid.).

Yet, critics still argue the accuracy of Daniel's portrayal of Belshazzar because he is referred to as the son of Nebuchadnezzar, not Nabonidus.

Archer answers the critics, "Moreover, it is a distinct possibility that in this case there was a genetic relationship between Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar. If Nabonidus married a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar in order to legitimize his usurpation of the throne back in 556 B.C., it would follow that his son by her would be the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar. The word for 'father' (*ab* or *abba*) could also mean grandfather (see Genesis 28:13; 32:10; in 1 Kings 15:[11] it means 'great grandfather')" (ibid.).

There are other historical points of argument from Daniel that we will not delve into at this time. The incredible confirmation of Belshazzar from archaeology should be enough to indicate that all of Daniel is historically accurate.

Scholars want to say there is no history in Daniel. Yet it is the history in Daniel that gives the book its dynamic force and power. Realize that Daniel is not merely the history of a man—it is an incredible testimony about how God rules the universe. Daniel shows us how God works through men and in the lives of men, whether Jew or Gentile.

Daniel was a young Jewish noble caught in the crossfire of competing Gentile powers. The world powers of his time were Egypt, Assyria and Babylon. Study any map of that period and you will see that the kingdom of Judah lay in the very heart of the major travel routes between these nations. Because of Judah's abominable sins, God corrected that nation using the nations surrounding it.



Daniel must have been born during the time of King Josiah. Josiah was the last good king of Judah.

God obviously prepared Daniel for a great work: to aid us. We must know Daniel and his times to fully understand his book. When we comprehend Daniel's world and the tumultuous events he experienced, it is easy to see that his times are a type of our own. Reason tells us that is precisely why God used Daniel to write down the prophecies about the world events taking shape right now. Unprejudiced minds can clearly see Daniel's visions working out in a rapid fashion. The outcome will be truly beneficial to all mankind.

The history of Daniel's life and times is the strongest proof of the book. Knowing his history motivates us to proclaim Daniel's message.

Theme of the Book

The name *Daniel* means either *God is judge* or *God is my judge*. To experience the full impact of the book, we must understand its theme. Daniel's name is a key to a full understanding of the book. Without a doubt, Daniel's book demonstrates the overarching sovereignty of God. He rules and judges all men—whether Israelite, Jew or Gentile. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, "Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all" (Daniel 2:37-38).

Nebuchadnezzar was a world-ruling dictator. God let him know that he gained his power only because of the will of God. Daniel shows clearly that God allows Gentile powers to dominate and punish His covenant people. In fact, a short period of Gentile domination is on the horizon. A united states of Europe, the modern Babylon, will soon assume world control. Daniel also shows, however, that God's use of these Gentiles will come to a dramatic end—forever—at the Second Coming of Christ.

Daniel's life is truly inspiring. He was deported from Judah in the first wave of Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem (Daniel 1:1-3). Details of this event are also recorded for us in 2 Kings 24 and 2 Chronicles 36. At that time, Judah had become a vassal state of Egypt. When Nebuchadnezzar came to power, he demonstrated his dominance over Egypt by taking control of Judah. 2 Kings 24:7 states, "And the king of Egypt came not again any more out of his land: for the king of Babylon had taken from the river of Egypt unto the river Euphrates all that pertained to the king of Egypt."

To show his power, Nebuchadnezzar seized treasures from Solomon's temple. He also took captive a group of young nobles and carried them back to Babylon (Daniel 1:3). The nobles were put into an intense training program to qualify for the king's service. Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, are the only ones mentioned specifically. Of course, we know most about Daniel. His truly is a fantastic history. God prospered and promoted him in captivity. His prophetic commission spanned approximately 70 years to the time of Cyrus the Great (Daniel 1:21). His book is obviously a series of vital snapshots of those incredible times.



Daniel's book demonstrates the overarching sovereignty of God. He rules and judges all men.

Impacted by Josiah

Daniel's early history is vitally important. Knowing it brings him to life. Although Daniels's specific age is not given, we can say with some surety that he was a teenager at the time of his captivity. Even though the word *children* is used to describe Daniel and his three friends, we should not assume it means *little* children (Daniel 1:4). Joseph, who was 17 years of age when sold into Egypt, was referred to as a child by his older brother (Genesis 42:22). Daniel was most likely between the ages of 14 and 17. This means that Daniel must have been born during the time of King Josiah. Josiah was the last good king of Judah. He aggressively reformed Judah, bringing it back from the atrocious sin of idolatry. As we read Daniel, we can see the positive fruits of Josiah's work.

Josiah was crowned king at age 8 (2 Kings 22:1). His grandfather Manasseh was the most evil king in Judah. His deeds (along with the people's) were so corrupt that God decided to remove the people of Judah from the land (2 Kings 23:26). But Josiah would not tolerate his grandfather's (or his father's) lifestyle. In the 18th year of his reign, the Book of the Law was found in the temple (2 Kings 22:3, 8). His grandfather had pushed it aside. In fact, he martyred many faithfully following it. Josiah instituted a massive program of religious

education based on all the principles of the law. He had seen the devastating effects of idolatry.

Josiah was a king of action. He knew that *teaching* the law was not enough. He removed and pulverized the pagan altars built inside the temple mount (2 Kings 23:12). He pulled down the altars Solomon had built to the gods of his foreign wives on the Mount of Olives—known at that time as the Mount of Corruption (verse 13). And he fulfilled the prophecy spoken about him centuries before by going into northern Israel and destroying the altar Jeroboam established at Bethel (verses 15-16; 1 Kings 13:1-2). Josiah led the nation to one final burst of glory. While Josiah remained alive, the nation was able to prosper. His death was a sign of dark days to come.

Because Daniel was a descendant of David, he would have had intimate knowledge of these events. Because of Josiah, he was taught the law of Moses in depth. He was given practical instruction in applying that law through Josiah's example. What a blessing to be born at the time of Josiah. Daniel had been given a sturdy foundation in God's ordained way of life. Then, as a captive, he witnessed the national horrors that accompany idolatrous worship.

We should not be surprised then to read about his conduct in Babylon. Daniel and his three friends were brought into contact with a strong, idolatrous power, but they bravely resisted its influence at every turn. Understanding this background, it only makes sense that Daniel and his friends resisted eating unclean meats (Daniel 1:8). It only makes sense that Daniel's three friends refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's image (Daniel 3). It only makes sense that Daniel would not stop praying because of a king's decree (Daniel 6).

Critics say that Daniel didn't exist. The Bible record demands that we accept Daniel's life as fact. We should be thankful we have a record of this man's life.

A Unique Book

A deep study of Daniel reveals how unique the book actually is. Critics say that Daniel was written after the fact. Have the critics actually read the book? Did you know that Daniel didn't understand the visions he wrote down?

Chapters 10 through 12 of Daniel's book give us one of the most extensive prophecies in the Bible. These chapters are the record of a vision given to Daniel providing the details about the rise and fall of the four world-ruling empires beginning with Babylon and ending with Rome. The domination of the Roman Empire ends with the return of Jesus Christ. Daniel saw major historical events play out centuries in advance. The prophecy is *dual,* having a former and an end-time fulfillment.

Daniel was deeply affected by what he saw. In communication with the angel Gabriel, he tells us, "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" (Daniel 12:8). Notice Gabriel's reply: "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (verses 9-10). Amazing, isn't it? Daniel desperately wanted to know what he had witnessed. Yet, not even God gave him the understanding. These verses show that Daniel had no historical frame of reference to understand what he saw. These verses alone shoot holes in the critics' "after the fact" theories.



Daniel was called and used by God to give us knowledge about how God is working in world events today.

Herbert Armstrong explained why Daniel was not given understanding. In *The United States and Britain in Prophecy,* he wrote: "One of the very pivotal books of prophecy is the book of Daniel. Actually, the Prophet Daniel was not the author of the book known by his name. The living God was its author. The message was transmitted to Daniel by God's angel. Daniel put to writing, to be preserved until our time, what he heard. …

"So the prophecies of Daniel were CLOSED, sealed, locked up until now! But today we are living in 'the time of the end.' Today the 'wise' do understand! But who are the 'wise'? Only those who fear and obey God—and who have the master key to unlock the locked-up prophecies. God says: 'The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of wisdom: a good *understanding* have all they that do his commandments' (Psalms 111:10). And even most professing 'Christians' refuse utterly to do that. No wonder they can't understand" (page 6).

What an incredible truth: Daniel was called and used by God to give us knowledge about how God is working in world events today. Will you accept this truth?

Moses: an End-Time Book

If Daniel was sealed, locked up, not to be understood until our time, it means the content of the *entire book* is for our time. Spend some time thinking about this. It tells us that Daniel proves that the books of Moses are also to be *unlocked* in this end time. Here is why.

Daniel writes: "Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him. And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth" (Daniel 9:11-13).

Daniel was very familiar with Moses's writings. When he says the *curse is poured upon us,* he is referring directly to the prophecies in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Ancient Israel, God's covenant people, was to receive untold material blessings for obedience. But rebellion, in the form of idolatry and Sabbath-breaking, was to bring severe punishment, including loss of health, wealth and national freedom. Ancient Israel was warned continually about national captivity and slavery at the hands of Gentile powers. It heeded little and suffered greatly.

As an end-time book, Daniel shows that there exist today a modern, end-time covenant people that are about to experience the curses outlined by Moses. Daniel and Moses are very up to date. Forget what the critics say. Get your Bible out and get into the books of Moses and Daniel. There is no doubt that you will become a wiser and more understanding person. ■

HUMAN RIGHTS

Modern Slavery Spreading


GETTY IMAGES

ONE OF MANY **A Brazilian slave, one of millions worldwide, labors on a sugar cane plantation.**

At least 12.3 million people worldwide work as slaves, according to a report issued May 11 by the International Labor Organization, a department of the United Nations. The report, "A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor," estimated that 2.5 million people were in forced labor due to cross-border trafficking, and 1.2 million of them were forced into sex trade. Profit from trafficked forced labor is estimated at $32 billion, and the profit from forced commercial sexual exploitation is estimated at an astonishing $27.8 billion a year.

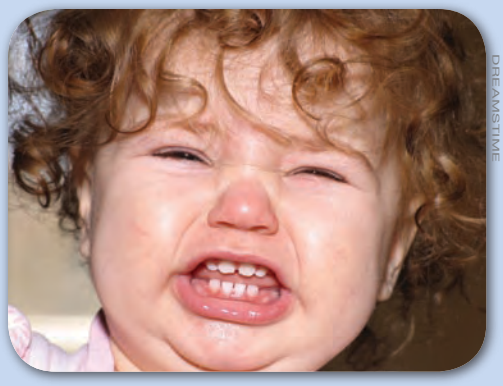
Lee Swepston, an author of the report, said that the trafficking of workers is a growing problem. "The 12.3 million figure is a minimum," he said. "It's a low figure intentionally. We think it's probably higher."

The report (*New York Times,* May 12) did offer up general suggestions to reduce the trafficking, such as increasing law enforcement and reducing poverty. However, with a problem of this magnitude, with its global networks and cross-border trafficking, it is unlikely that the UN or any single government agency will actually have much success in reducing the spread of modern slavery.

EDUCATION

Preschool Expulsion

For those who witnessed policemen handcuffing a tantrum-throwing kindergartner a few months back, a new study about behavioral problems at preschools should come as no surprise. Yale University's Child Study Center reports that about 5,000 preschoolers are expelled every year, a number that is triple that of most K-12 public schools (*USA Today,* May 16). Researchers say this proof supports "what observers say is a worsening behavior problem among very young students" (ibid.). Further indication of behavioral problems can be seen in a survey conducted in four large child-care centers, which reported that 18 percent of their 2- to 5-year-olds were at risk of being expelled (*Christian Science Monitor,* May 18). Conduct that put these children at risk included "biting, destruction of property, and temper tantrums" (ibid.).


DREAMSTIME

Researchers believe more programs are needed to support teachers who deal with behavioral problems. What's really needed is for parents to take an active role in preparing their children for school. Many children are pushed into preschool programs before they are ready. Walter Gilliam, the author of the Yale report, told reporters that "these 3- and 4-year-olds are barely out of diapers" (*USA Today,* op. cit.). Parents have a responsibility to make sure their young children go to school when they are old enough and have been thoroughly prepared to learn. Right behavior, including basic skills such as sitting still, politeness and listening, needs to be taught to children before they can be expected to succeed at school. Without these skills, preschoolers are ill-equipped to receive a proper education *themselves* and disrupt the process of learning for others. In such cases, teachers are left with few options besides expulsion.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FAMILY

Fatherless America

In a society where divorce is rampant, single parenting is common, and cohabitation the norm, for many Americans, dadhood isn't what it used to be. According to *www.fatherhood.org,* between 1960 and 1995 the percentage of American children living in single-parent homes increased from 9 to 27. An estimated 40 percent of them live in homes without their biological father. Among African Americans, that number is about 75 percent.

Families without fathers can experience devastating consequences. Columnist Phyllis Schlafly wrote June 15, "Most of our social problems are caused by kids who grow up in homes without their own fathers: drug abuse, illicit sexual activity, unwed pregnancies, youth suicide, high school dropouts, runaways and crime." Yet, so often, society's most prominent leaders overlook this connection between fatherlessness and teen pathologies.

A strong movement is afoot to portray fathers as unimportant and unnecessary. The institution of marriage itself is more commonly considered merely

temporary, if not entirely antiquated. Yet the fruits of stable families headed by a dedicated father are obvious. Study after study show that good fathers not only have a positive and powerful impact on their families, but on society as a whole.

It certainly is a role worthy of honor—even codified within the fifth of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12).

To understand more deeply the vital significance of fathers, read our booklet *Conspiracy Against Fatherhood*. Practical instruction on how to recapture some of the fundamental qualities of strong fathering can be found in the *Trumpet*'s August 2004 article "Fatherhood 101."

DIVORCE

Breaking Up Bad for Health



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Divorce can cause more aches than a heartache. A 2005 study funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) shows a link between being divorced for long periods of time and higher rates of illness and loss of mobility later in life (*Wall Street Journal,* June 16).

The study, conducted among 8,652 people ages 51 to 61, found that the longer someone is divorced or widowed, the more susceptible he or she is to heart or lung disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, stroke and restricted mobility (walking and climbing stairs). Those who were married at the time of the study and had never been divorced or widowed had 20 percent fewer chronic conditions than those who had been divorced.

The link between prolonged stress (such as would be caused by divorce) and weakened immunity has been proven in many studies. But another study by the National Center for Health Statistics last year linked the stress of divorce to the kinds of behavior that lead to chronic disease: Divorced people are likely to smoke more, drink more and exercise less.

The authors of the NIA report rightly conclude, "married people's healthier state springs from … not only [mate] selection, but from the protective, stabilizing effect of marriage" (ibid.).

Why is divorce so damaging, even physically? Simply because it's a violation of God's law of love in nearly all cases (Malachi 2:16). The pain is proof. Divorce destroys families and love. God's law protects family, which facilitates happiness and health.



DREAMSTIME

MASCULINITY

Metrosexual Madness

Masculinity is being redefined. In the machines of mass media and marketers, traditional concepts of manliness are being redesigned to where some men are referred to as metrosexual. Characteristics once attributed to homosexual men are now being attached to this "man of the 21st century." The metrosexual is sensitive, in tune with fashion, concerned about his skin, and frequents beauty salons.

Left for scraps are conventional ideas of masculinity. Gone is the tough, macho man image. And this is not just an American phenomenon. Agence France Presse quoted a director of a French fashion agency saying, "The masculine ideal is being completely modified. All the traditional male values of authority, infallibility, virility and strength are being completely overturned" (June 8).

An Australian newspaper, the *Age,* reported "Men's fashion chains are growing, with women's stores such as Espirit launching men's ranges" (March 11, 2003). The market for metrosexuals is growing every year. Advertisers are dropping the macho image when it comes to selling even beer and cars.

Both the macho and metro versions of masculinity represent two opposite, and wrong, extremes of the male role. Yet the latest trend is of greater concern because of what the Bible says about the end time. In Isaiah 3, the prophet describes a society that is completely upside-down. Women and children rule. Real men, on the other hand—the wise and mighty leaders of old—have been "taken away" from society.

For more information on true masculinity and the dangers of gender blur, read our December 2003 article, "Wanted: Real Men."

SOCIETYWATCH is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the *Trumpet*'s editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at **SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083,** or e-mail ***societywatch@theTrumpet.com.*** If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.



Turning Point

We received abundant response to our June 2005 issue, which reported on the crowning of Pope Benedict XVI. Many readers expressed excitement and praise; some raised questions and criticisms. It is necessary that we answer some questions regarding the content of that issue.

One reader in Australia said, "As a practicing Catholic, I was rather appalled at your assertions regarding the church I belong to. Quite apart from the obvious enmity toward the Catholic Church expressed therein, I found that the *Trumpet* is uninformed and incorrect even on basic Catholic doctrine."

This reader quoted page 37 of the issue, which states that "Pope John Paul II viewed every Muslim as a soul eternally lost." He commented, "[T]his statement is completely false—neither John Paul II nor the Catholic Church teaches (or taught) anything of the sort!" This reader also condemned "the Trumpet's lack of understanding" on the subject of papal infallibility.

Let us clarify the particular issues this reader raised.

On papal infallibility, Gerald Flurry states on page 12 of the June issue ("The Dark Side of the Pope's Funeral"): "The Bible clearly teaches that only God is infallible. When a pathetic, sinful man claims infallibility in one area, it often spills over into other areas—especially when his power grows."

These statements in no way show a lack of understanding of, nor contradict, the Catholic doctrine of papal infallibility.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992) states the following: "Christ endowed the church's shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals. … The Roman Pontiff, head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when, as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful … he proclaims by a definitive act a doctrine pertaining to faith or morals."

In other words, as a secular encyclopedia states, "In Catholic theology, papal infallibility is the dogma that the pope, when he solemnly defines a matter of faith and morals ex cathedra (that is, officially and as pastor of the universal Church), is correct, and thus does not have the possibility of error."

The *Trumpet* asserted—and asserts—that when a pope takes upon himself a power that only God has—infallibility—even if in only "one area," that of "doctrine pertaining to faith and morals"—this indicates a mindset that often "spills over into other areas." The history of the Catholic Church is witness to that.

The *Trumpet* quoted a *Financial Times* (Oct. 16, 1998) article stating that no pope had ever been as "infallible" as John Paul II. Here is the context of that quote: "But what most troubles me about John Paul is not the instinctive conservatism of his pronouncements. It is the repressive intolerance with which he promulgates them. He rules the Holy See in the spirit of Vatican I, the council convened by Pius IX in 1869 to assert the doctrine of papal infallibility. The climate of inclusiveness and generosity fostered 30 years ago at Vatican II has been extinguished. No pope before him has ever been as infallible as the present."

Again, this addresses the mindset behind the doctrine of infallibility and how that opens the door for abuses of papal authority.

REGARDING the statement on page 37 of the same *Trumpet* issue ("A Headache for Benedict") that referred to Pope John Paul II as viewing "every Muslim as a soul eternally lost," clarification is certainly in order.

Indeed, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day."

The Trumpet's statement on this matter does not agree with this, and we regret the inaccuracy.

The Catechism goes on to say, however, that "the Church still has the obligation and also the sacred right to evangelize all men." Indeed, the Catholic dogma Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus teaches that "there is no salvation outside the church." Dominus Iesus, a document published and ratified by John Paul in 2000, states that those outside the Catholic Church are "in a gravely deficient situation in comparison with those who, in the church, have the fullness of the means of salvation."

And certainly, before Vatican II in 1964, the Catholic Church clearly taught that only its members could be saved. Consider the following:

"There is but one universal Church of the faithful, outside of which no one at all can be saved" (Pope Innocent III, Fourth Lateran Council, 1215).

"We declare, say, define, and pronounce that it is absolutely necessary for the salvation of every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff" (Pope Boniface VIII, Unam Sanctam, 1302).

"The most Holy Roman Church firmly believes, professes, and preaches that none of those existing outside the Catholic Church … can have a share in life eternal …. No one, let his almsgiving be as great as it may, no one, even if he pour out his blood for the name of Christ, can be saved, unless he remain within the bosom and the unity of the Catholic Church" (Pope Eugene IV, Cantate Domino, 1441).

The position of the Catholic Church on this issue since the Second Vatican Council is contradictory to the church's teaching throughout the ages, but following Dominus Iesus and in view of the leanings of the new pontiff, it appears that Catholic exclusiveness is very real in the Vatican's mind.

Special Issue

In the special issue of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* (June 2005), there are a few articles about the Vatican and about the papacy. I am very thankful that you plainly uncovered all the hypocrisy and crime of the organization, which is recognized worldwide as a Christian church. I was Roman Catholic 20 years ago, and I am Polish, so it is important for me to have confirmation that the Vatican is a unique evildoer and the center of the antichrist's movement. In my country, there are only a few who consider Pope John Paul II as a shame for Poland, although he was really a shame, and there was nothing in him to be proud of. He was a unique tool of Satan to mislead millions of people from all around the world. It is good to know that there are still people who are able to discern good and evil and are ready to announce that openly to the public.

Jerzy Piotrowski—Warsaw, Poland

■

Your special edition that you published blasting the Roman Catholic Church and its pope I found appalling. Never have I seen a collection of professionals, who I'm sure claim to be Christ-like, do such a job of openly hating a group of people and its leader, when all these people want to do is serve God, preach the Word of a living God and help people. Pope John Paul II was known throughout the entire world for his good, even great, works. …

Joseph Dobbs—Mtn. City, Tenn.

■

I recently read an article written in your special issue concerning the dark side of the pope's funeral. I was speechless over the information I read.

I have had my suspicions over the years but never the facts as you have written them. The article was shared with me by a friend and has sparked a hunger within me to learn more and get a better understanding of prophecy. …

Melissa Frizzell—Gatesville, Tenn.

■

Your magazine is so correct. There is now a German pope as the leader of the Catholic Church. Prophecy marches on. The last revival of the Roman Empire now has a religious heart. Mr. Herbert Armstrong taught about the seventh revival of the Holy Roman Empire, and you have truly continued his teaching.

John Childs—Mena, Ark.

■

I have this to say. I am a staunch Catholic. Our Lord established one church on Earth and not many churches. You are terribly bigoted and biased against the Catholic Church. … You are now trying to instigate Catholic-Islam ill feelings. … Please do not slander our church and our popes. It is your intense fear that makes you do it.

A Catholic reader—India

■

After reading the June *Trumpet* I was forced to make a comment. There is no problem about being a mother church and wanting your daughters back into the fold. The only problem I see is the reason why the Anglicans must recognize the papacy as the supreme authority. Every church has its founding church or, better put, headquarters; but all allegiance is paid to the Almighty God and not the overseeing head. There is a lot of discrimination I see in the Catholic Church for Ratzinger to say that only the churches that subject themselves to the papacy are "true churches." In my own opinion I don't think they seek unity or reconciliation; they are after is complete control or, better put, dominance.

Godfrey Ometha—Accra, Ghana

■

A Christian friend showed me the June issue of your magazine. I've read several books on Bible prophecy and try to keep up on how world events fit in. Your magazine is fantastic and full of information on current events. I've noticed Germany moving and didn't understand why. Now after reading your magazine, I understand why it has made its political and financial moves. I do share the gospel and prophecy with my co-workers and prisoners where I work in the state prison.

Jeff Frayer—Bellevue, Mich.

■

I was reading about the new pope in the June 2005 issue. I am confused; I thought conservative was a good thing. I don't understand. When we as Protestants are conservative or fundamentalist, it is a good thing—right? How is this different with the Catholic pope?

Debra Lewis—E-mail response

We stated in our June issue, "As our longtime readers are aware, we advocate some of the very moral teachings for which the new pope is being criticized. Many accuse us of being uncompromising and ultraconservative." Our concerns about Catholic conservatism as endorsed by the pope are not based on pro-abortion, pro-homosexuality platforms. Our concerns are based on historical precedent and Bible prophecy.

When the pope talks about "evangelizing all men," we remember Catholic history and wonder what parallels we will see in the future. This historical speculation takes on profound importance in the context of Bible prophecy. We know that horrific times lie just ahead when people will be required to follow a "conservative" rule of law at threat of *violence.*

God wants us to follow His law—conservatively in that sense. Jesus Christ spoke of God's way being "strait" and "narrow" (Matthew 7:14), and He told us to become "perfect" as our Father in heaven is (Matthew 5:48). Still, the history of Catholicism and the undeniable truth of Bible prophecy tell us that when the Vatican demands more strict adherence to *its* interpretation of law, we must alert our readers to these trends and their future results.

Teen Spirit

I would like to thank you on your courage in publishing a magazine that is not so readily accepted by our society. I have read a few of your articles and admire your apparent desire to portray our culture as it is. I recently read your July article, "Youth Culture." I am an average 15-year-old girl living in an average city, attending an average high school, and I am ashamed to say that the behavior of teenagers is indeed deteriorating. I agreed with most of your article, and I also believe that many teens have a negative influence on others.

Erica Vilay—E-mail response

■

I recently ran across your magazine in the waiting area of the urology clinic I work for in Columbus, Ohio. I read it from cover to cover and am impressed with one article in particular entitled "Protect Your Child's Mind" (July 2005). This article was such an inspiration and confirmation of my way of life and put several things into perspective. I will never underestimate the power of Satan again and will continuously work to protect my family against him.

Phalencia Lambert—Columbus, Ohio

■

I just got two copies of the *Trumpet* from a local restaurant, and I can truly say that I've enjoyed the read and the way the articles always end up with a relation to the Bible. Thanks so much for the articles in the July issue. I wish I could get all the issues all the way from the past to the present. I've even thought about even teaching from some of the articles.

Eric Tate—Augusta, Ga.

■

Your monthly magazine, the *Trumpet,* is extremely popular here at the prison. It is passed from person to person 'til the covers drop off. The articles are interesting and informative. Your magazine offers a different way to look at current affairs. Keep up the good work.

Abilene, Tex.

■

The *Trumpet* is the bold, unflinching voice of truth in these troubled times. It differs hugely in perspective from the corrupt mass media, is built on the solid foundation of the Word and not beholden to mammon. All this I can see from one issue, which fell into my hands here at prison.

Curt Mayer—Avenal, Calif.

■

I am impressed and happy that the foundation God laid through Mr. Armstrong is still strong.

Jose Garcia—E-mail response

Comments?

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MISSION from page 5

fundamentalist Muslim doctrine.

Remove the blinders and the truth is plain: The more the U.S. pushes for democracy in the Mideast and proclaims its willingness to accept whatever that may produce, the more frightening the region becomes. In the Palestinian territories, the terrorist group Hamas is sweeping elections. In Lebanon, it's Hezbollah. In several countries, similar results would follow should the political process be opened to the will of the people.

Even in Iraq, Shiite Muslims are the dominant power, many of whose hearts resonate with the spirit of the Iranian Revolution. Iraqi Shiite political and religious officials congratulated Ahmadinejad and voiced their desire for stronger mutual ties between their countries. Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, at a news conference with Iran's foreign minister before the election (May 18), said, "[T]he party that will leave Iraq is the United States, because it will eventually withdraw. But the party that will live with the Iraqis is Iran, because it is a neighbor to Iraq." How sympathetic is Jaafari to the views held by hardliners like Ahmadinejad? After the 1979 revolution began, he tried to spread the revolution in Iraq; Saddam Hussein targeted him for it and he fled to Iran; his political party operated in exile out of Tehran during the Iran-Iraq War. He maintains strong links with Iran's ruling clerics. The *Trumpet* continues to watch for the new Iraq to cast in its lot with Iran as the Bible prophesies (read "Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?" in our June 2003 issue on *www.theTrumpet.com*).

The Middle East has never been known for unity. But in the burning coals of this region-wide religious revival are elements that could be forged into something akin to Ahmadinejad's vision: devotion to Islam; missionary zeal that translates well into passionate politics; hatred of the West. These were the qualities that put Ahmadinejad into office.

Iran's election was a trumpet call to arms in the midst of a divided region.

Iran's election was a trumpet call to arms in the midst of a divided region. It was the Islamic Republic's leadership signaling to the world's Muslims, particularly the Shiites, that it is time to rally!

Foreign Policy With a Push

Make no mistake: Tehran will soon find itself with enough power and leverage to show the whole world who is, in biblical language, "the king of the south" (Daniel 11:40).

As the *Trumpet* stated in its July 1997 issue, "The Bible prophesies of an Islamic king of the south to be a major political force in this end time. *Religion* will be the guiding force behind the king of the south. As these prophecies unfold, we can expect religious radicals and dictatorial rulers to gain prominence as they enter onto the world stage for one final scene."

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is just such a religious radical. He is keen to transform his nation into a role model of a modern, advanced, powerful and Islamic society. With the mullahs smiling down on him, the *Trumpet* expects Iran to move significantly in this direction under the leadership of its new president. Soon he may oversee the dramatic and emboldening transformation of his country into a nuclear power.

The Prophet Daniel foretold that "*at the time of the end* shall the king of the south PUSH." We live in the "time of the end" *today*.

The word *push* means to strike, to push with the horn, or to wage war. *Push* is a violent word! Iran has never been meek and mild in its foreign policy—but it is about to become much more aggressive. Daniel spoke of a *forceful, provocative* PUSH unlike any we have yet seen. As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said, "[T]*he stage is being set*—right now—*for this to occur!*" (*King of the South*).

Watch for Iran's foreign policy to become much more PUSHY. With all power consolidated in the hands of its ultraconservatives, this country's brashness and confidence as a real force in the region—and worldwide—is about to explode.

But in this instance specifically prophesied by Daniel, *the gamble will not pay off.*

What happens as a result of that *push* will shock everyone who witnesses it! By that time, a united Europe will have grown strong. It will rise up and meet Iran's challenge very successfully.

All the conflict that has shaken the bloodied Middle East from the dawn of civilization will seem tame compared to the chaotic conflagration that is about to engulf the region! And that terrible war will shortly thereafter spread *worldwide.* Not a man, woman or child will escape it without God's protection!

Your Bible prophesies in detail what is to happen to the Iran-led king of the south—and what the ultimate fate will be of the Middle East. You need our free booklet *The King of the South* to educate yourself on what to watch for in the months and years ahead—and to prepare yourself for when it comes. ■

The World Accommodates Iran

THE GREATEST terror-sponsoring nation in the world is developing nuclear technology. The world is alarmed, right? And nations are coming together to do something about it, right? Wrong.

May 25, the EU3—Britain, France and Germany—promised to draft within three months a set of detailed proposals for economic, political and security incentives for Iran in exchange for Iran agreeing to continue suspending its uranium enrichment program.

The very next day, the Islamic Republic was rewarded by being invited to begin World Trade Organization entry negotiations. The "right" to join the WTO has been one of Iran's main demands in recent months of negotiations.

After blocking Iran's application on 22 separate occasions, the U.S.—forced to respond to Iran's gesture of extending its suspension of uranium processing—backed down and lifted its opposition to Iran's entry into the WTO. "President Bush offered a big economic carrot to Iran …. This U.S. shift, from threatening the Islamic Republic to wooing it, hasn't been in Mr. Bush's antiterrorism playbook up to now" (*Christian Science Monitor,* May 27).

In a further indication of who is doing the accommodating, the May 25 meetings featured Europe's representatives reinforcing Iran's right to pursue a nuclear program and Iran's representative reiterating that Tehran's freeze on uranium enrichment was only *temporary.* Speaking for Iran, Hassan Rowhani described the deal as a victory.

Iran seems to be getting all the desires of its heart. Without giving an inch—using merely the threat of resuming what it wasn't supposed to be doing to start with—Iran gained three months' reprieve, an agreement for Europe to come up with a definite plan of rewards, and an invitation to enter the World Trade Organization. Not bad for what has been a pariah state and terrorist-sponsoring nation whose declared enemy is the U.S.

A Warning of Hope

Christ said to preach "good news." So why is the *Trumpet* so full of the bad? BY MARK JENKINS

The word *gospel* means good news. And what fantastic news it is. Peace and prosperity are about to fill the Earth. The knowledge of the Lord will cover the Earth as the waters cover the sea. Jesus Christ will set up His government, and Satan will be locked away where he can do no further harm to anyone.

Christ told us to preach the gospel, the good news of His coming Kingdom, to every creature (Mark 16:15). Why, then, does the *Trumpet* so frequently focus on the problems of the world? Why write about the seemingly limitless evil that exists today? Why dwell on the horrible times just ahead of us? Wouldn't our time be better spent telling about the wondrous times that are coming, shining a spotlight on the glorious Kingdom of God?

It would be nice to be able to do only that. It would, undoubtedly, be a popular message—but it would also leave the world without hope!

God gives the command to warn for a reason: He wants people to repent. In His loving mercy, God will do anything possible to spare us from the terrible times that are coming. A warning is the only hope anyone has of being spared.

The book of Jonah tells the story of a city named Nineveh that was about to be destroyed because of its sins. God sent a prophet, Jonah, to the city to warn of coming destruction. Initially, Jonah fled from that duty. Who would want to carry such an unpopular message? But as Jonah's example shows, if God's warning is not given—if the messenger does not deliver the warning God gives him—he just might end up in the belly of a whale. God requires that His warning be delivered.



ART TODAY

Jonah proclaimed a warning message full of bad news, but the city that heeded his message experienced some very good news.

Imagine if God had allowed Jonah to shirk his duty. What if Jonah had just given a message that talked only about the glorious future ahead, ignoring the warnings God had given? Nineveh would have been utterly destroyed, with every inhabitant looking for this fabulous future that God's prophet had told them about, but finding only the most terrifying destruction they had ever seen.

But what amazing results Jonah's warning had. The entire city's inhabitants, under the direction of their leaders, humbled themselves in sackcloth and ashes, fasted before God, and truly repented. The city was spared the horrible fate they had been warned about. This was—and remains to this day—the only time in history that a Gentile city has repented before God. What an example of hope they left for our time today. What beautiful results God's warning brought about in Nineveh. Please write for a free copy of our booklet about Jonah.

The nations of the world today are in the same situation that the city of Nineveh was in nearly 2,800 years ago—filled with sin, and on the brink of destruction. The warning is being delivered. If even one nation would repent, God would spare it as surely as He did Nineveh. But the world has, unhappily, become so immoral that the chances of even a single nation turning away from its present course of destruction are pitifully low. Although they are being given the chance to repent, the nations of this world probably will not. The world's leaders will almost certainly reject the forgiveness that God is offering them. But what about you?

The Bible gives only one example like that of Nineveh, but is filled with examples of *individual* repentance. And if we look to God for deliverance, He can protect us just as surely as He protected Daniel from the jaws of the lions. He can bless us in our individual lives as He did Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and so many others. The warning that you are receiving today fills your life with hope!

The Kingdom is coming. Imagine how much different things will be when God's laws are obeyed. Swords will be beaten into plowshares. There will be no more war or poverty. Children will be able to play in the streets without fear, and the desert will blossom as the rose. Everyone will live the way of give, so competition, wrong business practices and other evils will be things of the past. Religious instruction will flow out from Jerusalem, given by Jesus Christ Himself—religious bickering will be eliminated, and the Church will finally have perfect unity. All nations will obey the King of kings.

At that point, there will no longer be a need for a warning.

But in order for this time of peace and prosperity to come, the sin that is on this Earth now must be wiped away. Mankind must see what dreadful results our 6,000 years of self-rule have created. The evil that exists today must be removed for mankind to truly live the abundant life—for the godly way of life to cover the Earth.

The horrors of the Great Tribulation will lead into the millennial rule of Jesus Christ, the greatest time of peace and prosperity that has ever been. Until then, both the message of God's soon-coming Kingdom and the warning simply *must* go out, as they did in Jonah's day. This warning is filled with hope!

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Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
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Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Grenada CCN 7:30 am, Sun
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Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
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