

FEBRUARY 1999

NINTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

*The Philadelphia*

# **Trumpet**

STEALING FROM  
**GOD**



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**THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET** (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March/April and September/October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices.  
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**New Zealand and the Pacific Isles:** P.O. Box 38-424, Howick, Auckland, 1730  
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Unless otherwise noted, the scriptures quoted in this publication are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

U.S. POSTMASTER — send address changes to: *The Philadelphia Trumpet*, PO Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083



# Dangerous Deceit

**A** FAMOUS THEOLOGIAN RECENTLY MADE THIS statement: “The Bible says clearly that God has already revealed Himself fully and completely to us. He has done this both in the pages of the Bible, the written word of God, and through Jesus Christ, the living word of God.

“If we accept who Jesus is as He is presented to us in the New Testament, then we will not look for any further revelation, nor has God promised any.... God’s revelation is complete....”

He would have you believe that there would be no new revelation after the first century. He believes the “Bible says clearly” that God’s revelation to us is full and complete and has been for about 2,000 years.

It is hard to envision how he could be more dangerously wrong!

The whole book of Daniel is not to be revealed until this end time (Dan. 12:4, 9). God said He would send an end-time Elijah to “restore all things” just before Christ returns (Matt. 17:10-11).

That means that true religion was almost totally lost! And God sent a man—a prophet—to reveal “all things” to the very elect. That means the whole religious world would have been deceived in this end time! (Rev. 12:9).

This end-time Elijah was to be sent “before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord” (Mal. 4:5-6). He would give a warning of the worst time of suffering ever on this earth (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21). This man would obviously teach God’s revelation and warn of God’s coming wrath.

Where does that leave people who believe that we are to receive no more revelation? They will become deceived victims of the worst holocaust ever!

They would reject the very man God sent—and therefore reject God.

That means this famous theologian is going to be greatly responsible for those people who believe him.

But that doesn’t mean they won’t suffer!

Read the major prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Also read the minor prophets—Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zechariah, Zephaniah, Haggai and Malachi. You will see that they all are essentially for the end time.

That also applies to Daniel and Revelation, and Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 of the Gospels and many other parts of the New Testament.

Did you know that one-third of your Bible is prophecy? And that 90 percent of that prophecy is for this end time *only*? So God must reveal all that prophecy to us today.

This famous religious leader says there is to be no new revelation today. But God says that virtually the whole Bible would have to be revealed in this end time!

This is not something that anybody can take lightly. God said He would send *one man* to “restore all things”—one man in the midst of billions of people. How can we possibly avoid being deceived?

Actually the answer is simple. “Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not” (Matt. 24:23). If “any man” points you to Christ, beware. You must let Christ point you to Christ, or let Christ *reveal* where He is working. “Cursed be the man that trusts in man” (Jer. 17:5). Follow a man only if he follows Christ (I Cor. 11:1). For a complete understanding on this subject, write for our nearly 400-page free book, *Mystery of the Ages*.

The greatest deception in this world is religious deception. It is the *first* Christ listed—the greatest danger we are to face in these latter days. Regardless of what we think, Christ knew how deadly dangerous this deception would prove to be. We can’t afford to assume anything. God admonishes us to “prove all things” (I Thes. 5:21). If we refuse, we can blame nobody but ourselves.

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**The greatest deception  
in this world is  
religious deception.  
It is the *first* Christ  
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The greatest strategic blow is about to be struck against the United States. It will contribute to the breakdown of the U.S. economy and massively degrade its defense capability—and it is happening without a single shot being fired!

# “THE GATE OF HIS ENEMIES...”

BY RON FRASER

PANAMA: JUNE 8, 1997—  
It's a hot, languid, sultry tropical day. The sea is limpid, the air sticky. The white foundations of the statue of explorer Balboa contrast starkly with the bright tropical greenery and crimson of poinsettia in the park adjacent to this busy port city. High-rise concrete, steel and glass towers attest to the wealth of banks, financial institutions and trading companies in the city center. Panama City bustles and the locals are friendly. There really is not much of a hint that, within 2½ years, the narrow canal zone crossing the “S”-shaped isthmus of Panama, controlled by the U.S. for the past 98 years, is about to be gifted to the local Panamanian government. There's no apparent evidence at all that an even more dramatic event, an event destined

to mature into a process that will reshape the economic, military and security strategy of all major nations, occurred but three months past. On March 1, 1997, the giant Chinese corporation, Hutchinson Whampoa, took control of the American-constructed ports of Balboa and Cristobal, at each end of the Panama Canal. As we gaze toward the procession of container vessels stringing out across the Gulf of Panama, it seems the light has not yet dawned on the United States and

the rest of the world to reveal the catastrophic nature of this deal involving Panama and the Red Chinese.

OKLAHOMA: JANUARY 21, 1999—Eighteen months after our brief visit to Panama, the true strategic implications for the U.S. of the impending loss of the Panama Canal have yet to receive adequate exposure in either print or broadcasting media. Only an isolated voice here and there has sought to cry out and awaken the U.S. Administration to the security and economic catastrophe which is poised to shatter its complacency at mid-day, December 31, 1999. On this date, a once-great nation, which holds sovereign right over the Panama Zone “in perpetuity,” gives away its greatest strategic gateway to an arch-enemy!

**R**EADERS OF THIS MAGAZINE should know that the nations of Great Britain and the United States are descended from Abraham and Isaac. It is revealed in scripture that “the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will...” (Dan. 4:17). God promised to Abraham, way back in the 1800s B.C., that his descendants would “possess the gate of his enemies” (Gen. 22:17; 24:60). During the past 200 years, at the height of their power and prior to their recent decline, Britain and America between them possessed nearly every major sea and land gate in the world (see map, p. 4).

When Britain truly “ruled the waves,” her far-flung naval forces controlled Gibraltar, Malta, the Dardanelles, the English Channel, Suez, the Gulf of Aden, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Zanzibar, Capetown, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), the Straits of Malacca, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Falkland Islands.

To America went control of the great Pacific sea lanes via her island outposts the Aleutians, Hawaiian Isles, Midway, Guam, Wake Island, the Philippines and the Panama Canal. Panama is, by far, of the greatest strategic importance to the U.S. as it is the gateway controlling access to and from the two greatest oceans—the Atlantic and the Pacific. This great sea gate has for almost 85 years controlled the bulk of the flow of goods by sea from the eastern to the western hemisphere and from the West to the East.

It was the Gold Rush of 1849 that spurred development of the Panama Canal after numerous attempts by the Portuguese, Spanish, Scots, Dutch,

Belgian and French, spanning 400 years, had failed.

Although the French, using the engineering skill and vision of Ferdinand de Lesseps, commenced the project in 1879, it was the U.S. which funded and completed development of the Panama Canal. The U.S. first laid 47½ miles of rail track to build the Panama Railway, finishing construction in 1855. In fact, this was the first trans-continental railway ever built. When the French canal project failed under financial mismanagement, the Americans took over the task. The U.S. concluded the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty with Panama in 1903. This treaty granted the U.S. control “in perpetuity” of the ten-mile strip stretching across the Central American isthmus, designated the Canal Zone. A price of \$10,000,000 was paid by America to Panama for this grant of sovereignty “in perpetuity.” Additionally, the U.S. indemnified the owners of the land resumed for the Canal Zone and thus obtained complete ownership of the land within the Canal Zone. American taxpayers funded the Canal project to its completion. The finished infrastructure involved fully developed port facilities at both the Pacific and Atlantic ends of the Canal, three major locks and all associated equipment to power, operate and maintain these facilities. As President Reagan stated, “We bought it, we paid for it, it’s ours, and we are going to keep it.”

He had been pre-empted, however, by President Jimmy Carter, who, in 1977, concluded dubious “treaties” with President Omar Torrijos of Panama, promising transfer of ownership of the Canal to Panama at noon on December 31, 1999. The fact that two-thirds of the American people were opposed to these “treaties” did not faze President Carter at the time. Subsequent research has thrown doubt on the legality of the treaties both within the context of the U.S. and Panama constitutions.

#### **Panama’s Loss, China’s Gain**

The U.S.-controlled Panama Canal Commission has contributed upward of \$100 million per year to the Panamanian government. This equates with 1.3 percent of Panama’s gross national product. The Canal operation is a \$600 million per annum business. Built on 19th century technology, it will require \$1 billion expenditure on refurbishment over the next ten years. This cost

must be paid solely out of revenue received from Canal tolls and associated Canal usage contracts.

With the end of the U.S. presence in Panama goes the \$250-300 million per annum in monetary and economic benefits which the Panamanian economy has enjoyed through business generated by the U.S. forces and civil personnel domiciled there since 1903. Just as Britain did in Hong Kong, so will the U.S. gift to Panama all its defense bases constructed and maintained to this point on the isthmus of Panama. With the gift, however, comes the responsibility for the maintenance and effective use of these assets, which comprise

### **Just as Britain did in Hong Kong, so will the U.S. gift to Panama all her defense bases: \$3-4 billion worth of property**

\$3-4 billion worth of property. Millions of dollars in annual maintenance will then have to be contributed by Panama to the upkeep of these facilities. The Panamanians have not proven themselves adept at this. Having been given the U.S.-built and -maintained trans-isthmus railroad, Panamanians have neglected this asset to the point where its rails are covered with overgrown grass, its rolling stock lies rusted in neglect and its once attractive colonial-style rail stations are overrun with vagrants.

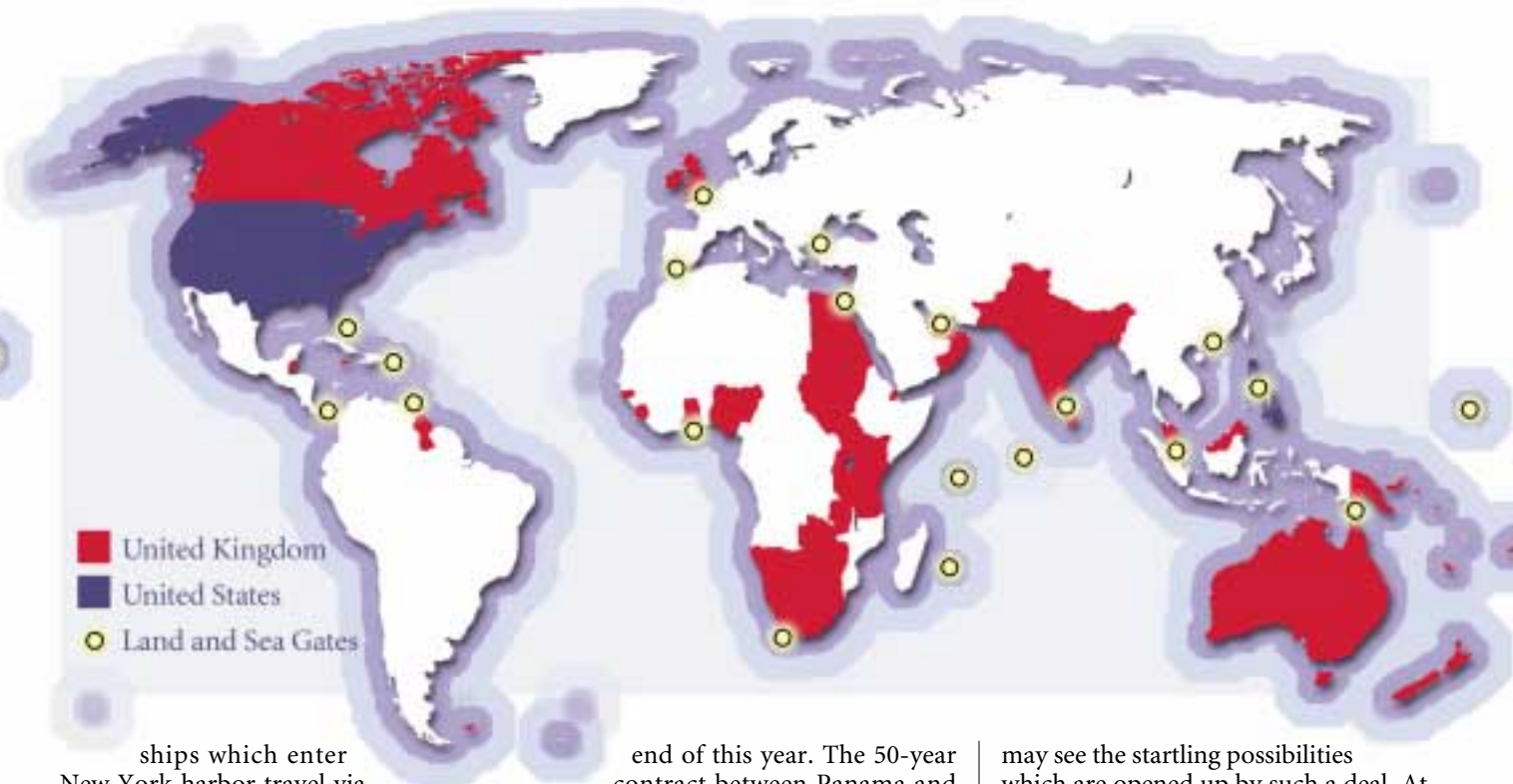
The temptation to yield to the Chinese buying off Panamanian loyalty by filling the cash vacuum left in the wake of U.S. withdrawal may prove too great a temptation for Panama to resist. The Chinese could readily squeeze further concessions out of the Panamanian government by such a process. The prospects for thriving corruption, to the gain of both China and Panama and the detriment of the U.S., are frightful. The drug cartels domiciled in Panama should make ready bedfellows for the Chinese, who have used the Panama Canal in the past to ship machine pistols destined for U.S.-based drug runners.

#### **U.S. Forfeiture—Threat to the World**

Upwards of 70 percent of total U.S. sea-borne cargo passes through the Panama Canal. Almost a quarter of the

JOEL HILKNER

## THE UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN *Territories held during the greatest extent of power*



ships which enter New York harbor travel via the Canal. The bulk of American Midwest agricultural commodities destined for the massive Asian market moves via the Mississippi River onto ships destined for the Panama Canal route. The former chairman of the Panama Canal Commission, Robert McMillan, declares, "There is no way to get grain to Asia without the Mississippi River, Baton Rouge and the Canal. There are not enough grain cars in America to transport it west, and there aren't enough granaries to store it in" (*Newsday*, Jan. 12, 1998).

Of even deeper concern to the West is the grave security risk posed by Panama having broken the dubious 1977 Panama Canal treaties and gone against its own constitution to conclude a sweetheart deal with a Chinese company whose CEO is closely allied to the Red Chinese leadership.

As previously reported in our World News Watch section (see January 1998 issue), through the underhanded deal struck by the money-grasping Panamanian government and the giant Hong Kong-based Hutchinson Whampoa conglomerate, control of the Panama Canal virtually goes to a declared enemy of the United States at the

end of this year. The 50-year contract between Panama and Hutchinson Whampoa effectively places the ability to open and shut this great sea-gate into the hands of an enterprise based in, and subject to, the influence and direction of Communist China. Not only has Hutchinson

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**There is a grave security risk posed by Panama's sweetheart deal with a Chinese company: Hutchinson Whampoa has been granted full control over the entry and exit ports, and options to take over evacuated U.S. military facilities.**

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Whampoa been granted *full control over the ports at both entry and exit points of the Canal*, the Panamanian government has granted long-term options to this Chinese enterprise for the *takeover of a number of military installations scheduled for evacuation by the U.S.*

Any apprentice of military strategy

may see the startling possibilities which are opened up by such a deal. At 12 noon, December 31, an enterprise of China, the nation possessing the world's largest army, which is aggressively expanding its navy and air force, having a prime strategy of naval control of the shipping lanes of the Far East, takes control of the major sea-transit gateway between East and West. In effect this gives Red China the power to deny the U.S. Navy right of access through the Panama Canal. Transit of military *matériel*, personnel and provisions via the Canal was crucial to the U.S. strategic efforts in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf.

It is feasible that this secret deal between Panama and the Chinese will open up a base for Chinese warships right on the southern doorstep of the U.S. If the U.S. withdraws from Rodman Naval station, and should it then be handed to the Red Chinese under the "options" agreement, this will give China a deep-water port that would provide an immediate base of operations for its warships and submarines less than 1000 miles from U.S. territory! Should the Red Chinese choose to base their J-11 attack jets in Panama, ostensibly to promote the "security" of the Canal, this would place

them within striking distance of the U.S. mainland. The potential threat to U.S. and world security posed by the apparent willing acquiescence of the current U.S. administration to the Panama-China deal is difficult for sensible minds to underestimate.

### Voices of Alarm

The concept of the rule of law, fundamental to Western democracies, is foreign to the average oriental mind. What is of supreme importance to the oriental is *face*—saving *face*! In such a culture, truth has nowhere near the same value as it has in traditional Western culture. As the Chinese dissident Harry Wu has stated, “The Chinese leaders are liars. They lie to their own people.” If a nation’s leaders lie to their own people, how much more so will they lie to a foreign power? Yet recently the current U.S. administration flung one of its staunchest oriental allies to the wind, preferring that the President renounce the old alliance with Taiwan, reading from a prepared script concocted by the hand of the Red Chinese leaders! To make genuine mistakes in dealing with foreign policy through misunderstanding, or even incompetence, is one thing. To make public statements, over a period of time, in a manner which encourages the known strategy of an enemy, is another.

Massive campaign contributions from questionable Chinese sources, repudiation of a longstanding alliance with Taiwan, compliance with the conditions of handover of the Panama Canal to China—*what are we to make of all this?*

A few, a *very* few thinkers in the U.S. and Panama, are voicing their alarm at the ease with which the Chinese have gained their foothold on the doorstep of America.

Panamanian presidential candidate William Bright Marine, writing to the Justice Department on May 4, stated, “I have yet to speak to one single American who is not outraged at the fact that the Clinton administration has allowed Communist China to obtain control of U.S. ports, U.S. bases, and functions of the Panama Canal. They, today, effectively control access to the Panama Canal.... This agreement could not have happened, without the consent of the Clinton administration” (*WorldNet Daily*, May 25, 1998).

Seventeen days later, Marine penned

the following to U.S. Senator Trent Lott: “Score another victory for the Communist Chinese in Panama. Yesterday Cable and Wireless won a bid to purchase 49 percent of the national phone system of Panama



(INTEL)... Hutchinson Whampoa is a major shareholder of Cable and Wireless. Hutchinson is the company that was awarded what Panama calls a port agreement, but what is in fact a 50-year treaty that gives U.S.-built ports, U.S. bases, and functions of the Panama Canal to Communist China.... Communist China’s involvement with INTEL has other security implications. *Communist China will now have the ability to monitor without interference of any kind communications from the U.S. bases in Panama.*”

It is reported that last summer, in a closed session with the Senate Foreign Relations committee, Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, USN (Ret.), former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned of grave security risks compounded by the Chinese takeover of the Panama Canal. Apparently the Admiral declared, “I’m an old sailor now, but I know trouble when I see it...trouble that could evolve quickly into a conflict in our own hemisphere with worldwide implications.... I speak of the transfer of the Panama Canal to the Panamanian government under the circumstances which now exist. There’s far more going on there than meets the eye.” With a view to the strategic importance of the Canal, Admiral Moorer

stated, “The Canal is the only viable way to transport oil to the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico from the West” (*WorldNet Daily*, Oct. 19, 1998).

One of the most strident voices speaking out on the Panama Canal

**“I’m an old sailor now, but I know trouble when I see it...trouble that could evolve quickly into a conflict in our own hemisphere with worldwide implications.”**

*Admiral Thomas Moorer, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

issue over the past 15 years is G. Russell Evans, Captain, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.). In the preface to his recently published book, *Death Knell of the Panama Canal*, Captain Evans states, in relation to the Panama/Hutchinson Whampoa deal, “If this scandalous swindle is consummated, Americans will have surrendered the greatest single achievement of our 221-year history, the most meaningful contribution ever made by one nation for the benefit of all nations, and most important, we may have ‘written the final chapter in the history of America’s greatness as a world power,’...and it will all have been done by deliberate violations of the Constitution of the United States” (pp. xxi-xxii).

In *The Coming Conflict With China*, authors Richard Bernstein and Ross H. Munro point out that China’s strength and influence in the vast Pacific is already far greater than those of any other country with the specific exception of the United States. They note that China is well on its way to becoming “a formidable military power.” Why is it, then, in the face of this rise to Pacific dominance by the Red Chinese, that an appeasing U.S. Administration is so willing to seemingly roll over and play dead-in-the-water? As Admiral Moorer says, “There’s more to this than meets the eye.”

Over 20 years ago, the eminent Panama Canal authority, Dr. Donald M. Dozer, declared, “Upon the defense of the Canal Zone by the United States depends the fate of the Canal. Upon the

*continued on page 12*



# STEALING FROM GOD

*“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”*

—Malachi 3:8

**A**PRIL 7, 1974, THE DOORS WERE FLUNG OPEN FOR the new Ambassador Auditorium’s first concert: Carlo Maria Giulini conducting the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

The Auditorium had been the talk of the Worldwide Church of God for years. It was 13 years before—January of 1961—that WCG founder Herbert W. Armstrong was inspired with a plan to build “a house for God.” The Auditorium project became a priority, and Mr. Armstrong updated the church members on its progress regularly. They zealously contributed to a special building fund, over and above regular tithes and offerings that Mr. Armstrong felt should be used for preaching the gospel only. As time went on, drawings, pictures of models, and then of the ongoing stages of construction appeared in church publications. Finally it was finished, and its glittering inauguration brought a host of dignitaries from several countries.

The Auditorium brought world renown to Pasadena as it became a beacon of excellence in the performing arts. It also became a symbol of Mr. Armstrong’s 57-year ministry: a work that was built on the principle of GIVE. Virtually everything the WCG produced was offered freely to the world, and, like the Auditorium, supported by the tithes and freewill offerings of the WCG members. Before Mr. Armstrong died on January 16, 1986, there were more than 100,000 members. Millions regularly tuned in to hear him on television each week. Eight million people subscribed to *The Plain Truth*, the flagship magazine of the church. Thousands of young people graduated from one of three colleges Mr. Armstrong raised

up. His Ambassador Foundation conducted cultural, humanitarian, charitable and educational activities for international projects. He spoke with hundreds of world leaders as an unofficial ambassador for world peace.

But in the 13 years since his death, politics of destruction have reigned in the Worldwide Church of God. When the new administration took over in 1986, they immediately began making changes—administratively and doctrinally (see “The Agenda,” next page). Here are the fruits of this transformation: More than 60 percent of church membership have either left the church disgruntled or were excommunicated for resisting change. *The Plain Truth’s* 8 million circulation plummeted to less than 100,000. The television program, once on 400 stations, has been canceled. Ambassador College has been completely shut down; the Ambassador Foundation and the Cultural Foundation dissolved. To many WCG members and former members, these 13 years have been gut wrenching.

And all the while, a tight-knit band of administrators at the church’s headquarters have weathered the storm: the fleeing membership, the plummeting income, the downsizing and phasing out. They can now survey the desolate landscape of a once-prosperous church they’ve destroyed.

But they can do it with a smile. Last month, on the very day Mr. Armstrong died 13 years ago, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that WCG officials had sold the Ambassador campus and church headquarters in Pasadena for more than \$100 million.

Today, the Auditorium, God’s house, awaits development as an “urban village.” And former church members gape, wondering what this small group of rebels will do with God’s money.

Joel Hilliker



I'LL BEGIN WITH MY CONCLUSION: THE transformation of the Worldwide Church of God over the past 13 years has not been based upon truth, as Joseph Tkach Jr. suggests in his 1997 book *Transformed by Truth*. The church *has* been transformed, for sure. But certainly not by truth. In his book, Tkach accuses Herbert W. Armstrong, the church's founder, of creating hooks to, in effect, capture members, like a fisherman working to snag a large-mouth bass. Yet it is Joseph Tkach who has baited the most enticing hook of all and reeled in over 50,000 members, convincing them that what they once proved to be true and right has all been a lie. Another 40,000 or so who didn't quite bite have been turned off from religion altogether. And around 20,000 former members of the Worldwide Church of God have rejected the bait and are looking for spiritual food elsewhere.

This is the behind-the-scenes story of how it all came about.

Armstrong's death, had a few curious edits not contained in the hardcover edition. Similarly, the serialization of the book in *The Plain Truth* had one especially glaring deletion. Mr. Armstrong started serialization in the July 1985 issue, and it continued through December 1986. The conspicuous omission occurs in the *Plain Truth's* July/August 1986 issue, six months after Mr. Armstrong's death. The serialization omits reference to the Philadelphia era (the era in Revelation 3 Mr. Armstrong believed the Worldwide Church was in), as well as prophecies Mr. Armstrong explained from Malachi 3:1-5 and 4:5-6; Matthew 17:10-11 and 24:14. All of these prophecies revolve around one man whom God would raise up in this end time to take His message to the world. Prior to his death, church teaching clearly identified Mr. Armstrong as that one man. Pages 289-292 of *Mystery of the Ages* indicate this, but in the serialization, the most significant statements in this section were missing.

Later that summer (1986), Joseph W. Tkach hired his son, Joseph Jr., to work at

church headquarters as assistant to the director of Church Administration. The significance of this move, as is pointed out in *Malachi's Message*, is that Tkach's son was hired by the church *after* the founder's death. He was not an old-timer.

By the end of the year, Tkach Sr. began using Matthew 28:19-20 as the church's scriptural commission instead of Matthew 24:14, the one Mr. Armstrong used in *Mystery of the Ages* and many other publications.

In January of 1987, just one year after Mr. Armstrong's death, Tkach Sr. referred to himself as an apostle. This spurious assertion, together with his decision to omit references to Mr. Armstrong's office in *Mystery of the Ages*, suggests that Tkach harbored at least some resentment over the church's adulating love for its founder.

In March of 1987, Tkach changed the church's position on healing, stating that it was not always God's will to heal. (This was something liberals tried to change in the 1970s before they were fired by Mr. Armstrong.)

Later that year, church officials released an abbreviated version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, the most popularly requested book Mr.

Armstrong ever produced (5 million requested it). Editors chopped at least 70 percent of the original copy and, as with *Mystery of the Ages*, surreptitiously altered a few key expressions and passages, watering down the message. The following year, the booklet was removed from shelves entirely, to await results of a proposed two-year review to determine whether or not its content was relevant to the church's commission and purpose.

That same year, in June of 1988, *Mystery of the Ages* was also withdrawn from literature inventories—which, in hindsight, comes as no surprise. Much of the book's fifth chapter summarizes the knowledge expounded upon in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

By the end of 1988, *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*, one of Mr. Armstrong's most popular booklets, was discontinued and replaced with *Inside the Book of Revelation*, a booklet that spoke more in generic terms and less about end-time prophecy.

To be fair, at that point in time, most people in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) did not notice that the church was embarking on an unprecedented shift away from its relatively unorthodox roots. There are two reasons for this. First, it is not in man's nature to detect warning signs. There is an occasional exception, like Churchill or Lincoln. But for the most part, the masses drift along, not fully realizing what is taking place until it becomes absolutely obvious. Church members back in the late '80s did not see the writing on the wall. Secondly, making matters worse, the new WCG administration clandestinely worked to *conceal* changes from the membership. This is well documented, as we shall see. And if that wasn't deceitful enough, when called on the carpet by those who knew what was going on, church officials obstinately played dumb: "Changes? What changes?"

### The Cover Up

In January of 1989, the WCG finally announced *Mystery of the Ages's* discontinuation in the *Pastor General's Report*, a bi-weekly newsletter sent to church ministers. Larry Salyer, director of Church Administration, wrote, "We do updates on our booklets as the need arises based on a number of criteria. Some of these include the *number of booklets* in stock, the *cost* to reproduce the projected number of booklets need-

# THE AGENDA

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

**H**ERBERT W. ARMSTRONG died on January 16, 1986. Six days previous, he wrote church members to inform them that he had appointed Joseph W. Tkach Sr. to succeed him as pastor general. (Mr. Armstrong did not, however, ordain Tkach as an apostle, the highest spiritual rank in the church.) At Mr. Armstrong's funeral, Tkach eulogized him as irreplaceable. He prayed, "There is no man who can fill his shoes, but Father, we aim to follow in his footsteps."

For a while, the church seemed to do just that. Tkach praised Mr. Armstrong's final work, *Mystery of the Ages*, saying it was his "most powerful and effective book." Mr. Armstrong considered the book's importance second to none, except the Bible. He completed it just months before he died.

But a look behind the scenes reveals rumblings of a doctrinal earthquake to eventually shake the church at its very foundation. The softbound *Mystery of the Ages*, which church officials produced around the time of Mr.

ed in inventory, the *degree of accuracy* to be corrected and the *need* for such a topic in our body of literature” (emphasis mine). He lists four reasons why updates need to be made and then uses *Mystery of the Ages* as an example, saying it “is among the most expensive pieces of literature we have recently published. We have offered this book to the public many times through the telecast, *The Plain Truth*, co-worker letters and semi-annual letters. While it is not completely accurate to say that we have saturated our audience with these offers, we have made more offers for this book and have distributed it more than any other in the past four years.” All of that is part of the camouflage. *The book was expensive*, Salyer argued, *and we have pretty much saturated our audience with it anyway*. After the smoke screen, he then reveals the real reason it was discontinued: “Because *Mystery of the Ages* covers so many doctrinal subjects and is so costly to publish, obviously we want it to be *completely accurate theologically*.” He then covers a few



minor, seemingly insignificant points that need revision. But he fails to mention such doctrinal mainstays like church eras, healing, the end-time Elijah, and the United States and Britain in prophecy—all of which are covered in *Mystery of the Ages*—all of which had been either changed or watered down by this time.

So while members assumed the book would be temporarily withdrawn while the “little” errors were fixed, the changes kept coming out of Pasadena. At about the same time *Mystery of the Ages* was stopped, so was the softbound version of Mr. Armstrong’s *Autobiography*—a book you would think would take on greater significance now that its author was dead. Later in 1989, *The Plain Truth About Christmas*, another popular booklet by Mr. Armstrong, was discontinued. In September of that year, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, one Mr. Armstrong had written for use as a textbook at Ambassador College, was canceled.

By this time, a few old-timers were beginning to sit up and take note of what was happening to their church—

especially some ministers who were reading of the now steady flow of changes in the *Pastor General’s Report*. Gerald Flurry was one of those disgruntled few. Shelving *Mystery of the Ages* was the last straw for him. From that point forward, he began work on *Malachi’s Message*, a book that has since been mailed to 70,000 people revealing why the WCG was turning away from its founder’s traditions. When Joseph Tkach Jr., now director of Church Administration, heard about *Malachi’s Message*, he immediately summoned Mr. Flurry and his assistant John Amos to church headquarters in Pasadena. That night, Tkach Jr. summarily fired and excommunicated from the church both of these long-time WCG ministers. Mr. Tkach Sr. was not present.

During the course of their firing on December 7, 1989, the subject of *Mystery of the Ages* came up. Messrs. Flurry and Amos hotly defended its content, arguing that it should not have been discontinued. Tkach Jr. retaliated by suggesting that the book was “riddled with error.”

Now here is where the WCG’s unprecedented shift toward mainstream over the past 13 years is revealed as the stealthy tactics of a band of opportunists: Why do you tell the church in 1989 that *Mystery of the Ages* is expensive and has a few minor errors that need correcting while in the same year you tell two ex-ministers who disagree with its shelving that it was “riddled with error”? In *Transformed by Truth*, Tkach Jr. tries to convince readers that the WCG’s transformation innocently came about, one change after another—that there was nothing calculated about it whatsoever. The facts, however, have been preserved in numerous publications, tapes and letters. And the facts reveal that there has been nothing innocent or ingenuous about this unprecedented shift. The facts reveal that there *has* been an agenda. The following sequence of events proves that conclusively.

### Small Beginnings

If you are looking for genuine, guileless behavior in a church’s efforts, con-

sider the early days of the *Philadelphia Church of God*: Technically, the church was established the day Messrs. Flurry and Amos were fired. Nine days later, their first official service was held—December 16, 1989. There were 12 members in attendance. A financial report from that month detailed the church’s financial standing: \$88 in reserve. Yet with the money the four original families were able to contribute to the work in the first few weeks of 1990, Mr. Flurry finished *Malachi’s Message* and mailed photocopies to a few hundred WCG members. That’s how this work—which supports the magazine you are reading, which supports *The Key of David* program which airs every weekend—began less than ten years ago. And it began with one goal in mind and has not deviated from that purpose since: to follow in the footsteps of Herbert W. Armstrong, something Joseph Tkach Sr. said he would do at Mr. Armstrong’s funeral.

When *Malachi’s Message* first landed in mailboxes four years after Mr. Armstrong died, it was clear that the ripple it was causing would soon spread beyond the two regions it was mailed to initially. It was clear because those who read it and agreed with it would send in addresses of friends and family they wanted copies sent to. This, in turn, forced more WCG officials to defend where they stood with regard to Mr. Armstrong’s teachings and the foundation of the church’s beliefs.

It is at this precise juncture in the sequence of events that the WCG’s officials made many of their most serious blunders—turning many people away. Notice what Joseph Tkach Jr. wrote to Dennis Leap on April 20, 1990, in response to one of his criticisms soon after he left the WCG in support of *Malachi’s Message*: “Your first point concerned our discontinuing distribution of *Mystery of the Ages*. This book was discontinued because we have more economical ways of providing *exactly the same message* to subscribers and members. The doctrinal message of the book *is not being changed or stopped*” (emphasis mine). For Tkach Jr., this quote presents a problem. Saying the “exact same message” of the book was being disseminated four months after he told two fired ministers it was “riddled with error” is not consistent (to say the least). There was an agenda. It was this: clandestinely change church doctrines and traditions

Your first point concerned our discontinuing distribution of *Mystery of the Ages*. This book was discontinued because we have more economical ways of providing exactly the same message to subscribers and members. The doctrinal message of the book is not being changed or stopped.

Joseph Tkach Jr., personal letter,  
April 20, 1990

for as long as possible, hoping most members will bite.

Tkach Jr. wrote many other personal letters around 1990-1991, pleading with former members to reconsider their actions, insisting that there had been no real changes. Any way you look at it, these many recorded statements do not square with his comment on December 7, 1989: “riddled with error”—a statement he has not denied saying. If that be true, why the barrage of lies thereafter?

Even as Tkach Jr. and his cohorts continued insisting “no changes,” bigger changes kept coming with greater frequency. In January of 1991, the church reversed one of its cornerstone doctrines, saying that one was “born again” at baptism instead of at the resurrection, as Mr. Armstrong taught. Yet, five months after this monumental change, Dean Blackwell, a high-ranking WCG official, insisted that there was no change in the born again doctrine!

But the changes kept coming. In 1992, the WCG said the church was the kingdom of God and that there was by no means an exclusive body representing God. They introduced the new concept that it was impossible for Christ to sin, making Him out to be robot-like. They discontinued *Who or What is the Prophetic Beast?*, *Why Were You Born?*, *All About Water Baptism* and *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*, all written by Herbert Armstrong.

In 1992, the church became trinitarian; Tkach said the Ten Commandments were important, but not enough. They changed Mr. Armstrong’s long-held “salvation is a process” to “once saved, always saved.” And they discontinued another well-known booklet by Mr. Armstrong: *Why Marriage?*

By now, much like the Allies when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, people inside the church were beginning to wake up to what was going on. “Changes? What changes?” didn’t pass

muster with concerned members. So after more than six years of changes, church officials finally fessed up—*sort of*. By the end of 1992, they admitted to changes, but said it was *Mr. Armstrong* who made them while on his deathbed in 1986! That’s right. Concerning these supposed deathbed conversations with Mr. Armstrong, Tkach Sr. told church members, “When we were talking about a number of these issues, I said to Mr. Armstrong, ‘What you’re bringing up here is really heavy, heavy information. It’s a shame that we can’t tape record this and preserve it for posterity.’” Of course, no one believes this humbuggery now. But in 1992, many thousands were bamboozled into believing this conversation took place and that Mr. Armstrong would actually approve of such an unprecedented, 180-degree turn away from everything his ministry stood for.

In 1993, with the “approval” of Mr. Armstrong’s “dying instructions,” the changes kept coming. *God is not a family. He doesn’t have a body. Jesus was not the God of the Old Testament*—all of these in stark contrast to what Mr. Armstrong believed and taught.

In his book, Tkach Jr. looks upon 1994 as the watershed year for the church. That was when his father renounced Mr. Armstrong’s teachings as legalistic, Old Covenant, “nailed-to-the-cross” heresy! Consider this: After years and years of saying there were no changes, then attributing those unbelievable changes to Mr. Armstrong, Tkach Sr. and his ministers now flat out said (eight years after the fact), *WE WERE WRONG! ARMSTRONG WAS A HERETIC—A FALSE PROPHET.*

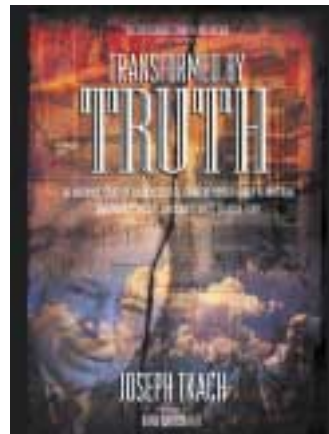
Over and over again, the facts make the many contradictions hard to explain. If there were no changes from 1986 to 1992, why were so many books and booklets discontinued? Why were so many church members disfellowshipped for believing what they had always been taught before Mr. Armstrong died? On the other hand, if WCG officials acknowledge the changes in those

early years, if Tkach Jr. said “riddled with error” in 1989, and if Mr. Armstrong told Tkach Sr. to make these many changes in 1986, why didn’t church officials immediately let the membership in on the church’s unprecedented move toward mainstream while in its early stages? Furthermore, if Mr. Armstrong taught all of these “false” doctrines for decades, but then repented of that before dying, telling Tkach Sr. to make these changes, how could the WCG refer to him as a false prophet or heretic today? At worst, wouldn’t he only be something of a reformed heretic? At best, a repentant sinner? Why take so many shots at Mr. Armstrong’s character (as Tkach Jr.

does in his book)? If he told Tkach Sr. to make all the changes, shouldn’t he be given all the credit for this unprecedented transformation?

But let’s not let all of these questions get in the way of the facts, which are these: When Mr. Armstrong died, there were those around headquarters who were definitely NOT intent on following in

his footsteps. Significant changes began the year he died! *There was no honeymoon.* As the changes increased, so did the cover-up. When that became impractical, Tkach Sr. suggested Mr. Armstrong wanted these many changes made. When the changes were complete, church officials labeled Mr. Armstrong a heretic and themselves heroes for supposedly leading a blind church out of the “dark” and into the light. That’s the agenda by which these self-congratulatory back-slappers have forced the Worldwide Church of God through unprecedented transformation. ♦



## 1998

## A Tumultuous Year Revisited

BY J. TIM THOMPSON

**T**HE ASIAN FINANCIAL MELTDOWN began in the summer of 1997 and became the world's worst financial crisis since the 1930s. Amazingly, it was completely unforeseen by leading economists and financial forecasters. What surprises are in store for 1999 if so many highly educated and thoroughly trained experts misread the signals about that magnitude-10 economic earthquake? In 1998, mankind watched spellbound as severe shocks hammered every corner of the global economy. Even after massive bailouts in excess of \$200 billion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), nation after nation still fell into severe economic slowdown and recession.

Last year, Southeast Asia became a financial ghost town overrun by towering unemployment, numbing poverty and spreading social unrest which took the lives of thousands, especially in Indonesia. Hong Kong real estate, some of the highest-priced property in the world, plummeted 46 percent in value from a year earlier as the country went into the abyss of recession. Catastrophic drops in industrial production, trade balances, stock markets and GDP (Gross Domestic Product, the total sales of all goods and services in a country) crushed the economies of countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines and Thailand.

In Latin America, the financial breakdown which ravaged Asia spread to Brazil, which spent \$30 billion in 1998 defending its currency from speculators. In spite of a \$41.5 billion IMF bailout in 1998, Brazil ended the year



**The countdown to the next millennium is now being numbered in events of 1998 have the entire world on the edge of their seats. by the precipice, which way will it go in 1999—toward**

critically wounded (perhaps fatally), along with its other economically ailing South American compadres Argentina, Chile, Columbia and Venezuela.

1998 saw commodity prices for products like oil, steel and grain go into a free fall—back to 1986 levels—which decimated commodity-driven economies like Canada, Venezuela and Mexico. According to *The Economist* magazine, sugar prices declined in 1998 by 40 percent, nickel prices fell 35 percent, merino wool decreased 30 percent, and coffee, soybeans, copper and maize saw prices erode between 18 and 20 percent. The world's largest oil producer and exporter, Saudi Arabia, reported a \$12.3 billion budget deficit for 1998 due to low oil revenues. With oil hovering in the \$10 to \$12 per barrel range, memories of the 1986 oil bust have sparked fears of a Middle East oil-related recession.

Russia defaulted on its domestic debts in 1998 as it tried to swallow capitalism and choked. This former superpower is now a dead man standing and has all but totally collapsed from the same economic phenomenon which has swept the other global emerging (and now *submerging*) markets. According to a poll in the *Economist* of January 2, for every Russian citizen who thinks the economy improved in 1998, eighteen others think their living standard worsened. While Russia's people starve and widespread lawlessness threatens the security of nuclear technology and weapons, it is shameful to note that Russia found the money to deploy ten newly designed inter-continental nuclear missiles in 1998, and expects to produce 30 more by the end of 2000.

America, the land of the free-spender, survived a gut-wrenching roller coaster ride in the autumn of

1998 as the stock market fell 20 percent and then erratically rebounded 17 percent while the country desperately fought the effects of falling exports, declining industrial production and increasing layoffs. Retailers were disappointed with less-than-expected holiday spending. However, shoppers still piled on multiple billions of dollars of consumer debt as the supposedly religious sales frenzy was driven by falling import prices at a time when U.S. manufacturers experienced an eight-year low in sales and falling profits. In spite of an estimated 3.5 percent expansion of the U.S. economy in 1998 due to rampant consumer spending, declining profits forced many companies to lay off large numbers of employees, such as Boeing Aircraft announcing the lay off of 20 percent (48,000) of their workers.

As companies around the globe reeled from financial tsunamis crashing down on them, more and more consolidated in order to raise profits and lower costs through staff reductions and other survival tactics. In 1998, merger-mania produced the world's biggest-ever year for mergers and acquisitions, reaching \$2.4 trillion—50 percent more than 1997's total. The largest in value terms (\$86.4 billion) was the union of two U.S. oil giants, Exxon and Mobil, which simultaneously announced the layoff of 9,000 workers as the worldwide oil business and oil-revenue-dependent countries staggered under basement-priced oil. More ominously, 1998 saw the gobbling up of many American firms by foreign buyers. German car maker Daimler-Benz joined Chrysler in the largest foreign takeover of an American firm (\$40.5 billion). Likewise, Germany's Deutsche Bank paid \$10 billion for Bankers Trust, America's ninth biggest bank. Germany's media giant, Bertelsmann,



JOEL HILLIKER

## mere days, and the economic As the global economy teeters stability—**or over the edge?**

bought America's Random House to become the world's largest English-language publisher.

Besides buying large chunks of corporate America, Europe also spent months testing and retesting bank computer systems and their links to domestic stock exchanges and clearing houses in preparation for the January 1 launch of their new currency, the euro, which they hope will break the dominance of the dollar. Last year, Europe also struggled under the weight of the global financial crisis, particularly due to their massive loan exposure in bankrupt Russia. Also unsettling the European picture in 1998 was a looming trade war with America, as the sound of rattling trade sabers and import tariff threats continued between the two trading giants over everything from bananas to cheese to suitcases.

Japan, the world's second-largest economy, saw itself taking a back seat to the new Eurozone, as the land of the setting sun continued its decade-long death-spiral into financial oblivion. Japan's 17 largest banks were found at the heart of the problem as they struggled under a mountain of bad loans, estimated in late 1998 to be ¥49,490 billion (\$427 billion). After an unrelenting slide from a high of 38,915 in 1989, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index closed 1998 at 13,842, less than 1,000 points above its 1998 low of 12,880. The Japanese stock market decline has meant that multiple tens of billions of investors' dollars have evaporated as corporate and personal bankruptcies escalated.

The economic events of 1998 have the entire world on the edge of their seats. As the global economy teeters by the precipice, which way will it go in 1999—toward stability—or over the edge?

# 1999

## Turning Point for World's Economy

THE YEAR BEGAN WITH A SMOOTH START for the long-anticipated European common currency as the world began playing with its new toy. In what traders called a relatively quiet day for the world's \$1.5 trillion-a-day foreign-exchange markets, the euro began its first official transactions in Asia on January 5 in the trading range of \$1.179 to \$1.182 per euro. It is interesting that the ratio is stated as so many dollars per euro instead of vice versa, thus making the euro appear as the standard by which currencies are evaluated. From its outset, it appears the euro is destined to dominate the dollar.

The *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) of January 5 quotes Rebecca Patterson, a London-based currency strategist, as saying, "While the global economy is expected to slow further in 1999, we expect one of the *larger downward revisions in growth to occur in the U.S.*" The article continues, "Two other factors weighing on the dollar will be a contraction in Latin American economies, especially Brazil, which Ms. Patterson said should 'negatively affect U.S. economic strength,' and the U.S.'s huge current-account [trade] deficit, which stands at more than \$200 billion.

"Mr. Kit Juckes at NatWest Global Financial Markets also sees the euro climbing to \$1.25 to \$1.30 in six months. But he said the dollar had 'a reasonable chance of getting to as low as 105 yen [down from 143 yen to the dollar as recently as August 28, 1998],' but that such a strong yen was unsustainable.

"Noting the dollar's fall against many currencies, [a California-based broker] said, 'I think [the dollar] could fall another 20 percent.'"

As mentioned above, a major threat to the U.S. is an economic contraction

in Brazil, the world's ninth-largest economy, which just experienced a devastating currency devaluation on January 13. This re-emergence and continuation of the global financial crisis which started 18 months ago in Thailand will hammer Brazil and other Latin American countries from Argentina to Mexico with scarcer capital from foreign investors, higher interest rates and lower or even negative growth.

How much devastation the Brazilian currency devaluation will wreak remains to be seen. Economists now expect the whole region to tip into recession in 1999, sending shock waves into other global economies, especially America. Brazil is the biggest economy in Latin America and America's 11th-largest export market. Also, U.S. banks have a loan exposure of \$18.6 billion. With U.S. manufacturers already struggling due to a severe drop-off in exports to Asia, the loss of Latin American markets, which with Mexico comprise 20 percent of U.S. exports, makes America especially vulnerable to a rising competitor which is little understood by the world.

When coupled with world news, Bible prophecy makes it clear that America will be driven into the dust by a German-led politico-religious conglomerate of nations which dominates world markets to briefly become the economic and trade center of the earth (see Rev. 13:15-17; 18:3, 11-19). To understand the identities of nations in the Bible, please request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* by the late Herbert W. Armstrong.

Because of America's declining morality, graphically illustrated by the sins of its leaders, an unrepentant America is being punished by the great God as the world turns its back on its formerly great but now arrogantly wicked lover (Jer. 30:12-15; Ezek. 7:1-10; 16:35-39).

It is vitally important that we see behind the record-setting U.S. bubble stock market with all the hype and hoopla created to keep American consumer confidence up so that mindlessly materialistic and frenzied spending continues to prop up the failing world economy. Or, as it is written in the *Financial Times* of last December 23, "Blessed then are the spendthrifts for they will save the earth."

If we sharpen our focus to peer beneath the shiny surface (Matt. 23:27),

we see a world being squeezed by deflation, with global collapse in demand for goods and services compounded by sales prices falling below the cost of producing them. Widespread financial collapse and corporate and personal bankruptcies are rising as nations, companies and individuals grasp at financial straws trying to stave off the pall of poverty which has already spread over half of the world. Deflation is here. The question now is, can global depression be far behind?

## Deflation is here. the question is, can global depression be far behind?

### 1929 Again?

A major key to understanding the direction of the global economy is seen in Japan. Some analysts expect the Japanese Nikkei stock index to plunge below its 1998 low of 12,880 to the crushing level of 10,000 or less during 1999. Japan appears unable to stop its decade-long economic fall. Major economies in irreversible decline are exactly what caused the Great Depression of the 1930s. If Japan falls, America and the world will fall with it.

The WSJ of September 10, 1998, explains Japan's dilemma by saying, "When a country suffers from recession, a common treatment involves cutting official interest rates in hopes of spurring greater borrowing, investment and consumption. That's what the Bank of Japan tried yesterday.

"But sometimes, a nation's economy and financial system are so sick that conventional links between monetary policy and economic activity are damaged. Many economists think Japan is in just such a shape now...[and] think Japan has now fallen into a 'liquidity trap,' a bind no major economy has seen since the 1930s. In that state, interest rates hover near zero, but demand remains stagnant. There is no room to cut rates more."

The January/February issue of *Foreign Affairs* put it this way: "After its 'bubble economy' burst in 1991, Japanese authorities were at first reluctant to cut interest rates for fear of re-inflating the bubble. Since 1996, however, short-term rates have been well under one percent and have now slipped to a quarter of one percent. Yet these extremely low rates were unable to pre-

vent a slide into recession, let alone reverse the stagnation that has plagued the Japanese economy since 1992. Since few economists believe that shaving the last few decimal points off interest rates would make any significant difference, Japan really is caught in a classic liquidity trap, where *zero is not low enough*....

"But ten or even five years ago, few economists would have taken seriously the possibility that Japan could be in its present predicament, and thus the emergence of liquidity traps elsewhere is no longer inconceivable.

"Indeed, in the early 1990s some economists worried that the United States might be approaching liquidity-trap territory. The recession of 1990-91, brought on by a slump in consumer spending together with financial difficulties in the banking sector, was relatively mild but hard to turn around. In order to engineer a recovery, the Federal Reserve had to cut the benchmark federal funds rate to 3 percent—more than 6 percentage points below its 1989 peak. Right now...the Fed's base rate in the United States is only 4.75 percent, while the corresponding rate in Europe is only 3 percent. In other words, an interest rate reduction on the same scale is *literally impossible*.

Nor are economic shocks that would require large interest rate cuts hard to envisage...last autumn the United States experienced a completely unexpected panic that briefly caused much of the nation's financial mechanism to seize up and had many normally optimistic observers suddenly talking about *unavoidable* recession.... Fed officials have the sense that they narrowly dodged a bullet, and that the sniper may still be out there.... Whereas two years ago it seemed inconceivable that other advanced nations could find themselves in such a liquidity trap, that kind of crisis now seems entirely conceivable—and Japan's experience shows *how hard it can be, once in such a trap, to get out again*."

According to Bible prophecy, America and Europe will be on an economic seesaw, with America going down and Europe going up. With the full view provided by combining news and prophecy, it is America which is in grave danger of an unstoppable fall over the precipice of financial ruin. Therefore, the question stands: Is 1999 the turning point for America's, and ultimately the world's, economy? ♦

## PANAMA *from page 5*

fate of the Canal depend the safety of world sea-lanes and the fate of the entire Caribbean-Gulf area. Upon these factors depend the survival of the United States as a free and independent nation and the safety and welfare of the American continents." To that we may add, *upon the survival of the U.S. as a free and independent nation depends the fate of the peacetime world!*

Western intelligence has long been aware that China's immediate goal is to dominate Asia and the region of the Pacific. This is in direct opposition to America's long-held strategic policy of preventing any Asian power from dominating the region. Flying in the face of declared Western defense goals, China has doggedly pursued its three-point plan to consolidate its interests and develop its oriental "Empire." The plan has always been to 1) take over Hong Kong, 2) assume control of neighboring Macau and 3) swallow up Taiwan.

Hong Kong, once the oriental jewel in the crown of the mighty British Empire, now bedecks the imperial crown of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Macau is to be handed over to China by the Portuguese at the end of the current year. China will then argue from a position of strength that its takeover of Taiwan, already sucked into the economic maw of the PRC, be consummated speedily by peaceful or other means. Mainland China will then dominate the trade routes of the South China Sea and threaten dominance of the Pacific.

Only two possible avenues of resistance could restrict China's dominance of the Asian-Pacific region—the prospect of an increased naval presence from Japan, or a sea-change in the present thinking of the currently appeasing U.S. Administration. The first prospect is presently limited due to ongoing restrictions on Japanese defense build-up coupled with her ailing economy. There exists no sign of the second prospect taking place. Thus, the progressive achievement of China's three-step policy for its dominance in Asia and the Pacific, added to the imminent prospect of its takeover of the Panama Canal, presents the world with an unprecedented strategic threat from the East of fearful consequence to the West.

## Living Prophecy

What we are witnessing with the shocking loss of former British-controlled Hong Kong to the PRC in 1997 and the handover of Panama from American sovereignty (declared as “in perpetuity” by treaty) to Chinese control are *two of the most dramatic fulfillments of biblical prophecy in modern times.*

Almighty God declares of Britain, “Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone. Their drink is sour: they have

which has spawned and exported a massive pornography industry around the world, the foremost of the modern nations descended from Abraham, stands roundly condemned by its God for its rank rebellion against Him. Full-well the statement of London-based columnist “Taki” is born out—the land of the free and the home of the brave has become “the land of the freebee and the home of the depraved!”

Speaking of the offspring of Israel in their final generations, God declared, “And I will break the pride of your

Relations Committee, “We are talking about the control of a strategic part of the world in our hemisphere, shortly to be controlled by the largest country on earth, Communist China.... We have dropped the ball in the Canal Zone, and *the game is almost over.*”

The storm is gathering for the nations of Israel. The loss of Panama is a mighty big nail being driven into the coffin that will carry the cadaver of Uncle Sam’s prideful vanity, unless this great nation repents of its gross rebellion against the God to whose alle-

**The pride of the nations of Britain and America was centered around the freedom of passage of their trade and their naval vessels through the great sea gates of the world. God has broken that power!**

committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye. The wind hath bound her up in her wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices” (Hos. 4:17-19).

The British ruling, governmental, and church establishment has been riven and rocked with scandal over the past decade. The Eternal God clearly cites the reason for Britain’s decline and fall as a world power—“I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord” (Hos. 5:3-4).

Of all the great sea gates *given* it by its Creator God, Britain now barely holds on to Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands and a few other scattered isles. God gave abundant blessings to Britain due to the obedience of their patriarch Abraham. God has taken away those blessings as a penalty for the rebellion of Abraham’s descendants.

America, would-be policeman to the world, operates presently under an administration caught in the midst of deep scandal. Suspicion as to the timing of the sudden December attack on Iraq holds this administration up to the most cynical of views. This nation,



Passing through Panama

DIGITAL STOCK

power.... And your strength shall be spent in vain” (Lev. 26:19-20).

The pride of the nations of Britain and America was centered around the freedom of passage of their trade and their naval vessels through the great sea gates of the world. *God has broken that power!* He is now dealing His heaviest blow against the pride of America, biblical Manasseh, by plucking the Western allies’ greatest remaining sea gate out of U.S. control and handing it to a declared enemy!

The whole world will suffer because of Israel’s sin—witness the words of Admiral Moorer in his 1978 Senate Armed Services Committee testimony: “The defense and use of the Panama Canal is wrapped inextricably with the overall global strategy of the United States and the security of the free world.” Twenty years later, Admiral Moorer declared to the Senate Foreign

giance its founding fathers bound it.

The Panama Canal is a birthright blessing, gifted by God to the United States of America, purchased by its taxpayers’ money and granted under treaty to her “in perpetuity.” It is a vital and necessary territorial possession which has not only ensured America’s security but has guaranteed the free trade of world goods between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans for the past 84 years. If America’s leaders refuse to be warned of the foolishness of their actions in yielding up this prime sea gate, they simply cast back into the face of Almighty God one of the greatest components of the national birthright blessings ever entrusted them.

As God’s word declares, “Pride goeth before destruction...” (Prov. 16:18). It’s time for America to wake up, for as Admiral Moorer has declared, “The game is almost over”! ♦

◆ EUROPE

## Federal Europe

Following an impressively smooth, strong debut in foreign exchange markets, the euro has confidently assumed its role as the “other” currency of choice for traders and investors. On the first day of trading, the dollar fell to a three-month low against the Japanese yen as investors were drawn to the fledgling European currency. Many have speculated that it will challenge the dollar’s dominance.

The 11 Economic Monetary Union (EMU) member countries are delighted, while the U.S. is characteristically nonchalant. Asia, still struggling under the weight of the region’s financial crisis, has offered little response, with the exception of Japan, which is urgently trying to regain some of its former stature on the world financial scene, with Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi approaching Asia’s new friends in Europe with calls for acceptance into a tri-polar financial world.

So the new European bloc is showing a strong economic face. What’s next?

EMU countries, and particularly Germany at the helm (now with added clout as EU president from January to June 1999), have long envisioned much more than just a single currency. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder revealed the goal when he said: “*The euro can be a success only with greater political union.*” It is not enough to simply coordinate monetary policy” (*Reuters*, Dec. 29, 1998).

An increasing number of officials from Europe’s political ranks have begun to confirm what Herbert Armstrong

boldly taught for years during his long ministry—that a combine of European nations, bound by monetary and political union, would join with a strong religious power to form the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire shortly before the return of Jesus Christ. German Foreign Minister Gunther Verheugen



Schroeder and Verheugen: eager for political unity

echoed a chorus of other prominent voices when he recently stated, “Normally, a single currency is the final step in a process of political integration. This time the single currency isn’t the final step but the beginning. Inevitably it will happen” (*PA News*, Jan. 1).

◆ TECHNOLOGY

## Gearing for martial law

Y2K? The computer problem? What about it?

So far we haven’t heard much from the mainstream media about the “great computer glitch” that is calmly waiting to either ruffle or ravage us on January 1, 2000, depending on which of the few voices being raised to inform us about this problem you listen to. Overall, public interest has been blasé. But will we be shocked when 2000 rolls around?

The U.S. government certainly seems to think so. Like many other institutions, most

government agencies are making no commitment to reaching “Y2K compliancy” by 2000. “The Defense Department [for one] is reported to be *far behind* in preparations for Y2K compliancy. It is working only on mission-critical systems...” (*WorldNet Daily*, Jan. 6).

The U.S. government is preparing (not technological-ly) for the worst—widespread technological breakdown and social disorder: traffic halting; rampant rioting. The Clinton administration plans to deal with this potential chaos by establishing a framework of martial law.

For the first time since 1940, the National Guard Bureau is planning a national mobilization of troops in preparation for civil unrest resulting from Y2K. The exercise, scheduled for May 1-2, will be a mock mobilization of all 480,000 members of the National Guard in all 54 states and territories, without the use of conventional communication tools (i.e. telephone—assuming a communication-systems breakdown occurs). The National Guard



CORBIS

would be used as a national police force, in the event of emergency.

One would expect leaders to inform their citizens of anything that might have such a profound effect on them. So why is the only information on these U.S. government plans for dealing with Y2K coming from intelligence sources and officials who insist on speaking under the security of anonymity?

The U.S. government believes Y2K may result in enough of a *national disaster*

to warrant *mobilizing the entire National Guard*, yet it has failed to warn its citizens of how it may well affect them! If this government’s fears come to pass, and we are plunged unsuspecting into the tumult that Y2K and martial law would bring, won’t we *all* wish we had been warned?

◆ MIDDLE EAST

## Alliance in doubt?

“Out with the old and in with the new” seems to be the political trend in both Israel and Turkey, casting their joint military alliance into doubt.

On December 21, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s seven-party coalition collapsed when the Knesset voted overwhelmingly for early elections on May 17. The vote was a retaliation for Netanyahu’s peace policies culminating in the Wye River land-for-security accord signed in October. The 120-member parliament unanimously confirmed a “freeze” on any peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

In Turkey on January 7, old-time leftist Bulent Ecevit was charged with forming a new government just two weeks after abandoning a previous attempt. He pledged a swift end to a crisis that has unsettled Turkey’s powerful military, already worried about Islamist activism and continued national instability.

The government, the sixth since 1985, would replace that of caretaker Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, who was toppled in a parliament vote in November over allegations of corruption. On his first attempt last December, Ecevit failed to put together a coalition largely because of



resistance from conservative leader Tansu Ciller. In a surprising decision, however, Ciller belatedly pledged her support for an Ecevit-led government.

Having served as premier three times in the 1970s, Ecevit is best known for ordering the 1974 invasion of Cyprus. His interim government will serve only till April,



Ciller (left) congratulates Ecevit on his government proposal

when nationwide elections will be held. Turkey has been marked by instability since Tansu Ciller's rightist-led government fell from power in 1985. In some quarters, Ciller's support for Ecevit's interim government is seen as a temporary measure to gain a semblance of national unity before the April elections, where she stands a realistic possibility of regaining power.

This political instability in Ankara and Jerusalem has heightened fears that the future of the Israeli-Turkish military alliance could be shaky.

The close ties between Israel and overwhelmingly Moslem (but officially secular) NATO-member Turkey have worked to keep Arab states at bay in their Middle East expansion. As *The Trumpet* has repeatedly stated, a fraying of these ties could have serious consequences in the region.

Since a 1996 agreement was concluded with Israel, Turkey has been consistently at odds with Iraq, Iran, Egypt and Syria (not to mention Greece and Russia, over the

Cyprus missile crisis). Iranian radio reported that their problems with Turkey have been over "Ankara's enthusiasm for expanding its military and security relations with Israel." Back in Syria, officials in Damascus consider the military alliance to be tantamount to a coalition against them, fueling suspicion that Egypt, Syria and Iran would

unite in an alliance to counter the perceived threat.

What will happen to the Turkish-Israeli military alliance? In his book, *Turkey in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong reveals the future of today's political instability within the region. "Yes, as staggering and unbelievable as it sounds, one of the major events God points out that will bring His wrath down upon Turkey will be the delivering of thousands of British, American and possibly Israeli refugees into the hands of the 'beast' power in Central Europe when the military takeover of Palestine occurs." To find favor with the powerful European Union, Turkey will betray the peoples of the very nations that it is allied with today. Turkey is landlord to the vital Cilicia Gate—the escape route via land—as well as the major sea gate, the Bosphorus Dardanelles. The British, American and Israeli peoples will have nowhere to run (Gen. 27:41). The Turkish-Israeli alliance will end in betrayal.

Look for Turkey to stretch every diplomatic muscle to gain further acceptance within the EU. Watch Turkey's reaction to the temporarily alleviated Cyprus missile crisis—Turkey has already decided to buy Patriot missiles from the U.S. to counter this possible military threat.

Israel will continue to ally with any neighboring country

remotely friendly, as they become further politically and militarily isolated from their traditional allies.

## ◆ AMERICA

### A question of timing

"The U.S. bombings of Iraq have achieved their initial strategic purpose. They have delayed the vote to impeach President Clinton," wrote Greg Sheridan, foreign editor for *The Australian*. Caught by surprise, many world leaders expressed disdain and even disgust at what cynics concluded was fine timing on the December 1998 exercise to coincide with the U.S. President's hour of trial.

As Sheridan opines, the surprise bombing of Iraq by the U.S. "may have changed the political context in which the impeachment vote is taken.... Every president who takes a military action enjoys a surge in public support" (ibid.). Whether or not this cynical view is justified, it is at



Clinton is inspiring cynicism worldwide

least interesting to note that when the U.S. bombed Osama bin Laden's training camp in Afghanistan last August, the Administration was prepared to sacrifice the element of surprise to allow the evacuation of all U.S. civilians as far away as Pakistan to guard against reprisals.

But on this occasion, some civilian U.S. aid workers were still in Iraq, let alone surrounding Muslim countries. To consider even the remote possibility of a U.S. Administration using national security matters of the most serious import for the most questionable of political ends is an open shame.

The world has reacted. The U.S. and Britain have deeply damaged their relations with the world. Britain's standing in the eyes of a condemning European Union has suffered in the wake of this tawdry operation in the Persian Gulf.

What has it achieved of any real value to the respect of the U.S. and Britain internationally? Only further denigrating world opinion against these two brother nations. Saddam Hussein has emerged stronger in his resolve to resist the West. The key software and intelligence that drives Saddam's crazy bio-chemical weapons industry is safely locked away on floppy disks ready to continue his underground program.

The plain fact is that the U.S. and Britain are in grave error in their judgment of this petty despot. Punitive attacks on a nation acting out of tune with world peace only work on legitimate nation-states in the Western context. Iraq is not such a state. "It is a family fiefdom based on patronage and terror, and where rational governance—and thus effective deterrence—is impossible" (*The Observer*, Dec. 20, 1998).

The probability of Saddam responding rationally to these attacks is remote. The prospect of Saddam being replaced by an Iraqi leader different from one set in his own monstrous mold is even more remote. The U.S. and Britain have been plagued by Saddam Hussein's innate stubbornness and their own juvenile actions in a no-win situation in the Persian Gulf.

Is your child a gang member? "Absolutely not!" you say. Are you sure? Gang experts say many parents are in denial about their child's gang association. This article discusses our national gang problem; what we can do about it, and how you can prevent your children from falling victim to gang violence.

## Why Dick and Jane Join

BY DENNIS LEAP

JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT WE WERE safe—gang violence is making major headlines in 1999. For example, since August 1998, 12 people have been killed in an ongoing Miami gang drug turf war. Innocent bystanders have been injured. The youngest was an eight-year-old girl wounded by a stray bullet in a market owned by her family. The most violent shootouts occurred over the Christmas holiday weekend. Four men, including one police officer, were senselessly gunned down. Then, on December 29, just one day after Florida state, local Miami and federal officials announced "Operation Draw the Line," directed at ending the gang street shoot-outs, three more victims were wounded during a vicious drive-by shooting. At the time of the writing of this article, one of the wounded, an 18-year-old boy, was not expected to survive. Similar stories have also been printed for cities such as L.A. and New York. Could this kind of violence happen in your city?

For many of us, news of gang-related violence seems unreal, far off, not possible in *our town*. Yet, experts warn that gangs are active all across America. They are no longer limited to individual cities, specific races or one economic class. It appears any interested party can open the door to gang member-

ship. We must recognize that gangs have infiltrated middle- and upper-class neighborhoods. Gangs are in the suburbs. White-supremacist youth gangs are some of the most dangerous. Most gang members are heavily armed with sophisticated weapons, including machine guns, grenades, rocket launchers and military explosives. This means you and others in your community are potential victims of gang violence. Some may feel we are exaggerating, but gangs are real—and a real problem. The reality of the American gang subculture reveals a threatening sickness in our society. And the disease is spreading.

Many parents fail to recognize that their own children and teens are the most vulnerable to gang influence and gang violence. Gangs actively recruit both boys and girls. It is a part of their culture to do so. There is an alarming rise in the number of *she-gangs*.

Could your child fall under gang influence? Kids we would least expect to are joining gangs.

Experts tell us there are clear clues which indicate when a child is coming under gang influence. Many parents overlook the clues. Unfortunately, for some it has taken a real tragedy to reveal the truth about their child's gang

association. For example, police know that drive-by shootings are not acts of random violence, but pre-planned, well-organized hits. The families terrorized and dazed by bullets screaming through their living room windows have been forced to recognize their child was a gang member when their son or daughter or some other family member lay bleeding on the floor. Early detection of gang influence is your child's best protection against gang violence. Let's understand why so many of our kids are joining gangs.

### Gang Culture Popularized

Let's face it. Our society has glamorized and romanticized gangs. The publishing, film and television industries have delivered books, movies and programs year after year that have nurtured our love affair with gangs and the gang life. When you analyze the list of books, movies and TV shows produced over the last several decades, it is surprising to learn the number of western, mobster, and drug lord gang stories there are. The list is seemingly endless. Too much of this entertainment shows that a gang lifestyle of crime and violence really does pay off.

Mario Puzo's *Godfather* series, made into film by Francis Ford Coppola, has





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# Gangs

become one of the most-read and watched series about the mafia. *West Side Story* was a very popular Broadway show. One of the most favorite westerns that embellished gang life was *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. This movie, far from the truth, glorified the lives of the two thieves. In the '90s, it has been trendy to feature movies about black, inner-city gangs. Movies like *Colors* and *New Jack City* made gang life look exciting and thrilling. Several of these movies even used actual gang members as actors.

The music industry has had a big share in the popularization of gang culture. Though some feel it is on the decline, "gangsta rap" has produced millions of dollars in profit. This form of music deals with the traumas of young blacks growing up in the ghettos and underprivileged homes. Gangsta rap's explicit lyrics promote violence and cop killing, degrade women and definitely mislead young listeners. Although our free-speech society allows it, gangsta rap should have been banned. Its bad fruits can be seen within its own ranks. Two of the most popular gangsta rappers, Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls, have been brutally slain in drive-by shootings. Members of the rap music industry believe the deaths

were the result of a war between two rival gangsta rap record companies.

The clothing industry has contributed to the popularization of the gang culture by promoting gang-style clothing. Many gang uniforms are made up of extremely baggy pants, worn as low as possible on the hips, oversized shirts, sports team shirts and certain styles of athletic shoes. Gang members often wear their shoes several sizes to large. The clothing industry has consistently featured models wearing this style of clothing. Our young people, desiring to be accepted, want to wear what is popular. Many parents, not aware of some of the dangerous meaning behind the baggy clothing, willingly buy it for their teens. Some teens, not associated with gangs, have been severely beaten because of their attire—being mistaken as members of a rival gang.

Some education officials desire to return to school uniforms to help curb the violence in the school and on the playground. Their reasoning: When each child dresses the same, there is little room to show off rival factions. Here in Edmond, Okla., our local middle schools have a controlled dress code. Because of the gang problems, sports team shirts are not permitted to be worn in school.

Can't we begin to see that the popularization of gang culture makes it all the more attractive to our young people? But the reason why our kids are getting into gangs goes much deeper than pop culture.

## Filling Basic Needs

Most adults shake their heads and wonder why young people would become involved with a lifestyle that appears to be so repulsive. The reason why kids get into gangs may shock us. Police, educators and legal professionals that successfully work with gang members have come to understand that gangs provide the basic needs the child feels he is not getting: security, a sense of belonging and success. These basic

needs should be provided by the family. Kids join gangs because of our troubled families.

Most families today have both parents working. This means many children and teens are left to themselves in the after-school hours. Our kids feel alone and unprotected. We need to understand that becoming a member of a gang does not happen overnight. It is actually a slow process. But the drive for protection is one of the most compelling reasons why kids join gangs.

Mike Knox, 15-year veteran of the Houston Police Department and gang expert, writes, "Children are increasingly concerned about their safety in the community and in the school. Fear for their safety, whether the threat is real or imagined, is a legitimate concern.

Unfortunately some kids are convinced that they must seek out the protection of a street gang to survive. . . .

"Many kids have told me they got into gangs because they felt threatened at school. Rather than turn to adults for help, they turned to their peers. Some kids look for the toughest gang or the one perceived as the largest in the area. Unknowingly the kids are enlarging the problem and creating the unsafe environment from which they are seeking the protection. The theory among some students is: the bigger the gang the more protection afforded the mem-

bers. The reality is that gang membership increases the risk of violence directed toward the member. Larger gangs have more enemies; therefore the larger the gang the more likely violence will occur to its members" (*Gangsta in the House*, pp. 29-30). The number-one recruiting tool gangs use to draw new members is the offer of protection. The truth is, the new gang member enters a world of far greater violence.

## Sense of Belonging

Children and teens need to feel they belong to something bigger than themselves. This makes them feel safe and secure. Strong families provide this sense of belonging. If the family does



**Urban heroes:** Rappers Snoop Doggy Dogg and Tupac Shakur. Shakur, right, was killed in a drive-by shooting.

not provide this sense of belonging, teens will seek it elsewhere. Again, they often will go to their peers.

In November 1998, the *Chicago Tribune* featured a series on juvenile justice titled, "Killing Our Children: The Search For Justice." These articles featured personal profiles of Chicago youth living the gang lifestyle. One profile discussed the tragic story of Arnold Riggs, son of a successful blue-collar worker. Riggs, along with two other teens, was arrested and convicted for the brutal murder of another teen.

The *Tribune* reported, "Riggs and the three other teenagers lived in a mostly stable, blue-collar neighborhood. They came from families who worked and cared about their children. They were students, athletes, churchgoers. But they still ended up with a gun, and a teenager—a teenager just like them—ended up bleeding to death on the sidewalk." The families were devastated by their sons' actions. Many asked why young men like Riggs and his friends would commit such a crime. It proved to be gang related.

"The enticement of the gang wasn't the fast money to be made selling drugs," the *Tribune* continued. "Unlike their counterparts in public housing complexes, these teenagers already had most of the accessories of adolescence: the shoes, the shirts, the stereo equipment. They say they didn't need the protection either. The lure was the lifestyle. They knew guys who belonged. They learned the handshakes. They went to the meetings. It was, as Turner [one of the teens convicted with Riggs] put it, 'a pastime.'

"We were still friends and buddies," he said. "Now, we had another common bond." Even though Riggs and friends had families, they looked to a gang for a deeper bond. Another major gang recruiting tool is the promise that the gang is *family*.

Gang leaders assure new recruits that they will get closer to the gang family than with their real family. Promises of doing more fun things add icing to the cake. This is a big draw for those young people who feel alone and unattended. "Contrary to the facade," Knox writes, "there is no real sense of family. Most gang members will give up their 'homeboys' to the police, especially if it will mean an opportunity to take that person's position in the gang. Mostly, gang members are simply groups of persons better able to commit crime to-

gether than individually." It is a sad statement about our nation's family life when our young people turn to gangs for the emotional love and support they need.

### Search for Success

All human beings desire to be successful. But success does not come by instinct. It comes through education, discipline and hard work. It is a well-known fact that those who have become truly successful began their road to success at a young age, within the confines of family. The main responsibility of parents is to teach their children to be successful. Teaching and disciplining for success requires as much work and effort as it takes to learn how to be successful. Because of careers and other selfish interests, too many parents are falling short in this area. Some parents just don't take the time to ensure their child will be successful. This is

not only an American problem, it a major problem in all Western nations.

Gangs offer struggling youth the chance for success. "American street gangs are populated by persons who want to succeed and crave discipline," Knox writes.

"Most young people who join gangs say that the reason they joined was for protection, but what they respond to is the 'discipline' provided by the gang. The 'discipline' is not the same as punishment. Punishment is sometimes used as a tool for discipline but it is not discipline. Discipline is, to the gang member, being at all the parties, backing up your homies, participating in jump ins, recruiting new members and the like. Discipline is the reminding of a

READ  
THIS  
LIST!

Do you know the signs that could indicate your child is involved with a gang? You should. Here is a short list.

Has your child become suddenly secretive and aggressively rebellious?

Is your child staying out late at night or all night?

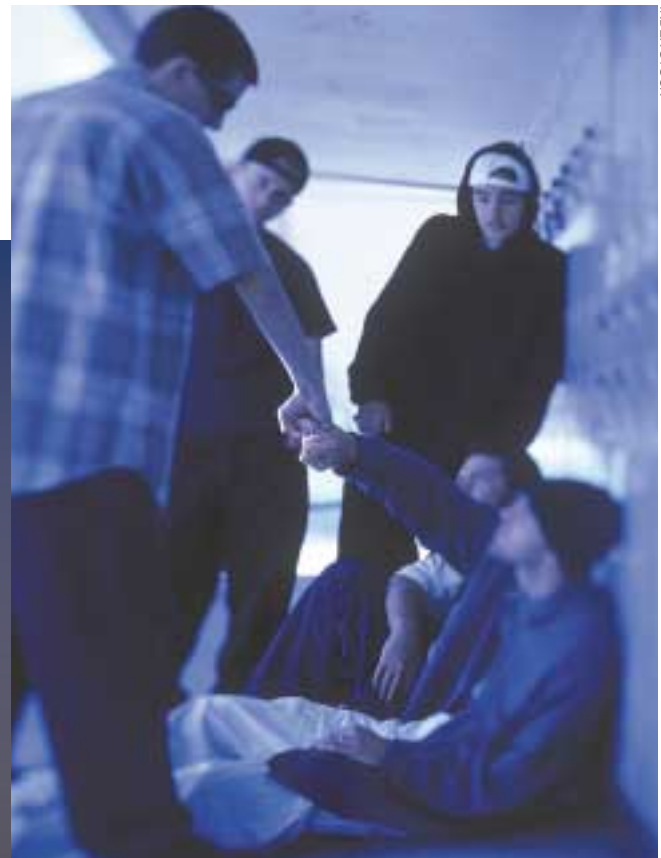
Does your child desire to wear "gangsta" clothes (oversized pants worn low on the hips, oversized shirts, oversized shoes, and neatly pressed bandanas)?

Although many non-gang kids wear the gangsta look, remember, it is a gang uniform. Even if your child is not involved with gangs, wearing this type of clothing makes your child a target either for recruitment or violence.

Does your child wear a gang symbol? Religious icons, such as rosary beads and the star of David, are used by some gangs as a symbol of membership. The Nazi swastika is the symbol of white-supremacist gangs. If your child is wearing a pair of rosary beads and you are not Catholic, you should be alarmed.

Does your child show an interest in unusual pop art or gang graffiti?

If your child exhibits interest in any of the above, you should be asking your child a lot of questions.



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“If the child has at least one parent who is well grounded, who can teach the child the value of success, the child will likely grow into a successful and responsible adult.”

—Mike Knox, *Gangsta in the House*

person where the boundaries are and requiring him to adhere to those boundaries.” Of course, the success fostered by gangs involves criminal activity and acts of violence. For those outside the gang culture, gang activities appear as success in reverse. But inside the gang, selling dope, beating a rival, murder, robbery and rape increases a member’s prestige and respect within the ranks.

What most parents fail to recognize is that children and young people need and crave discipline. Gangs have a rigid authority structure. The rules are very clear; obedience is demanded; breaking rules brings swift punishment. It is ironic that gang leaders go further than most parents are willing to today. Children need and want loving authority over their lives. That authority is expressed best through discipline.

The Bible commands all parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). *Parents*, realize: Discipline is not punishment. Discipline is first and foremost *education*. It involves establishing rules and regulations, setting boundaries and limits—such as curfews, attending school, completing homework assignments, doing household chores, getting and keeping a part-time or full-time job. Discipline requires that all infractions hold a punishment. And that punishment should match the infraction. Serious infractions deserve serious punishment.

Many parents have told me recently that they just don’t know how to discipline their children. The book of Proverbs is your best guide for discipline. Within the pages of this book are timeless words of wisdom specifically directed at children, teens and young adults. Solomon defines the purpose for this book, “To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtlety to the sim-

ple, to the young man knowledge and discretion” (Prov. 1:3-4). Parents should get to know and use this invaluable book!

Proper discipline is the only road to independence. Discipline involves obeying and respecting authority. Loving discipline lets a child know he is accepted and has value. With this understanding, most children will work hard to succeed.

#### Solving the Problem

How can we solve our nation’s gang problem? This problem did not develop overnight. There is no quick fix. If we are honest and willing to take a serious look at the problem, we must come to the conclusion that our nation’s gang problem is only part of a much bigger problem. America has lost its moral way. We have lost all sense of right and wrong. This permeates every aspect of our society, from the office of the President to the local judge. Our lack of moral focus has made us too lethargic to solve our social ills.

The Bible shows that the problem with our young will get far worse before it gets better. Prophecy reveals that these end times in which we live are to be violent times. The time will come when all human life will be threatened (Matt. 24:21-22). The Apostle Paul described our day as “perilous times” (II Tim. 3:1). Speaking of our time, Isaiah writes, “And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable” (Isa. 3:5). Children, teens and young adults are slated to contribute their share to the violence. Because of our gaping moral vacuum, it may be too late to solve our gang problem on a national scale. But it is not too late for you to do something individually. If you suspect your child is falling under gang influence, there are steps

you can take to rescue your child.

Gang experts recognize that parents play the key role in curing the crisis. The first step toward prevention is to strengthen your family life. This means taking your role as a parent seriously. Be the authority in your home. Remember, your child craves your loving guidance, attention and correction. Your child will feel safe and secure when you *properly use your authority*.

Be sure to spend ample time talking with your child. Listen carefully for problems with school and school friends. If your child feels comfortable talking with you, he will reveal dangerous confrontations at school. If your child is being threatened at school, report it immediately to school officials. Most school officials are well-educated on gang issues.

If you suspect your child is getting involved with gang activities, don’t brush your hunches aside. Some parents, caught watching their child bleed to death, admitted that they ignored the signs of their child’s gang involvement. Beware denial. Denying your child’s gang affiliation only increases the potential for far more serious activity.

If you discover that your child has become a gang member, seek the help of a proven professional immediately. You can rescue your child from gang membership, but specific steps must be taken to break the gang connection. Breaking out of a gang can be fatal for your child if not done properly.

Bible prophecy shows that there is coming a time when our society will solve the youth gang problem—finally and forever. Thankfully, Jesus Christ will return and stop all the gang violence. He will show our wonderful young people how to live successfully. Here is that prophecy: “Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If it be marvelous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvelous in mine eyes? saith the Lord of hosts” (Zech. 8:4-6). Peace is coming to America’s streets and the entire world. Christ’s Kingdom will be a marvelous time for all men, women, children and teens. We can all look forward to that day. Notice carefully, verse 6 shows that GOD DOES TOO. ♦



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# WINSTON S. CHURCHILL

# THE WATCHMAN

## PART FOUR

BY GERALD FLURRY

“ON SEPTEMBER 10 ELEANOR RATHBONE WROTE TO CHURCHILL OF HOW relieved she was that he had been to the Foreign Office, and she added: ‘There is a GREAT LONGING FOR LEADERSHIP and even those who are far apart from you in general politics realize that you are the one man who has combined full realization of the dangers of our military position with belief in collective international action against aggression. AND IF WE FAIL AGAIN NOW, WILL THERE EVER BE ANOTHER CHANCE?’” (Martin Gilbert, *Winston S. Churchill, vol. 5: Prophet of Truth*).

Some people were beginning to wonder if Britain would survive. The policy of surrender after surrender to the Nazis was taking its toll.

### Weak Leaders

There was a long period without real leadership. Some of the people were beginning to yearn for strong leaders.

Where are our strong leaders today?

How long will it be before we are longing for powerful leaders? How long will we seek leaders who will tell us “smooth things”? How much must we suffer before we change our desires? When are we going to learn from history?

On September 14, Josiah Wedgwood wrote to Churchill: “Do our folk really mean business? They seem to have seen everyone but you, and it is inconceivable to me that they should actually be facing up to war if they have

not called you in—inconceivable that we should not be disgraced without you.... Not one of these people had anything to do with the direction of the last war. THEY ARE BABIES, IF NOT COWARDS. YOU, OR GOD, WILL HAVE TO HELP IF THIS COUNTRY IS NOW TO BE SAVED” (ibid.).

The fact that Churchill was not in the government was a sign that the leaders hadn’t faced reality. But it is so easy for weak and fearful people to reason around the truth.

Were many of our leaders like *babies*? “For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the elo-

quent orator. And I will give *children* to be their princes, and *babes* shall rule over them” (Isa. 3:1-4). God even prophesied that our leaders in this end time would be like *babes*. This is an end-time prophecy (Isa. 30:8). And notice, the nation is falling apart at the same time! There isn’t even enough bread and water for the people.

This is where weak leaders take us! It can only end in the worst possible calamity! There is cause and effect. What a terrifying price to pay for following the wrong leaders.

The military men and eloquent orators like Churchill are gone today. And our leaders are making childish decisions—and childish speeches!

We are so childish that we are almost totally unaware of our lack of real leaders. *We fail to see it as a curse from God!* No great nation can survive without strong leadership. Childish leaders lack the will to face strong tyrants. Our will is broken in our leaders, exactly as God prophesied. When will we face the brutal truth about ourselves—and then repent? People who have faith in God never have a weak will.

In World War II, Britain needed a leader as bold as a lion. Instead, they were getting rabbits, and Britain continued to falter. “While Chamberlain was speaking, a message was brought in from the Foreign Office.... It was an invitation from Hitler for a four-power conference at Munich, to which Chamberlain, Daladier and Mussolini were invited. Chamberlain broke off his speech in order to announce the news. Then, amid great excitement and applause, he declared that he would accept the invitation, and fly to Munich. Most MPs rose in their seats and waved their order papers with enthusiasm. Churchill, Eden, Amery and Harold Nicolson remained seated. Those MPs near Churchill called out, as Lennox-Boyd recalled, ‘Get up! Get up!’” (ibid.).

Weak people try to force others to follow them. In this they are very strong! Their reasons are very weak because they don’t have the truth. That leads them to demonize those who oppose them. They can’t accept the truthful message, so they attack the messenger. That condition is rampant in American and British politics today.

### The Munich Surrender

Neville Chamberlain quickly and meekly responded when Hitler sum-

moned him to Munich. He went there to sign a document of shame.

The British and French had forced the Czechs into giving Hitler the Sudetenland, a vital part of their country. Winston Churchill was deeply ashamed and alarmed for his country. "How, [Churchill] asked, could honorable men with wide experience and fine records in the Great War [World War I] CONDONE A POLICY SO COWARDLY? IT WAS SORDID, SQUALID, SUB-HUMAN, AND SUICIDAL. 'The sequel to the sacrifice of honor,' Churchill warned, 'would be the sacrifice of lives, our people's lives'" (ibid.).

There is always a sequel to sacrificing honor. Churchill had the vision to see where it was leading. It often leads to war. But that wasn't all bad. It is *only* through war that the British people would ever have accepted Churchill's leadership.

"Throughout the morning the British Government urged the Czechs to accept the 'Munich' terms; at noon Benes agreed to do so. That afternoon Chamberlain flew back to London. 'Vast crowds in the streets,' Oliver Harvey recorded in his diary, 'hysterical cheers and enthusiasm'" (ibid.).

People talked of giving Chamberlain the Nobel Peace Prize. One newspaper even labeled him the "Prince of Peace."

Churchill was almost alone. Still, he was unmoved by the opposing tide.

This event led to a heated debate in the British Parliament. Here is what Churchill had to say: "I will begin by saying WHAT EVERYBODY WOULD LIKE TO IGNORE OR FORGET but which must nevertheless be stated, namely, that WE HAVE SUSTAINED A TOTAL AND UNMITIGATED DEFEAT, and that France has suffered even more than we have."

Martin Gilbert continues, "Churchill refused to accept the view that the Munich agreement was a triumph for British diplomacy, or that it would open the way, as Chamberlain believed, to a reduction of European tension, and to even closer relations between Britain and Germany. Starkly, he declared:

"WE ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A DISASTER OF THE FIRST MAGNITUDE WHICH HAS BEFALLEN GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE. Do not let us blind ourselves to that."

"All is over," Churchill continued. "Silent, mournful, abandoned, broken, Czechoslovakia recedes into the darkness. She has suffered in every respect by her association with the Western

democracies and with the League of Nations, of which she has always been an obedient servant.' ... Finally they had accepted the 'immediate transfer' of large areas to Germany without even the semblance of SELF-DETERMINATION. 'IT IS FRAUD AND A FARCE TO INVOKE THAT NAME,' he said.

"The 'abandonment and ruin' of Czechoslovakia was not, Churchill said, to be considered only in the light of the September crisis. There was a far more somber perspective in which it had to be set:

"It is the most grievous consequence which we have yet experienced of what we have done and of what we have left undone in the last five years—five years of futile good intention, five years of eager search for the line of least resistance, five years of uninterrupted retreat of British power, five years of neglect of our air defenses. Those are the features which I stand here to declare and which marked an improvident stewardship for which Great Britain and France have dearly to pay...."

"In the five days since Chamberlain's return from Munich there had been much rejoicing. ALMOST EVERY NEWSPAPER HAD BEEN ECSTATIC IN HIS PRAISE. The enthusiasm of the crowds in Downing Street seemed to have no parallel. Churchill ended his speech by referring to this public jubilation:

"I do not grudge our loyal, brave people, who were ready to do their duty no matter what the cost, who never flinched under the strain of last week—I do not grudge them the natural, spontaneous outburst of joy and relief when they learned that the hard ordeal would no longer be required of them at the moment; BUT THEY SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH.

"They should know that there has been gross neglect and deficiency in our defenses: they should know that WE HAVE SUSTAINED A DEFEAT WITHOUT A WAR, the consequences of which will travel far with us along our road; they should know that we have passed an awful milestone in our history, when the whole equilibrium of Europe has been deranged, and that the terrible words have for the time being been pronounced against the Western democracies: *Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting*" (ibid.).

This speech almost destroyed Churchill's political career. He had been kept out of office nearly ten years.

But still he played a role in Parliament. Now his own party was turning against him and most of them wanted him out.

"Press reaction to Churchill's speech was mixed. The *Daily Express* called it 'an alarmist oration by a man whose mind is soaked in the conquests of Marlborough,' and believed that his decision not to support the Government 'weakens his influence among the members of the Conservative Party.' According to *The Times*, Churchill 'treated a crowded House to prophecies which made Jeremiah appear an optimist' and went on to refer to Churchill's 'dismal sincerity.' For its part, the *Daily Telegraph* believed that Churchill's warnings 'verified by events, have entitled him to be heard...' (ibid.).

The prestigious *Times* labeled him a "Jeremiah." What they failed to do was label themselves as a type of the sinful and rebellious people Jeremiah had to deal with. But that's not all. Jeremiah's experience was only a *type* of what was prophesied to happen in this end time. So we must be familiar with Jeremiah's writings.

"The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly" (Jer. 23:20). The expression "shall consider it perfectly" should read "understand it thoroughly." God prophesied that His very elect would proclaim to America, Britain and the world the meaning of Jeremiah's book today. And so we are.

Jeremiah spoke of the worst suffering ever to come upon our peoples. But there is good news. David is about to be resurrected to rule over us, under Christ (Jer. 30:1-9). But times are about to get a lot worse before that happens.

Robert Boothby, one of Churchill's friends, was deeply agitated and worried by what Winston was doing. Churchill wrote to him: "I do not understand the agitation which seized you in these moments of what is, after all, only petty Parliamentary action. You get so distressed about these matters both at the beginning and at the end, and nearly all our friends thought you had crumpled under the strain. YOU WILL CERTAINLY LIVE TO SEE MANY WORSE THINGS THAN YOU HAVE SEEN AT PRESENT" (ibid.).

Churchill had the vision to see what was coming and warned his people, as we must do today. The trials we have



## NOT ONLY WAS CHAMBERLAIN UNWILLING to arm Britain militarily, he was afraid to even talk of rearmament!

today are petty compared to what is coming just before Christ returns!

All these events are designed to turn us to God. How soon that happens is up to us. God will either get our attention through words—or the Great Tribulation.

Churchill spelled out in precise detail what was coming. We do the same today, with God's revelation. Our peoples will be without excuse. God is showering us with His loving message at this very moment.

### Rotting Leadership

What happened at Munich in September 1938 discouraged Churchill more than ever before in his political career. But still he remained strong and kept warning—even as the British leaders kept dragging the people closer to war through weakness!

How glorious is strength—even in defeat. But there was some positive response to Churchill's speech. "The impact of Churchill's Munich speech was considerable. But Violet Bonham Carter wrote to him on October 6, as soon as it was over, 'Will it pierce the shell of those drowsy tortoises? DRAGGING US TO OUR DOOM?' That same day Emery Revesz wrote from Paris: 'Your speech in the House was grand. It made a very big impression over here on all those who can still be impressed....' Revesz added that in the Chamber everyone had voted for the Munich agreement 'in order to avoid being called a "bellicist," and he went on: "THERE WILL COME A GREAT REACTION ONE DAY IN FRANCE, BUT, OF

COURSE, TOO LATE.' Writing on October 20 Paul Reynaud declared: 'One of your colleagues, a Labor MP, told me of the very great success of your speech and the increasing importance of your position in Britain. I rejoice that this should be so.' On October 22 Churchill received a letter from Germany from an anonymous 'German citizen' who wrote: 'You have no idea of the respect which the German people hold for you, Duff Cooper, Eden and other English statesmen who defend justice'" (ibid.).

France did wake up, after it was too late. And Britain and America are also prophesied to wake up in this end time—only AFTER it's too late. The prophet Ezekiel warns, "And WHEN THIS COMETH TO PASS, (LO, IT WILL COME,) THEN SHALL THEY KNOW THAT A PROPHET HATH BEEN AMONG THEM" (Ezek. 33:33).

Britain was desperate for help. Churchill made an appeal to America. For the most part, we ignored him. "Churchill told his American listeners that only intense, rapid rearmament, and the immediate close cooperation of Britain and the United States, could redress the balance. 'We are left in no doubt where American conviction and sympathies lie,' he said, 'BUT WILL YOU WAIT UNTIL BRITISH FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE HAVE SUCCUMBED, AND THEN TAKE UP THE CAUSE, WHEN IT IS THREE-QUARTERS RUINED, YOURSELVES ALONE?'" (ibid.).

He was giving America some gentle correction, but we rejected it. Churchill knew that America was sympathetic toward Britain. But not enough to DO

anything! When war came, as Churchill predicted, then the people finally knew he was right. And when all of the prophecies of Ezekiel and other prophets come to pass, people will know God's watchman warned them. But then it will be too late physically!

Churchill and many Europeans wondered when America would take up the cause against the world's worst tyrant ever! It was not a good chapter in America's history. But what is worse, we learned virtually nothing from that time of tragic shame! Our leaders in America and Britain were leading our peoples into disaster. The leaders' weaknesses had infected the people. Only Churchill was able and willing to speak out against Hitler.

One of Churchill's friends, the conservative Duchess of Atholl, lost her election. He encouraged her not to quit, but to run as an Independent. He wrote to her: "It would be widely accepted as another sign that Great Britain is sinking under the weight of her cares, and no longer has the spirit and WILL-POWER to confront the tyrannies and cruel persecutions which have darkened this age" (ibid.).

Repeatedly, Churchill mentioned Britain's weakened or broken WILL. That process was well under way in World War II. It is far worse today. But our people refused to heed Herbert W. Armstrong's message before, during and after the War. And they continue to reject God's warning today. So God intensifies the punishment.

"And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass.... And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins" (Lev. 26:19, 21). That means God will keep putting on more intensive pressure until we repent! Our will to fight, militarily, is going to be totally broken! How much we suffer depends on how soon we repent. Read the whole chapter. God deals with us according to our own hardness.

"But Chamberlain was still reluctant to authorize any great increase in armaments, telling his Cabinet: 'There had been a good deal of talk in the country and in the press about the need for rearmament by this country. In Germany and Italy it was suspected that this rearmament was directed against them, and it was important that we should not encourage these suspi-



cions...” (ibid.).

NOT ONLY WAS CHAMBERLAIN UNWILLING TO ARM BRITAIN MILITARILY, HE WAS AFRAID TO EVEN TALK OF RE-ARMAMENT! He thought it might make the enemies more suspicious! How can you explain such a sick weakness?

Hitler gave a good evaluation of our leaders, but did anyone really learn a lesson? “On November 14 the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Policy met to discuss the effects of the Munich agreement. Halifax told the Committee that Hitler was reported as saying, ‘If I were Chamberlain I would not delay for a minute to prepare my country in the most drastic way for a total war and I would thoroughly organize it. If the English have not got universal conscription by the spring of 1939 they may consider their world empire as lost. IT IS ASTOUNDING HOW EASY THE DEMOCRACIES MAKE IT FOR US TO REACH OUR GOAL’” (ibid.).

Nobody can honestly and logically deny that Hitler was right about this. This is not God’s world. Satan rules this earth (II Cor. 4:4), and such vile leaders will continue to come on the world scene. Even now they taunt and bully our weak leaders. And it will get a lot worse since we haven’t learned from our weakness of World War II.

Those grave mistakes should have been a call to action. Instead, we continue blundering—only ten times worse today.

Robin Londonderry, a conservative member in Parliament, wrote to Churchill: “I have listened to practically all your speeches since I have been in the House AND YOUR UTTERANCES HAVE BEEN STRANGELY PROPHETIC” (ibid.).

Yet Neville Chamberlain still believed peace was coming. He wrote on February 19, 1939: “I myself, am going about with a lighter heart than I have had for many a long day. All the information I get seems to point in the direction of peace and I repeat once more that I believe we have at last got on top of the dictators” (ibid.).

### Defending Freedom

Winston Churchill always believed that free people ought to fight as much as possible against tyranny anywhere in the world. This was especially true if a freedom-loving country was being attacked by a tyrant. He thought that if you truly believed in freedom and law then you must be willing to fight to defend those precious values anywhere in

### Peace Paper:

Chamberlain presumptuously declares victory.



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“ I MYSELF, AM GOING ABOUT WITH A LIGHTER HEART than I have had for many a long day. All the information I get seems to point in the direction of peace and I repeat once more that I believe we have at last got on top of the dictators.”

the world.

Churchill, in his 1939 epic, *History of the English Speaking Peoples*, wrote, “In the main, the theme is emerging of the growth of freedom and law, of the rights of the individual, of the subordination of the State to the fundamental and moral conceptions of an ever-comprehending community. Of these ideas the English-speaking peoples were the authors, then the trustees, and *must now become the armed champions*. Thus I condemn tyranny in whatever guise and from whatever quarter it presents itself. All this of course has a *current application*.”

Britain and America were the main authors and trustees of the rights of the individual. But they were refusing to be “the armed champions.” Hitler was destroying the freedom and rights of the individual wherever he conquered, and our peoples even helped him do it by remaining silent!

Notice, Churchill said “freedom and law.” If the law does not prevail, then freedom is destroyed and the nation probably is as well. It degenerates into everyone “doing that which is right in his own eyes” (Jud. 21:25). That condition prevails today in Britain and America. Why? Because we don’t love freedom and law (specifically the Ten Commandments).

Hitler’s emergence gave a deeper meaning to those precious values, especially to Winston Churchill. But it should awaken the rest of us also. Today our peoples don’t understand those unparalleled blessings and how to maintain them.

“Churchill went on to say he supported the Government’s present policies and the Military Training Bill because the situation was too dangerous to hold an election to endorse the change of policy, and he went on to warn that if compulsory service were rejected, ‘the whole resistance of Europe to Nazi domination would collapse. All countries great and small alike would make the best terms they could with the Nazi Power and we should be left alone with our great possessions to settle up with the dictators ourselves.’

“Churchill then asked of the introduction of conscription [mandatory military service] in peacetime, ‘Is this peace?’ and went on to answer his own question:

“‘We have had three disastrous campaigns, and the battles, the actions of the war, have gone not only against us but against the principles of law and freedom, against the interests of the peaceful and progressive democracies. Those battles already make a long catalogue—the Rhineland, Abyssinia, Austria, Munich, Prague and Albania...and Spain. We are all, then, agreed that circumstances are analogous to war actually prevailing’” (ibid.).

He understood the deep psychology behind these events. Nations were being enslaved, and other nations were so fearful that their politicians and the media were often silenced about saying anything against Hitler! It was not true peace for most of Europe, but fearful leaders called it that. If we truly love freedom, we are not going to throw a

freedom-loving nation to the wolves! Our actions reveal whether or not we truly believe in freedom.

Again, we didn't learn the big lessons about Hitler and freedom from World War II.

Hitler had now conquered all of Czechoslovakia and then denounced a Germany-Poland non-aggression pact of 1934. The danger kept intensifying.

Freedom was being squelched all over Europe. "In Greece, since the Italian occupation of Albania, and despite the British guarantee to Greece, 'no article criticizing fascism or nazism has been allowed to be published' and articles by Churchill, Eden, Attlee, Duff Cooper and Wickham Steed had all been prohibited. Churchill sent a copy of Revesz's letter to Sir Alexander Cadogan at the Foreign Office. The growing German control of the press in neutral countries, was, he wrote in his covering letter, 'a serious matter,' and on May 8 he wrote direct to Revesz: 'I am indeed sorry to hear that the net is closing round our activities, THROUGH FEAR OF GERMANY'" (ibid.).

Even the neutral nations were now afraid to speak out against Hitler and Mussolini. More and more, they were allying themselves with fascism.

One strong, tyrant nation, if unchecked, destroys freedom.

### Where Are the Leaders?

What Churchill did *before* World War II should be deeply remembered, even more than what he did during the war. That is because we must be better prepared than we were in World War II or we won't survive a nuclear attack.

Before World War II some people began to see Churchill's value to Britain and the whole world. But today we live in good times and *forget* what he did and its importance to us.

He was a watchman used by God to help save the Western world. But Churchill's *example* then WAS ALSO INTENDED TO BE A WARNING FOR US TODAY! What value is a watchman if we forget his message? God will not send another Churchill—but He is sending a spiritual watchman to help US REMEMBER.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of *remembrance* was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name" (Mal. 3:16). We are to remember what God taught us in the past, whether it was

through a Churchill or an end-time Elijah, Herbert W. Armstrong (Mal. 4:5-6).

Human nature tends toward catastrophe, which is why we must *remember*. In this nuclear age, HUMAN SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE.

In 1939, Churchill began to have a nightmarish fear. "As the summer progressed, *Churchill became increasingly worried about the sense of defeatism and despair which he began to feel around him*. At dinner on June 14, when he found himself sitting next to the American columnist Walter Lippmann he was shocked to learn from Lippmann that the United States Ambassador, Joseph Kennedy, was telling his friends that when war came Britain, facing DEFEAT, would negotiate with Hitler. Harold Nicolson, who was present at the dinner, recalled that the moment Churchill heard the word 'DEFEAT' he turned to Lippmann and declared:

"No, the Ambassador should not have spoken so, Mr. Lippman; HE SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT DREADFUL WORD. Yet supposing (as I do not for one moment suppose) that Mr. Kennedy were correct in his tragic utterance, then I for one would willingly lay down my life in combat, rather than, in fear of defeat, surrender to the menaces of these most sinister men. It will then be for you, for the Americans, to preserve and to maintain the great heritage of the English-speaking peoples" (ibid.).

The word "defeat" was a dreadful word to Churchill, and yet today America has forced the little Middle Eastern nation of Israel to give back all the land they have won after being repeatedly attacked by the Arabs from 1967 to today. And we have made Israel look like the evil party for resisting some of our pressure! How sick and upside down! It doesn't take a genius to know that the Arabs must one day win. They can't lose every battle. But even when they lose, Israel must return the conquered territory. It is a defeatist policy destined to fail! This is a philosophy of weakness, surrender and defeat, and it would have been abhorrent to Churchill.

Clearly, our leaders in politics, education and the press were wrong in the 1930s about Germany. Our peoples are even weaker and more anti-God today. Still, they continue to follow our leaders in their defeatist policies.

Churchill feared that his people were

slipping into a dangerous defeatist attitude. At the same time, he warned them that, when dealing with a tyrant like Hitler, the only argument that counts is *force*.

### Parliament on Vacation

What happened next was a massive lesson of the childlike leaders Britain had in Parliament. "In discussing the Government's policy, Churchill told Spears that Chamberlain's decision to adjourn Parliament from August 4 to October 3 was a grave error of judgment, which could only encourage the Germans to believe that Britain would not take decisive action when the crisis came, and would also convince the Russians that Britain was not in earnest about an alliance. Churchill had decided to speak against this two-month adjournment, and read Spears a draft of the speech which he intended to deliver on August 2, asking for Parliament to be recalled on August 22 or 25....

"This is an odd moment for the House to declare that it will go on a two months' holiday.... Is this, then,' he asked, 'the moment that we should separate and declare that we separate until the 3rd October? Who can doubt that there is going to be a supreme trial of will power, if not indeed a supreme trial of arms.' He added:

"At this moment in its long history, it would be disastrous, it would be pathetic, it would be shameful for the House of Commons to write itself off as an effective and potent factor in the situation, or reduce whatever strength it can offer to the firm front which the nation will make against aggression."

Churchill then concluded, "It is a very hard thing, and I hope it will not be said, for the Government to say to the House, 'Begone! Run off and play. Take your masks with you. Do not worry about public affairs'" (ibid.).

Churchill kept coming back to the "British national WILL and an instrument of that WILL" and "a supreme trial of will power." Let me repeat that God prophesied that our will to use our military power would be broken in this end time (Lev. 26:19). Our will was being broken even then because of sin, and it is much worse today.

When are we going to awaken?

On August 8, in a 15-minute broadcast to the United States, Churchill said, "Holiday time, ladies and gentlemen! Holiday time, my friends across the Atlantic! Holiday time, when the

summer calls the toilers of all countries for an all-too-brief spell from the offices and mills and stiff routine of daily life and bread-wining, and sends them to seek if not rest, at least change in new surroundings, to return refreshed and keep the myriad wheels of civilized society on the move.

“Let me look back—let me see. How did we spend our summer holidays 25 years ago? Why, those were the very days when the German advance guards were breaking into Belgium and trampling down its people on their march towards Paris! Those were the days when Prussian militarism was—to quote its own phrase—‘hacking its way through the small, weak, neighbor country’ whose neutrality and independence they had sworn not merely to respect but to defend.”

Martin Gilbert writes, “As to the hush that he had said was ‘hanging over Europe,’ what kind of a hush was it, he asked, and answered his own question:

“Alas! it is the hush of suspense, and in many lands it is the hush of fear. Listen! No, listen carefully; I think I hear something—yes, there it was quite clear. Don’t you hear it? It is the tramp of armies crunching the gravel of the parade-grounds, splashing through rain-soaked fields, the tramp of two million German soldiers and more than a million Italians—“going on maneuvers”—yes, only on maneuvers!

“Of course it’s only maneuvers—just like last year. After all, the dictators must train their soldiers. They could scarcely do less in common prudence, when *the Danes, the Dutch, the Swiss, the Albanians—and of course the Jews—may leap out upon them at any moment and rob them of their living-space, and make them sign another paper to say who began it.*

“Besides these German and Italian armies may have another work of liberation to perform. It was only last year they LIBERATED AUSTRIA FROM THE HORRORS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. It was only in March they FREED THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC FROM THE MISERY OF INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE. It is only two years ago



**“DEFEAT’... HE SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT dreadful word.... I for one would willingly lay down my life in combat, rather than, in fear of defeat, surrender to the menaces of these most sinister men.”**

that Signor Mussolini gave the ancient kingdom of Abyssinia its Magna Charta. It is only two months ago that little Albania got its writ of Habeas Corpus....

“No wonder the armies are tramping on when there is so much liberation to be done, and no wonder there is a HUSH AMONG ALL THE NEIGHBORS OF GERMANY AND ITALY WHILE THEY ARE WONDERING WHICH ONE IS GOING TO BE “LIBERATED” NEXT” (ibid.).

Many of his prominent friends were still calling him a warmonger.

Here is what happened ten days before world war was declared by Britain. “On August 23, Churchill returned to London. The news that greeted him was of an impending agreement between Germany and the Soviet Union. On the following day the *Daily Mirror* published his article, ‘At the Eleventh Hour!’ In view of the Soviet-German ‘intrigue,’ he wrote, it was becoming ‘increasingly difficult to see how war can be averted.... Events are moving forward from every quarter and along all roads to catastrophe. The German military preparations have already reached a point where action on the greatest scale is possible at any moment.’

“That evening Archibald Sinclair telephoned Churchill to find out his reaction to the Nazi-Soviet agreement. ‘The latter has just returned from Paris,’ Harold Nicolson recorded in his diary, ‘AND IS IN HIGH FETTER. THE FRENCH ARE NOT AT ALL PERTURBED BY THE RUSSO-GERMAN PACT’” (ibid.).

There were signs galore of a coming war, but the British and French leaders kept ignoring them. Again, what a fulfilling of the prophecy about “children ruling over them.” The leaders were hiding from the danger as they vacationed. If ever there was a time not to go on vacation, this was it!

On September 1, Germany marched into Poland. The English Parliament was on vacation! But they had been on vacation for most of a decade as far as their duty was concerned.

Although Britain declared war on September 3, Neville Chamberlain still

believed he might negotiate peace with Hitler! “Were German troops to withdraw, Chamberlain added, ‘the way would be open to discussions’ between Germany and Poland, a discussion with which the British Government would be ‘willing to be associated.’ Leopold Amery recalled in his memoirs:

“THE HOUSE WAS AGHAST. For two whole days the wretched Poles had been bombed and massacred, and we were still considering within what time-limit Hitler should be invited to tell us whether he felt like relinquishing his prey!” (ibid.).

War quickly puts people’s views into a proper perspective. Many people now had to see and admit that Winston Churchill was right.

### A Final Warning

After the war, Churchill gave a final warning to all of us. “Mankind has never been in this position before. Without having improved appreciably in virtue or enjoying wiser guidance, it has got into its hands for the first time the tools by which it can unfailingly accomplish its own extermination. That is the point in human destinies to which all the glories and toils of men have at last led them. They would do well to pause and ponder upon their new responsibilities.

“Death stands at attention, obedient, expectant, ready to serve, ready to shear away the peoples en masse, ready, if called on, to pulverize, without hope of repair, what is left of civilization. He awaits only the word of command. He awaits it from a frail bewildered being, long his victim, now—for one occasion only—his Master.”

If we don’t heed Churchill’s warnings before and after World War II, a nuclear war will quickly put everything into perspective. But what a terrifying tragedy if we fail to heed.

Churchill said the people then were living in a “fool’s paradise.” Today our fantasy world is far more distorted.

We are living in the time of the lion’s roar, but don’t realize it! (Amos 3:7-8). Christ has warned us again about a coming nuclear holocaust (Matt. 24:21-22). But even if we don’t heed, Christ will intervene to prevent us from destroying every human being.

We can heed this warning and avoid the worst suffering ever on planet earth. Each one of us must choose. The consequences of that choice are truly monumental! ♦

# Sitting ducks

Yohanan Ramati on Israel's uncomfortable position

◆ **Yohanan Ramati** chairs the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense. Ramati graduated from Oxford University and was a captain in the British Army before immigrating to Israel in 1949, shortly after it became a state. He worked on the editorial staff for the *Jerusalem Post*, contributing articles soon after arriving in Israel. From 1959 to 1968, he served as an executive for the Jerusalem Municipality, first representing the Labor Party, then Teddy Kollek's Rafi Party. In 1968, he joined the conservative Likud party. In 1987, Ramati founded the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defense to alert the West of the increasing militancy of Islam. Each month, the Institute publishes a 12-page bulletin on the Moslem world, taken from Moslem publications. In addition, Ramati produces a quarterly bulletin addressing the dangers facing the world.



## A TRUMPET INTERVIEW

**TRUMPET:** Last October's Wye River accord between the Israelis and the Palestinians was essentially a land-for-peace agreement. President Clinton called it "a stepping stone toward broader Middle East Peace." Why do you feel Israel's only hope for survival is the *breakdown* of the peace talks?

**RAMATI:** What does [Clinton] mean by that?... United States policy is that we should cede the Golan Heights to Syria, which is an admittedly terrorist state; regarded by the United States as a terrorist state....

**TRUMPET:** Why is it so critical for the Golan Heights, or the West Bank, for that matter, to remain in Israel's possession?

**RAMATI:** We need to be in a position, in a war that is conducted by conventional means, first of all, to have a deterrent which prevents them from starting a war. Deterrence means, first and foremost, to have the Golan

Heights. The Syrians are afraid to attack us because we are sitting there, and we are 40 miles from Damascus, holding the high ground and holding the watershed. We know what is happening over there; they do not know what is happening in Israel. The moment they get even half of the Golan, including Mt. Hermon and all those mountains, the situation will be reversed. If they get the whole of the Golan, they will be sitting on top of eastern Galilee; and the Golan contains 40 percent of our water resources—we are going to be dependent, for our water, on Syria....

**TRUMPET:** You said that the West, and particularly the United States, has had pro-Muslim policies from World War II on. Could you elaborate on that?

**RAMATI:** Indonesia occupied the Christian island of East Timor. When the Portuguese gave it up, East Timor wanted independence—they had no desire to be part of Indonesia, it wasn't part of Indonesia. Indonesia [a Muslim state] occupied it, annexed it, and nothing was done about it in the West; nobody cared.

In the dispute between Pakistan and India, Western sympathy has been all along with Pakistan, although Pakistan has been encouraging Islamic terrorists—Islamic terrorist bases near the Afghanistan border, which promote

terrorism, not only against Israel, but against Egypt of all countries, and also the West.

There was an attempt by Christians in Biafra, in southern Nigeria, to get self-determination, between 1967 and 1970. The West didn't lift a finger to help them. Self-determination does not apply when Christians want it, it applies only when Muslims want it.

The outstanding example is Lebanon. Lebanon was created to be a Christian state. There was a Christian majority there and a Christian power structure there. But there is no oil in Lebanon. In 1976, Syria invaded Lebanon. Nothing was done to expel Syria from Lebanon. Syria said it had come to make peace between rival factions in Lebanon, between the Muslims and the Christians. It was a good excuse. They came in to destroy the Christian power structure in Lebanon, and they did so. And Christians have been emigrating from Lebanon ever since,

which is why now they are not a majority there. Another reason why they are not a majority there is because of the Palestinians who are there, who are not Lebanese citizens.

So nothing was done to expel the Syrians. Nothing was done when the Syrians arranged the killing of 241 [U.S.] marines in Beirut. There was an American peace force there and a French and Italian one. The Syrians wanted them out because they saw them as a threat to their control of Lebanon. They arranged for the killing, first, of the president of Lebanon, who was pro-Israeli, and Christian; then 241 marines; before that they had blown up the American Embassy in Beirut. And what happened? [America] didn't threaten them like they're threatening the Serbs in Kosovo now. Because they were the Muslims. [The U.S. does not] threaten Muslims. You do threaten them when they're in Iraq, because they occupied Kuwait, which was an oil interest of yours, and Kuwait was a Muslim country too. You did stage operations against Bin Ladin after he blew up your embassies.... But you have never threatened a Muslim state—except Iraq, in the case of Kuwait; and that's an intra-Muslim dispute. It was not a dispute with a Christian country.... You did nothing against the Syrians when they attacked your people

and killed them, not there and not in Dhahran. And you still want us to give territory to Syria? There is something very, very wrong here.

My daughter was killed in the explosion in Buenos Aires, at the Israeli Embassy; she was working there. I know that the Syrians were responsible. So do most of the Argentinian people. It's being blamed on Iran, and because it's being blamed on Iran they will never find out who did it. And they don't want to hear that, of course. So, you're protecting the Syrians. Don't ask me why you're protecting the Syrians. You're protecting a state which you call a terrorist state.

**TRUMPET:** What about America's involvement in Yugoslavia?

**RAMATI:** A couple of months ago, it was reported that over 50 Serb civilians were massacred by Albanians, of the Kosovo Liberation Army, in two villages in Kosovo—Serb civilians. They were massacred; they were mutilated. There is an American ambassador, called Christopher Hill, who was sent there. He admitted this. He admitted it. But the thing was not publicized all over the world. There were no threats against the Albanians, that they would be bombed. And thereafter, charges were made that there were some Serb massacres of Albanians.

**TRUMPET:** And that was publicized?

**RAMATI:** And how it was publicized. It was not only publicized, it was made an excuse for interfering with the sovereignty of Serbia—Kosovo is an integral part of Serbia. Kosovo is not something that Serbia has occupied by armed force; it's been part of Serbia for hundreds of years, and didn't always have an Albanian majority—the Albanian majority is a matter of the last hundred years.... And what is Albania? Albania is in a state of complete anarchy; it trades in drugs; it is the most lawless state in Europe. Its rights have to be protected, the rights of ethnic Albanians have to be protected in Kosovo. The rights of the Bosnian Serbs have to be protected in Bosnia-Herzegovina.... The Muslim interest in Bosnia was certainly the United States' interest; don't ask me why.

**TRUMPET:** You have said in your publication that the most crucial factor to Hitler's aggressiveness was the West's lack of "political courage." As you consider the dangers facing Western civilization today, do you see

any political courage out there that might bring solutions to some of these problems we face?

**RAMATI:** Not today, I don't. Look, I see the kind of leadership, the kind of idealism, that has always, in history, carried nations, eventually, to victory—I see that in one place only, among the Muslim states.

**TRUMPET:** Why is that?

**RAMATI:** First of all, because they have an aggressive religion; they have a religion that believes in aggression; they have a religion that believes in extending territorial rule over non-Muslim people....

[I have written about the] ideological confusion in the West. What do I mean by that? We talk on the one hand about promoting democracy. You haven't promoted democracy anywhere. All you have promoted are Moslem states, which are, by definition, dictatorships—all of them. There isn't a democracy among them.... What sort of an ideology can this sort of thing produce, when faced with a Moslem world which believes that the highest value is not peace, but land?... We cannot buy the friendship of the Arab states. And it doesn't matter how much they gain from us. And you can't buy that, you can't buy that. Because that is not what matters most to them. What matters most to them is to extend Islam, by any available means. And Islam is the only growing religion in the world today. Christianity is not, Judaism is certainly not. Islam is extending everywhere, it is expanding everywhere, including in the United States and Western Europe. And you're supporting this; you're supporting this in the Balkans, in Europe.

**TRUMPET:** Let us ask you about Israel's relationship with Turkey. How significant is this relationship to Israel's security?

**RAMATI:** It's critical to Israel's security at this moment.... The West kept Turkey out of the EEC [European Union], for reasons I cannot understand. It was a factor which is directly responsible for the rise of the Islamic Welfare Party in Turkey. [The West] didn't understand that if they wanted to maintain a secular regime in Turkey, if they wanted to maintain a pro-Western regime in Turkey—because an Islam regime is going to be anti-Western—they had to put Turkey into the EEC when Turkey asked for it. And to have

Turkey in NATO and not have it in the EEC is a slap in the face.

Now...the Syrians have been promoting Turkish terrorism inside Turkey. You've heard, probably, of the PKK. The PKK is a terrorist organization, an anti-Turkish terrorist organization, operating out of Syrian and Lebanese bases. The Turks realize that we are a factor that can neutralize Syria, for as long as we have the Golan Heights; they make that very, very clear. For as long as we have the Golan Heights—for as long as we are a military threat to Syria—we are of some use to Turkey, especially if we have leaders who are sufficiently courageous to side with Turkey when the chips are down.

**TRUMPET:** What happens if that relationship is ever severed?

**RAMATI:** ...Why does Egypt, for instance, attack this alliance so much? Because they realize they cannot attack us for as long as this alliance exists. Why else should it matter so much to them? They know that for as long as this alliance exists, if Syria and Egypt attack us simultaneously, the Turks may attack the Syrians—and then the Turks are stronger than the Syrians—and we would be able to deal with Egypt alone, and then it's not quite certain what the result would be; I don't want to say that it is certain what the result would be, but we have a lot better chance.

**TRUMPET:** The U.S. House of Representatives has produced a document saying the Arabs believe Israel doesn't necessarily have the will to fight another war, or to continue this ongoing battle with the Arabs. Do you agree with that assessment? If there were to be another conflict in the Middle East, do you think Israel could muster enough will to fight? They certainly have the means, but do they have the will?

**RAMATI:** This is the most difficult question you've posed to me this evening. I hope, yes. I hope, yes.... Now, also there are some discouraging things. Rabin and Peres said at one point—and when I heard this I nearly jumped out of my skin—they said... that Israel cannot afford to fight another war because there will be too many casualties in Tel-Aviv. And when I heard that comment, I commented to some of my friends that the country which is not ready to have 10,000 dead in Tel-Aviv in order to win a war has no

*continued on next page*

# RAMATI *from page 27*

right to exist.... I think war—rather than to surrender to Arab demands—is worth it for Israel—providing we can win.

**TRUMPET:** Do you think Israel has the will to win?

**RAMATI:** I'm not going to give you a definite answer. I can only express the hope that, yes.

**TRUMPET:** What do you see for the future? Do you predict that there will be another war in the Middle East?

**RAMATI:** Look, I am very much afraid that in the West, "Middle East peace" is a euphemism for us giving territory to the Arabs. They don't really mean peace, they don't even think it is going to be peace. They want us to give territory to the Arabs. They don't care if there's going to be peace. They care how much profit they're going to make in the Gulf....

I don't think peace between Israel and the Arabs is on the cards, except under one condition. I don't think that a contractual peace, based on land-for-peace, has any chance at all, even assuming it can be signed....

But, to maintain a Jewish state in the Middle East, which is anathema to the Arabs, the one thing you need is a balance of power. You need them to be afraid of us, not us to be afraid of them. That is the key. They've got to be more afraid of us than we are of them, and then there is likely to be peace....

There will be a war in the Middle East—especially if there is a peace treaty. Even more especially if there is a peace treaty with Syria. It will not take very long either, because we will be totally indefensible if there is a peace treaty with Syria, on Syrian terms—and there will not be one on other terms. We will be indefensible, and if you're indefensible, you're more likely, not less likely, to be attacked. And the evaluation in the Arab states will be that the West will not come to our assistance, because of the West's economic interest in the Arab states. And my evaluation also, is that the West will not come to our assistance....

I hope that if there is going to be a war, it will come at a time when we can still defend ourselves—because then we will have the guts, probably, to defend ourselves. If it comes at a time when it is obvious we cannot defend ourselves, God help us. ♦



## Facing the Dragon

«Thank you for the *Trumpet*. It is highly educative on issues involving world events. I dare to recommend it to all seekers of truth.»

*Lagos, Nigeria*

YOUR JANUARY ISSUE SHOULD BE IN THE homes of all Americans. I have never seen such a mind-awakening or -reminding 28 pages of relevant truth set forth in such a small package. Oh, if only each member of Congress could receive such a dynamite magazine of such vast importance! Man has such a weak memory of facts and history-making events, to his own detriment! Gerald Flurry is to be highly commended for the articles furnished in this issue. "Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman" and "Croatia Reveals the Rising Beast" were thought-provoking and served to awaken our own minds to facts we had stored away but not often "pulled up." To keep ever mindful of our past should help us handle the present. The entire magazine is priceless—the update on China, the article on "Consumer Trade Wars," the excellent one on "The Trouble Behind TV," all of the write-ups under the *World News Watch*, make up a periodical of priceless value.

*Atlanta, Ga.*

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR MAGAZINE FOR A long time and I read it all. It sure is informative. I'm very impressed with the issue, "Facing the Dragon." The article on "Consumer Trade Wars" gives a lot of information, and the article on TV is just great—I don't even turn my TV on anymore; I'd rather read and study God's word.

*Snohomish, Wash.*

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE publisher and the editor in chief and his entire staff of the *Trumpet* for the publication of this magazine. It is educative because it coordinates well the Bible prophecies and the current affairs.

*Karonga, Malawi*

THE WORLD SEEMS TO BE DEVOID OF A strong pragmatic leadership. The problem I am aware is not peculiar to America; but so much of Western Europe is equally guilty. Recent events with your leadership [the U.S.] show a wanton disregard for the marriage vows. Just why is

this allowed to continue in a country that seeks to claim leadership of the free world?

*Solihull, England*

## Impressed with the quality

AS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF Oklahoma's School of Journalism, I am exceedingly impressed with the quality of your magazine. The articles in the *Trumpet* are superb; they often "scoop" the major newsmagazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek!* Your international stories are consistently more accurate than, for example, CNN's foreign reporting. I'm sure the *Trumpet* is more honest.

*Healdton, Okla.*

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS MY PROFOUND gratitude to each and all of you for the *Trumpet*. The insight and clarity of its many editors and contributors is an increasingly rare commodity in this day and age. I know of only *one* secular publication that comes close to the *Trumpet* in clarity and insight.

*Norwalk, Conn.*

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR MY ISSUE OF THE *Trumpet*. I find it very informative and accurate, and look forward to receiving my next issue. I find it very vital to my growth.

*Burgin, Ky.*

The Philadelphia  
**Trumpet**

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

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JOEL HILLIKER

# The Deepest Wound

Everybody's doing it

IT WAS THE YEAR'S TOP ENTERTAINMENT. Throughout 1998, even as we complained about the overprevalence of sordid details, Americans doggedly followed the unfolding story of a President and a young, unmarried woman.

The whole affair revealed America's new attitude toward adultery. We saw politicians, with one eye fixed on public opinion polls, wrestling with a fundamentally moral issue. The fiercest moral attacks came not against adultery, but against perceived hypocrisy. Adultery is "the forgivable sin," one which, wrong as it is (the new story goes), "everyone" does. One official wondered, if marital fidelity were a new criterion for holding public office, whether *anyone* would qualify. "Let him without sin cast the first stone," we heard.

Because the American people are *steeped* in sin, no stones were thrown. The public stands by the man they elected. A year-end CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll showed President Clinton to be the most-admired man in the country. It was only 1987 when Gary Hart's adultery derailed his bid for the presidency. Today, it seems adultery carries not a shred of stigma.

America is suddenly okay with the fact that we are an adulterous nation. Statistics vary, but on average, studies indicate that around 50 percent of men and 30 percent of women have had extra-marital affairs. That is an incomprehensible mountain of tragedy people willingly overlook: Even if they don't consider it a *sin*, anyone touched by adultery knows it is the devil. Marriage counselors and divorce-court judges are well-acquainted with the emotional wreckage these trysts produce. But like a downtrodden woman may tolerate and justify her husband's drunken beatings, these same people accept adultery as a fact of life.

"But everybody's doing it" is the argument. It is the dismissive, self-indulgent excuse used by men for crushing their wives emotionally. It is being used by a current generation of women, who are two to three times more likely than their mothers to betray their husbands. And it is the basis for coping with adultery, according to Peggy Vaughan, an adultery-recovery "expert." "*The unresolved pain from dealing with affairs is primarily due to the effects of seeing monogamy as the norm and affairs as a personal failure to fit this norm. As discussed earlier, the basis for this belief is a myth*" (Vaughan, *The Monogamy Myth*). In other words, realize everybody's doing it and your pain will go away.

In fact, the unresolved pain from dealing with affairs is primarily due to SIN (Rom. 2:8-9). Our tolerance of adultery is a despicable symptom of our unrestrained self-absorption. And as is becoming increasingly evident, self-absorption



JOEL HILLIKER

leads, not to enlightenment, but depravity.

"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is *the slave of sin*" (John 8:34).

What does it mean to be a slave of sin? How about 30 to 50 percent of all married people subjecting themselves to the pain and degradation of adultery and, rather than smarting from the burns and fleeing from it, becoming desensitized and tolerant?

Adultery perverts our thinking. It makes us like moths to flame. There is perversity in our enchantment with the glamorized view of adultery in our entertainment: one that plays up the allure, the thrill of forbidden, clandestine encounters, and glosses over or laughs at the resultant rationalization, self-deception, denial and deceit; the damage done to the mate, the children; the cynicism and hardness that scab over and scar the character of those involved.

Like all sin, adultery sears the conscience and pollutes judgment. Today, even when we recognize the evils of adultery enough to avoid it, we concoct "safe alternatives." Phone sex. "Virtual affairs" with strangers via e-mail. A radio psychiatrist offered this advice to a man bored with his wife, considering an extra-marital affair: *Fantasize about other women during sex*. After all, everyone has such feelings, said the shrink. The key is to channel them: An affair might get complicated and messy, but what harm can your own thoughts do?

Yes, what harm?

What harm can there be in *imagining* you're having an affair? In *lying*, to *your own mind*, about committing adultery? What harm can there be in wishing that your mate was a different person? In loving someone else more than you do her?

The fact is adultery will destroy your marriage! It will destroy your life—and everyone else's. There is no ambiguity in the seventh commandment: "THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY." There is no ambiguity in Matthew 5:27-29. God condemns adultery absolutely because it destroys lives.

Marriage is sacred. God designed it to teach us how to love, to be selfless, loyal, faithful. Never have those lessons been more urgently needed than in modern America, in its chaotic exodus toward adolescent self-fulfillment.

If the radio shrink had an ounce of wisdom he would scold that man: *Love your wife! Get your mind off other women and onto her. Remember not long ago when SHE was your fantasy!*

There is nothing entertaining, nothing fulfilling—and certainly nothing worth defending—about dealing someone the deepest emotional wound, betraying the most intimate trust. The people who backwardly defend adultery by not condemning it, shamelessly and without hypocrisy, do not realize they've been whipped by it. ♦

# THE KEY OF DAVID

## TELEVISION LOG

### North America

#### United States

**Nationwide cable**—Goodlife Network 6:30 am ET, Monday  
**Nationwide cable**—KTLA 8:00 am PT, Sunday  
**Nationwide cable**—WGN 6:30 am ET, Sunday  
**Northeast United States cable**—WPHL 6:30 am ET, Sunday  
Alabama, Montgomery—WFOA 7:00 am, Sunday  
Arizona, Phoenix—KSAS 6:30 am, Sunday  
Arkansas, Little Rock—KASN 8:00 am, Saturday  
California, Concord—KTNC 10:00 am, Sunday  
California, Fort Bragg—KFWU 10:00 am, Sunday  
California, Fresno—KNSO 8:00 am, Sunday; 9:00 am, Monday  
California, Los Angeles—KTLA 8:00 am, Sunday  
California, San Francisco—KTNC 10:00 am, Sunday  
California, San Francisco—KBWB 8:00 am, Sunday  
California, San Jose—KTNC 10:00 am, Sunday  
California, Sacramento—KTNC 10:00 am, Sunday  
Colorado, Alamosa—KOBF 8:30 am, Sunday  
Connecticut, Hartford—WBNE 6:30 am, Sunday  
Florida, Daytona Beach—WFTV 10:30 am, Sunday \*\*  
Florida, Jacksonville—WTEV 6:30 am, Saturday  
Florida, Miami—WPLG 7:00 am, Sunday  
Florida, Orlando—WFTV 10:30 am, Sunday \*\*  
Florida, Tallahassee—WTLH 8:30 am, Sunday  
Florida, Tampa—WTSP 7:00 am, Sunday  
Georgia, Atlanta—WUPA 7:30 am, Sunday  
Idaho, Boise—KNIN 7:00 am, Sunday  
Illinois, Chicago—WCIU 9:00 am, Saturday  
Illinois, Chicago—WGN 5:30 am, Sunday  
Illinois, Decatur—WAND 7:00 am, Sunday  
Indiana, Indianapolis—WRTV 9:00 am, Sunday  
Kansas, Wichita—KSAS 10:00 am, Sunday  
Kentucky, Bowling Green—WKNT 9:30 am, Sunday \*\*  
Kentucky, Louisville—WBNA 9:30 a., Sunday  
Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 7:30 am, Sunday  
Louisiana, Shreveport—KMSS 8:00 am, Sunday  
Maine, Bangor—WPXT 7:30 am, Sunday  
Maine, Portland—WPXT 7:30 am, Sunday  
Maryland, Baltimore—WUTB 7:00 am, Sunday  
Massachusetts, Boston—WFXT 8:00 am, Sunday  
Michigan, Detroit—WADL 9:00 am, Sunday  
Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul—WFTC 6:30 am, Sunday  
Minnesota, Rochester—WFTC 6:30 am, Sunday  
Missouri, Cape Girardeau—WDKA 7:30 am, Sunday  
Missouri, Kansas City—KMCI 7:30 am, Sunday \*\*  
Missouri, St. Louis—KPLR 8:00 am, Sunday  
Montana, Billings—KHMT 7:00 am, Sunday  
New Jersey—WPHL 6:30 am, Sunday  
New Mexico, Albuquerque—KOB 8:30 am, Sunday  
New Mexico, Farmington—KOBF 8:30 am, Sunday  
New York, Buffalo—WIVB 6:30 am, Sunday  
New York, New York City—WWOR 7:00 am, Saturday  
North Carolina, Asheville—WHNS 7:00 am, Sunday  
North Carolina, Charlotte—WAXN 8:00 am, Sunday  
North Carolina, Kannapolis—WAXN 8:00 am, Sunday  
Ohio, Cincinnati—WXIX 7:30 am, Sunday  
Ohio, Cleveland/Akron—WVPX 10:30 am, Sunday  
Oklahoma, Tulsa—KOKI 9:00 am, Sunday  
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City—KOCO 6:30 am, Sunday  
Oregon, Eugene—KLSR 7:00 am, Sunday  
Oregon, Portland—KPDX 7:30 am, Sunday  
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia—WPHL 6:30 am, Sunday  
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh—WPGH 7:30 am, Sunday  
Pennsylvania, Red Lion—WGCB 8:30 am, Sunday  
South Carolina, Columbia—WOLO 8:00 am, Sunday  
South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WHNS 7:00 am, Sunday  
South Dakota, Sioux Falls—KDLT 9:30 am, Sunday  
Tennessee, Chattanooga—WFLI 7:00 am, Sunday

Tennessee, Memphis—WLMT 9:00 am, Sunday  
Texas, Amarillo—KAMR 7:00 am, Sunday  
Texas, Dallas—KDFI 8:30 am, Sunday  
Texas, Houston—KHTV 8:30 am, Sunday \*\*  
Texas, San Antonio—KSAT 6:30 am, Sunday  
Texas, Tyler—KLTV 10:30 am, Sunday  
Texas, Wichita Falls—KAUZ 9:00 am, Sunday  
Virginia, Richmond—WRIC 7:30 am, Sunday  
Virginia, Roanoke—WDRL 10:30 am, Sunday  
Washington, Seattle—KTZZ 9:30 am, Sunday  
Washington, Spokane—KXLY 6:00 am, Sunday  
Washington D.C.—WDCA 6:30 am, Saturday  
Wisconsin, Green Bay—WACY 8:00 am, Sunday

#### Canada

**VISION Network** 9:30 am ET, Sunday (Nationwide Canadian cable)  
Alberta, Calgary—KXLY 7:00 am, Sunday  
Alberta, Edmonton—KXLY 7:00 am, Sunday  
Alberta, Red Deer—KXLY 7:00 am, Sunday  
British Columbia, Prince George—CKPG 8:30 am, Sunday  
British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 9:00 am, Sunday  
New Brunswick—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday  
Nova Scotia—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday  
Prince Edward Island—CIHF 7:00 am, Sunday  
Quebec, Montreal—CKMI 11:00 am, Sunday

### Caribbean

**Bahamas**—WGN 6:30 am, Sunday  
KTLA 11:00 am, Sunday  
WPLG 7:00 am, Sunday

**Grenada**—CCN 7:30 am, Sunday

**Tobago**—CCN 7:30 am, Sunday

**Trinidad**—CCN 7:30 am, Sunday

### Australasia

#### Australia

**Nationwide**—Network 10 4:30 am, Sunday  
New South Wales—NRTV 4:30 am, Sunday  
Northern Territory—Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday  
Queensland—QTV 4:30 am, Sunday  
Queensland—Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday  
South New South Wales—Capital TV 4:30 am, Sunday  
Victoria—Southern Cross TV 4:30 am, Sunday  
Western Australia—Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday

**Cambodia**—Australia Television International 7:30 am, Sunday

**China**—Australia Television International 8:00 am, Sunday

**Fiji**—Australia Television International 12:30 pm, Sunday  
FIJI TV 11:30 am, Sunday

**Hong Kong**—Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday

**India**—Australia Television International 6:00 am, Sunday

**Indonesia**—Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday

**Laos**—Australia Television International 7:30 am, Sunday

**Nauru**—Australia Television International 12:30 pm, Sunday

**New Zealand**—TV3 6:00 am, Friday

**Papua New Guinea**—EMTV 7:30 am, Sunday  
Australia Television International 10:30 am, Sunday

**Philippines**—ICB TV 7:00 am, Sunday  
Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday

**Singapore**—Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday

**Taiwan**—Australia Television International 8:30 am, Sunday

**Vanuatu**—Australia Television International 11:30 am, Sunday  
EMTV 7:30 am, Sunday \*\*

\*\* Indicates a new station or time change

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