



**She
Was
Right!**



**ABANDONING
POLAND**

**Is There
One True
Religion?**



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009

THE PHILADELPHIA

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**AMERICA IN
AFGHANISTAN**



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COVER A U.S. soldier in Afghanistan
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The War Against the U.S. Constitution

Is the Constitution being destroyed?

WHEN ROBERT BORK WAS NOMINATED TO THE U.S. Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, it created a firestorm in Congress, and he failed to get confirmed. Shortly thereafter, he wrote *The Tempting of America*, which I believe is the best book about constitutional law in a century—perhaps ever.

MR. BORK SAID HE BELIEVES WE ARE MORE THAN HALFWAY ALONG IN THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR CONSTITUTION. IF HE IS RIGHT, OUR REPUBLIC IS IN GRAVE DANGER.

He made that statement about two decades ago. Surely he would think the Constitution is 60 to 75 percent destroyed today.

So you could make the case that the problem is too far gone to even correct. At least, THIS DANGER SHOULD TERRIFY EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN!

Negative Liberties

In a 2001 radio interview, Barack Obama revealed some of his shocking ideas about how the government should run.

Here is what he said about the 1953-1969 Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which was a very activist court: “To that extent, as radical as I think people tried to characterize the Warren court, it wasn’t that radical.” Notice this! “It didn’t *break free* from the essential constraints that were placed by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution” (emphasis mine throughout).

The extremely liberal Warren Supreme Court wasn’t radical enough, in Mr. Obama’s opinion.

MR. OBAMA WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE CONSTITUTION NEED TO BE REMOVED. He was revealing where he believes the Founding Fathers *erred* in writing the defining legal charter of the United States!

“Generally the Constitution is a charter of negative liberties,” Mr. Obama continued. “It says what the states *can’t* do to you, says what the federal government *can’t* do to you, but it doesn’t say what the federal government or the state government must do on your behalf.”

That is true, and it is a major reason the Constitution was so successful in establishing this nation.

Essayist Bill Whittle wrote this in response to Mr. Obama’s interview: “The entire purpose of the Constitution was to *limit government*. That limitation of powers is what has unlocked in America the vast human potential available in any population. Barack Obama sees the limiting of government not as a linchpin, but rather as a fatal flaw ...” (National Review Online, Oct. 27, 2008).

This is Mr. Obama’s view of the Constitution. When he says it should have stated what the government “*must*” do on the people’s behalf, he is talking about federal social programs. As he said in the same radio interview, this means *taking wealth* from some citizens and *redistributing it* to others in the form of health care, welfare and other social benefits.

A lot of that thinking was what virtually destroyed the home mortgage firms Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. That crisis is at the



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

heart of America’s financial meltdown.

I warned about how dangerous his views were in the January 2009 *Trumpet*. MR. OBAMA GAVE A CLEAR SIGNAL THAT HE WOULD WORK TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION—THE FOUNDING DOCUMENT OF THIS NATION!

That is a shocking view from a man with very little experience in government. And his election shows how little Americans understand or care about their Constitution!

Understanding Human Nature

The Founding Fathers created the Constitution to limit the government’s power because they had *lived under a tyrant* who decided, according to his own whims, what was fair for the people and what wasn’t. The Constitution gave them a certain protection from evil human nature. THE FOUNDERS BASED THIS CHARTER ON CERTAIN BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES, NOT JUST HUMAN REASONING.

What happens if you don’t have a Constitution to hold back the radical left? You end up with a welfare state and a loss of many freedoms!

I believe Mr. Obama sincerely thinks his ideas will solve America’s problems, and I’m not saying he is malicious.

But look at how his disrespect for the Constitution is driving his decisions. He is pushing the government into activities it was never meant to do. He is appointing judges who think the same way, who will reject parts of the Constitution and remove its restraints so radicals can do whatever they want with the government!

One of the strongest czars the president chose, and who has since been forced to resign, was a self-avowed communist! How much love do you think he has for the Constitution?

Our Forefathers’ Goal

Early immigrants who came to this land were often persecuted in the countries they left. They usually lacked religious freedom.

The famous British historian Paul Johnson wrote an article titled “No Law Without Order, No Freedom Without Law.” It was printed in the *Sunday Telegraph*, Dec. 26, 1999. In it he wrote: “[B]oth in Virginia and in New England to the north, the colonists were determined, God-fearing men, often in search of a religious toleration denied them at home, who brought their families and were anxious to farm and establish permanent settlements. They put political and religious freedom before riches Thus took shape the economic dynamo that eventually became the United States—an *experiment designed to establish the rule of God on Earth*”

What a goal. THEY PLANNED TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF GOD ON EARTH! That means they had the goal of each person keeping the Ten Commandments of God—the basis of all righteous law.

In 1954, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, “I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it.”

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC.

See **CONSTITUTION** page 31 ➤



“BETRAYAL!” The White House chose the 70th anniversary of the German invasion of Poland and commencement of World War II to announce that it had turned its back on Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and his country.

America Abandons Poland

The current administration's most disastrous foreign-policy decision to date **BY RON FRASER**

THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE on the September 18 edition of Poland's *Fakt* newspaper said it all: “Betrayal! The U.S. sold us to Russia and stabbed us in the back.”

“No Radar. Russia won,” cried *Mlada Fronta Dnes*, the largest Czech daily, on its front page.

This was how these American allies responded to the Obama administration's announcement on September 17 that it would scrap plans to construct a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system in their countries.

The BMD program was a measure of the strength and commitment of U.S. foreign policy, particularly America's willingness to invest time and resources into amplifying its voice in European affairs, confronting Russian ambitions on its periphery, and checking Iran's nuclear ambitions. Now that program is gone.

Whichever way one looks at this decision, it is bad. Either it reeks of plain geostrategic ineptness, or it is a deliberately radical effort to destroy America's reputation as a nation prepared to use its power to contain imperialist moves by stronger nations against the weak.

Snub After Snub

For a start, the timing of the announcement was abysmal.

Anyone half conversant with history, with an understanding of the Polish character and heritage, let alone an ounce of consideration for diplomatic form, would surely have refrained from delivering such a geopolitical blow to Poland on the 70th anniversary of Poland's invasion by Russia.

But no. It almost seems the Obama administration went out of its way to heighten the offense against one of the greatest of America's allies by committing this

egregious breach of protocol.

What is more, the manner in which the president conveyed the message of “no deal” to the Czech prime minister showed little thought for diplomatic niceties. With no consideration as to the five-hour time difference between Washington and Prague, President Obama awakened Prime Minister Jan Fischer at an unearthly hour to tersely inform him of his decision to waltz on the deal to situate radar facilities in the Czech Republic.

This all came within days of the Obama administration having snubbed the Poles at the 70th-anniversary commemoration of the Nazi invasion of Poland on September 1. On that occasion, the heads of state of the leading nations in Europe—Germany, France, Britain and Russia—all assembled in Krakow in memoriam of that historic occasion. To represent America, the Obama administration sent a retired

four-star general.

The absence of Barack Obama—or his vice president, or even America’s secretary of state—from this important memorial service did not go unnoticed. “The lack of understanding of European history and sensitivities was not lost on the Polish chattering classes,” wrote Helle Dale in the *Washington Times*. “They have been in a justifiable uproar over this mother of all snubs, feeling a mixture of humiliation and neglect” (September 1).

But perhaps we ought to remember, this is the administration that sent very obvious negative signals to its brother nation and closest ally, Britain, by first returning a bust of Churchill that graced the Oval Office during the Bush Jr. years, then giving a trifling iPod as a “regal” gift to the Queen of England, and a pile of DVDs as a gift to the British prime minister, the latter not even being compatible with the British playback system.

If we were to be naive in our evaluation of this series of seeming diplomatic gaffes, we could put them down to plain ignorance, if not absolute ineptness. However, having studied the background agendas of the cabal that runs America’s present government, it is hard not to draw the conclusion that these were all very cynically calculated initiatives of a radical core at the top of U.S. politics who are intent on destroying the heart and soul of all that America has historically stood for.

In the process, they are destroying any trust that America’s former allies may have in the nation’s willingness to oversee their security at a time of great global disorder.

For America, in a dangerous age, this amounts to plain geopolitical suicide.

As that wise old observer of international relations, Hans Morgenthau, observed, the key question a nation should ask when evaluating the foreign policy of another is, “Is the foreign policy of the other nation imperialistic or not? ... The answer to that question has determined the fate of nations, and *the wrong answer has often meant deadly peril or actual destruction ...*” (*Politics Among Nations*, emphasis mine throughout).

America will soon find that it has come up with the wrong answer to that question in relation to both Germany and Russia!

Abandoning Poland

No nation, other than tiny Israel and embattled Serbia, can feel the bitter effects of the radically new approach to its foreign policy by this U.S. administration more than Poland.



Historically the geopolitical fall guy between Germany and Russia in those nations’ separate drives for hegemony, all of a sudden Poland once again sits in mid-field waiting to see which boot it will first feel as the tussle starts anew, with the referee in Washington having fled the scene.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has been the primary guarantor of the independence of Central European nations. “*Russian and German domination are familiar themes for Central Europe* [including Poland],” Stratfor observed. “Since both Germany and Russia historically have had interests in the region, states often looked to outside protectors with no immediate designs for the territory ...” (July 17).

Among those “outside protectors,” none has been as important to Poland as the United States. Geographically, Warsaw exists at the intersection point of Russian and German ambitions for territorial expansion. America is pivotal to Poland’s existence as a sovereign state.

Today, the message from the White House is that America plans to leave the Poles and Central Europeans to fend for themselves against the rising Russians and Germans. “By trading the loyalty of Poland and the Czech Republic to satisfy Russia’s security concerns, the United States is signaling that it no longer contests Moscow’s right to assert its interests in Eastern Europe,” wrote the Times Online (September 17).

“Poland is under pressure at the moment—fearing abandonment by the United States,” noted Stratfor, “while Russia is resurging and commanding influence in Central Europe, and the relationship

between Berlin and Moscow is growing closer” (September 1). Will Poland (and other Central European states) find itself becoming a point of negotiation between Moscow and Berlin—as it was in the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop pact—as they attempt to strike some sort of geographic equilibrium between what are ultimately conflicting ambitions?

Whatever happens, America is leaving Poland stranded on what Stratfor termed “*Europe’s superhighway of conquest*” (August 14).

The message to both Russia and Germany could hardly be clearer. This U.S. administration is walking away from the grand post-Cold War geopolitical game that is entering its final quarter on the old battlefields of Europe.

No wonder both Russia’s Prime Minister Putin and Germany’s Chancellor Merkel smilingly acknowledged their satisfaction at the Obama administration’s capitulation on the Bush policy of seeking to constrain Russian hegemony. They are now free to divide the spoils in Europe between themselves without any interference from that pesky United States.

A Repeat of History

There’s a sense of déjà vu here.

Seventy years ago, Poland was subject to the tussle for territory on the European continent between an expansionist Nazi Germany and Communist Russia, suffering invasion by both just after they concluded their infamous non-aggression pact. The Czech Republic was overrun by the Nazis.

Today, Poland and the Czech Republic remain the only two European Union member nations withholding ratification of

the Lisbon Treaty/EU constitution, pending the outcome of the Irish referendum on whether that nation should sign up to it. But with the U.S. now walking away from the fight, Poland and the Czech Republic are stuck. They would hardly choose to return to Russian oppression, from which they escaped less than 20 years ago. They appear destined now to be reabsorbed by the enemy that seized them in 1934.

Given the Obama administration's disloyal European foreign policy, the stage is set for Poland and the Czech Republic to capitulate and sign on to the Lisbon Treaty.

A few realists comprehend the enormity of this disastrous move by Washington. Think tank Stratfor commented, "Much of Europe—especially the central and eastern regions—will now view the United States as unable to fulfill its promises to its allies in the face of a strengthening Russia" (September 17). We might well add, "and in the *opposing* face of a strengthening Germany!"

The abandonment of the BMD program in Poland represents "a huge turnaround in American strategic thinking on a global missile defense system, and a massive betrayal of two key U.S. allies in Eastern and Central Europe," Nile Gardiner wrote in the *Telegraph* (August 29). "This is a terrible decision that reduces NATO's security, encourages Iran to proceed full speed ahead with its nuclear program, kowtows to Russian pressure, and stabs our Polish and Czech allies in the back, after they made the difficult decision to support us," wrote Theodore Bromund (The Heritage Foundation, August 28).

America's absence in Eastern and Central Europe will create a power vacuum. Geopolitics abhors a vacuum.

The upshot is that Europe's immediate future will now be decided between the same two powers that signed a deal to seal its fate back in 1939.

"The Kremlin can barely believe its good fortune," wrote Tony Halpin from Moscow in the *Times Online*. "Mr. Obama has pressed the 'reset' button to improve relations *without obtaining anything more than permission for U.S. aircraft to cross Russian airspace on resupply operations for troops in Afghanistan*."

"For Mr. Putin, the lesson of today's decision is clear. Intransigence pays dividends because the U.S. and the European Union lack the patience or determination

to face Moscow down. *That is a lesson that send[s] alarm bells ringing in the corridors of power of Russia's former Soviet dominions*" (op. cit.).

In future meetings, a geopolitically weakened U.S. president will face a geostrategically strengthened Russian-German duo. Watch for Germany and Russia to become increasingly strident in their demands on an American administration facing significant decline in its international clout well before finishing its first 12 months in office.



PUTIN

In Over Its Head

This administration is simply in over its head, especially when it comes to foreign policy and the conduct of its relations with other nations and their leaders.

It was through the Prophet Isaiah that Almighty God declared of these times that our peoples would be led by those with the minds of infants, possessing a feminized, inept and ignorant approach to both domestic and international affairs (Isaiah 3:4). If ever in the entire history of America there was an administration that reflected the reality of this prophecy, surely it has to be that which the nation has currently inherited.

To place the observably rapid decline of the U.S. and Britain in true perspective, you need to study our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It will demonstrate to you that this trend was forecast millennia ago by the one who declares that "the most high ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men" (Daniel 4:17).

But, more than explaining the reason for the Anglo-Saxons' demise, that book will show you the tremendous future that awaits all nations in the not-too-distant future when all selfish motivation for the imposition of the power of the strong over the weak will be negated, and an unbelievable era of peace extended around the world.

Yet, before that great era of peace descends on this world, global conditions are set to rapidly become chaotic. This book will show you how to prepare to endure through and even escape the effects of the developing global crisis. You owe it to yourself to at least read it and consider its prophetic logic. ■



WHEN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION scrapped plans for a missile defense shield in Eastern Europe, it represented more than just an abandonment of allies in Poland and the Czech Republic. It was a surrender to Iran.

The original plan, established by President Bush in 2007, was designed to protect America's European allies against the threat of an Iranian missile attack. In defending the latest policy of appeasement, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said that Iran's long-range missile threat is "not as immediate" as the United States once thought.

Yet, in April, two months after launching a satellite into space, Iran successfully launched its Sejil-2 missile. The Sejil-2 has a range of about 1,200 miles—meaning the outskirts of Europe are now well within reach of the world's number-one state sponsor of terror. It's difficult to imagine a threat being any more *immediate* than that.

Meanwhile, Iran has provided *no* evidence that its nuclear program is not being used for military purposes. Instead, it has consistently refused to provide requested documentation, and access to nuclear sites



COMPROMISE

Whereas previous administrations have ostracized Iran's terrorist regime, Washington is now trying a new tactic.

Ordering to Iran

One fateful step at a time **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

and to officials for interviews.

In fact, on September 17, the *same day* President Obama and Secretary Gates minimized the Iranian threat, the Associated Press reported on a secret document produced by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which said *Iran now has the ability to make a nuclear bomb* and is working to build the delivery system needed for the weapon. Even in its official August 28 report, "in unusually forthright language, the IAEA said the intelligence was too consistent, comprehensive and detailed, coming from multiple sources at different times, for Iran to keep dodging scrutiny with blanket denials" (Reuters, September 2). Reuters quoted one source who cited evidence that the Iranian military is involved in nuclear component production.

At the current pace, the IAEA report indicated, Iran will have sufficient quantities of uranium to build two atomic bombs by February.

It's impossible to overstate the significance of these developments. A nuclear Iran alters the balance of power throughout the Middle East. It thrusts Europe

into an uncomfortable—and potentially explosive—situation. And it reveals a remarkable truth: that the forces of appeasement in Washington are now so **STRONG** that *even the United Nations* seems almost hawkish by comparison.

A History of Deceit

Iran simply has a long history of nuclear trickery. It is a game Iran knows well and is playing skillfully.

It has time and again lied about the nature and status of its nuclear program. Former head Iranian nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani said so in 2006. "When we were negotiating with the Europeans in Tehran we were still installing some of the equipment at the Isfahan site," he revealed in a closed meeting of high-ranking Islamic clerics and academics. He said the deceit was a ruse in order to play for time to complete equipment installations at the nuclear site. "There was plenty of work to be done to complete the site and finish the work there. In reality, by creating a tame situation, we could finish Isfahan" (*Telegraph*, March 2006).

An October 2003 agreement intended to

halt Iranian nuclear activities was trashed when Iran continued to enrich uranium and lied about it. Another agreement, made in November 2004 with Britain, France and Germany, was proven empty almost immediately with convincing evidence that Iran was openly converting 22 tons of uranium tetrafluoride (yellow cake) into uranium hexafluoride, which can be enriched to weapons-grade levels.

As Stratfor reported on Nov. 15, 2004, these fraudulent pacts are actually part of Iran's larger policy—to "use the status of a country seeking nuclear technology to not only attain economic and trade benefits and security guarantees for the current regime but also to attain international recognition for the Iranian state as a major global player while, perhaps, gaining the technological know-how." In other words, Iran wants to have its nukes and eat its cake too.

In 2005, after blocking Iran's application for World Trade Organization (WTO) membership on 22 separate occasions, the U.S. backed down and lifted its opposition. Why? Because Iran said it would suspend uranium processing. By using merely the threat of resuming what it wasn't meant to

be doing to start with, Iran gained three months' reprieve, an agreement for Europe to come up with a definite plan of rewards, and an invitation to enter the WTO.

Iran is playing the same game it has been playing for years: stalling, dividing, deceiving, challenging, talking—and steadily moving forward with its nuclear program. As the evidence continues to stack, the farce continues. One day Iran threatens to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the next day it reaffirms its commitment to the treaty; one week it bars short-notice IAEA access to its nuclear facilities, the next it gives the agency copies of documents outlining how to build nuclear warheads. Iran continues to advance its case that it wants a diplomatic solution on the one hand while frantically advancing its nuclear program on the other.

A World Without Nukes

Much was made of the September 24 UN Security Council meeting when, for the

Iran is playing the same game it has been playing for years: stalling, dividing, deceiving, challenging, talking—and steadily moving forward with its nuclear program.

first time in history, a U.S. president presided over the conference. As chair of the summit, President Obama set the agenda for the meeting. Beforehand, America's UN Ambassador Susan Rice said the session would "focus on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament **BROADLY**, and *not on any particular countries*" (emphasis mine throughout).

As Anne Bayefsky noted on National Review Online, even the UN Secretariat's agenda for September "lists nonproliferation *specifically* in relation to Iran and North Korea and does not list disarmament." But President Obama specifically wants to avoid finger pointing. He thinks more broadly, in terms of *worldwide* nuclear disarmament.

This agenda perfectly summarized a reoccurring theme in this president's approach to foreign policy. In 2007, as a U.S. senator, he proposed a plan for eliminating *all* nuclear weapons in the world. If elected president, the *New York Times* wrote at the time, Senator Obama said he would "lead a global effort to secure nuclear weapons and material at vulnerable sites within four years. He also will pledge to end production of fissile material for

weapons, agree not to build new weapons and remove any remaining nuclear weapons from hair-trigger alert" (Oct. 7, 2007).

As president, he has echoed these same utopian ideals. In Prague, earlier this year, he said, "I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons."

Of course, a world without nuclear weapons, in his mind, means America takes the lead in dismantling first. But when it comes to the grave threat any *other* nation poses—like North Korea or Iran—the Obama administration has repeatedly turned a blind eye to an obvious and existential danger. In April, for example, President Obama followed through on campaign promises to drop the condition that Iran first suspend its uranium enrichment program *before* Washington would talk with Tehran.

The new American government has been consistent in its attempts to reach out

to Iran, calling for a "new beginning" in U.S.-Iranian relations—even pleading for the mullahs to unclench their fists.

Iranian President Ahmadinejad's blunt responses to such gestures of conciliation have been along these lines: "Any hand outstretched to attack us will be cut off." This too: "We say to you today that you are in a position of weakness. Your hands are empty, and you no longer promote your interests from a position of strength."

Even still, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton argued earlier this year that conciliatory gestures toward Iran were necessary to put the United States in a better position to organize "crippling" international sanctions against the Iranian regime, in case it refused to come to the negotiation table.

That nicely sums up the central conflict between the United States and Iran these past eight months. Amid all the rhetoric, the fundamental issue for the Obama administration hasn't been Iran's stubborn refusal to suspend uranium enrichment. It is Tehran's unwillingness *to talk*.

About-Face

In April, the five permanent members

of the UN Security Council—the U.S., Britain, Russia, China, France—plus Germany set a September deadline for Iran: *negotiate* or face sanctions.

With the deadline looming, *lo and behold*, Tehran finally decided to unclench its fist! "In the name of the Almighty," the mullahs wrote in a five-page letter of acceptance addressed to the U.S.-led G-5+1, Iran wants to help mobilize *global* resolve "toward **COMPLETE** disarmament and preventing development and proliferation of nuclear, chemical and microbial weapons."

Did this mean Iran would give up its own nuclear enrichment program? Of course not. That issue is not up for discussion—it is "finished," Ahmadinejad said on September 7. "We will never negotiate on the Iranian nation's rights."

Conservative commentators called the letter an insult. Stratfor said it "made a mockery of Western demands." Even the leftist *New York Times* accused the regime of posturing. "Unfortunately," the *Times* editorialized, "there is no sign that Iran is serious about doing much more than *buying more time*" (September 11).

Washington initially rejected the proposal as unsatisfactory. According to a report in the *Jerusalem Post*, the U.S. was ready to abandon engagement and to apply sanctions. The article cited several officials close to the Obama administration who claimed that the White House had become frustrated with Iran's diplomatic game of cat-and-mouse.

Then the White House made a stunning about-face and decided to accept the offer. Europe begrudgingly followed along.

Why such an inexplicable reversal? "Unless they received some secret Iranian assurances," wrote Barry Rubin on his blog, "it means that the State Department mid-level officials scoffed at the letter but as it went up the chain of command, to Obama [himself], *he chose to accept it*" (September 13).

And why not? After all, if there are two policies President Obama firmly believes in, it's talking to enemies without preconditions and building a nuclear-weapons-free world—beginning with the United States.

All of this means Iran has dodged yet another bullet aimed at curbing its nuclear ambitions. It also supplies Tehran with more valuable time to reach the nuclear finish line.

For the United States, meanwhile, it represents another monumental defeat in the war against terrorism's primary state sponsor—the regime that has been targeting and killing Americans for going on 30 years. ■

Is Germany's 9/11 Coming?

A terrorist attack would transform the country.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

ON THE MOVE Merkel campaigns just 12 days before federal elections as al Qaeda threats of September 11-style horror echoed across the country.

IS GERMANY IS ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED? That warning came from analysts with the Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) in September.

ITRR issued the warning after intercepting a message circulating among al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorists that said the “next strike is very near,” and that it would “surprise everyone in its effect, which will be much more shocking than that of Sept. 11, 2001” (Arutz Sheva, September 8).

The message continued, “And the Germans, grandchildren of the Nazis, know more than everyone else that they will be the first ones to taste [the nightmare]. It is just a matter of time—that is, days or weeks—and God willing you’ll see things that you’ve never heard of before” (emphasis mine throughout).

That’s chilling, especially considering the timing. Intercepted just weeks prior to German national elections in September, the message was a well-timed reminder of al Qaeda’s penchant for using an attack, or series of attacks, as a catalyst for political transformation.

Remember Spanish national elections in March 2004? Beforehand, polls showed incumbent Prime Minister José Aznar with a solid lead over his opponent, despite the majority of Spaniards opposing his administration’s participation in the U.S.-led Iraq war. But Mr. Aznar’s political destiny changed the morning of March 11, when a string of exploding bombs wreaked carnage and chaos on the Madrid rail system, killing 191 and injuring 1,800 people. Three days later, Aznar was ousted, and his antiwar opponent was elected.

In a matter of hours, and with a handful of bombs, al Qaeda successfully transformed Spain’s political landscape—and drove Spanish forces from Iraq.

Could a terrorist attack also precipitate political transformation in Germany?

One of al Qaeda’s top priorities is to drive foreign troops from Afghanistan, which has been its central base of operations for more than 25 years. Germany has more than 4,000 troops stationed there—the third-largest contingent behind America and Britain. Thus, it is one of al Qaeda’s primary targets.

The German electorate was reminded of the target on its back just a week before the September 27 elections, when the government raised its terrorism alert level after al Qaeda posted a video promising a “rude awakening” if the election did not produce the result it wanted.

“[I]f the German people decide to continue this war, then it has sealed its own fate,” stated a man using the name Abu Talha and speaking in German. “If the German people want to live in security again, it has the opportunity now,” he warned. He also told German Muslims to “stay away from anything not vital for the two weeks after the elections” (CNN, September 19).

According to Arutz Sheva, “German security services have ... been cited in local media discussing stepped-up jihadist chatter, threats and intelligence warnings aimed at the German state in recent months” (op. cit.). In June, *Der Spiegel* cited American intelligence agencies saying that they believe al Qaeda plans to attack Germany, and that it had assigned the job

to an al Qaeda branch from North Africa.

In a *Key of David* television program taped three days after it was reported that ITRR identified Germany as one of al Qaeda’s primary targets, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry stated, “I believe this could very easily happen, and could LEAD TO THE BIGGEST CHANGE IN WORLD EVENTS IN THIS END TIME.”

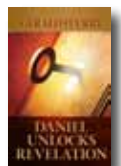
Should Germany be attacked by Islamic terrorists, explained Mr. Flurry, its response would probably be the exact opposite of Spain’s in 2004. An attack would certainly stir things up politically in Germany, and perhaps even precipitate a major political transformation—but it would not usher in a weak, introverted, antiwar administration in Berlin.

It would likely bring about the OPPOSITE!

Right now Germany is a strong nation without a strong leader. The European Union is an empire without an emperor. While some Germans and other Europeans see this reality, many don’t. A devastating attack on German soil by Islamic terrorists could expose this void and intensify the desire in Germany, and the rest of Europe, for strong leadership. As the *Trumpet* has long reported, biblical prophecy says this will occur one way or another.

A terrorist explosion on German soil could thrust this terrifying man onto the scene in an instant!

To learn about a prophecy revealing the coming of a strong leader in Europe, request a free copy of *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*.



Our “Improbable Universe”

An interview with astrobiologist **Guillermo Gonzalez**

Astrobiologist Guillermo Gonzalez, who holds a Ph.D. in astronomy, is the co-founder of the “Galactic Habitable Zone” concept, which was featured on the October 2001 cover of *Scientific American*. His work has helped lead to the discovery of two planets. He is also the co-author of the 2004 book *The Privileged Planet*, which explains

unique insights about life on our planet. Dr. Gonzalez has concluded, based on the scientific evidence, that life is designed. In our interview, Dr. Gonzalez explains his views, gives us a taste of the theories explained in his book, and highlights the opposition scientists face when proposing the idea of intelligent design.



IMPOSSIBLE, TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

Many say planet Earth is a unique place, not a fluke circumstance. From oxygen to earthquakes to the GHZ, Dr. Guillermo Gonzales analyzes scientific factors that reveal how technically true that is.

Can you briefly explain the central idea of your book, *The Privileged Planet*?

The central thesis of the book is that recent scientific findings show that we not only live in a universe fine-tuned for life, but one fine-tuned for discovery as well. Those places in the universe that are most habitable are also the best places to observe the broader universe, and Earth is the best overall “scientific platform” we know of.

What do you think are one or two of the most profound or salient features of our planet that both allow life to exist and allow us to measure and understand our world and universe?

An obvious one is the fact that we can see the distant stars and galaxies. This would not be possible if we lived on a planet with a cloudy or hazy atmosphere. Our atmosphere is transparent in the optical region of the spectrum, partly because it is oxygen-rich. And a thick, oxygen-rich atmosphere is necessary for large, active creatures such as us.

Another one is the phenomenon of total solar eclipses. Anyone who has watched a sunrise or sunset and the full moon rising or setting has noticed that these two bodies subtend about the same angular size on the sky. This “coincidence” gives us the best solar eclipses in the solar system. What’s more, the conditions that result in these wonderful eclipses are also the ones that make Earth a habitable planet. In other words, the best places for observing solar eclipses are also the ones most likely to have observers.

You explain how even some characteristics of Earth that we normally think of as hostile—like earthquakes, for example—actually benefit Earth’s habitability and discovery. Why is that?

Earthquakes, while they cause damage and death, are an indicator that we live on a geologically active planet. We need the geological activity so that certain life-essential elements, such as carbon, can be recycled through the biosphere. We could avoid most of the suffering caused by earthquakes if we really wanted to, since we know where most earthquakes occur, but we cannot predict when they occur. We learn about the Earth’s deep interior from earthquakes by making use of the waves they generate.

Earth resides in what you call the “Galactic Habitable Zone.” Can you briefly explain what that is, and what problems we would face if we were not in that zone?

The Galactic Habitable Zone (GHZ) is that region in the Milky Way galaxy that is most favorable to the presence of habitable planetary systems. Its boundaries are defined by such things as the trend of stellar chemical composition with location, perturbations of Oort cloud comets, supernovas and gamma ray bursts. Overall, habitable planets are less likely to form in the outer region of the galaxy, and there are more dangers in the inner regions compared to our location.

What are the odds of all the “coincidences” you explain working out to support both life and discovery, and are there enough planets in the universe to make it possible for those odds to arise by chance?

The science of astrobiology is helping us to begin to answer the first part of your question (probability of a habitable planet), but very little work has been done on the second part. Given the multiple examples of fine-tuning required for discovery I give in my book, I can say it is a low probability to find ourselves living in the universe we do live in, but I’m just not ready to attach a specific probability to it yet.

Critics would counter that despite the odds, it is possible that the conditions arose by chance, if we are just one universe of many. Do you think this is a fair criticism? Is there evidence for the existence of multiple universes?

Yes and no. You can’t rule out the possible existence of other universes, but I would say this hypothesis is not the best explanation for the universe we observe ourselves to be living in. Not only are we living in an improbable universe when it comes to habitability, it is also the case that we are living in an improbable universe for discovery. What’s more, since we don’t need to discover the universe outside our planetary home in order to exist and survive, you can’t appeal to unseen multiple universes to explain the fine-tuning for discoverability.

Some might argue that natural selection is responsible for us appearing to be perfectly suited for our environment. But can natural selection account for our ability for discovery? Can it explain why the factors for life correlate with the factors for discovery? Why or why not?

Good question. Natural selection can only select for those aspects which help us to survive and produce more offspring. It cannot explain why we can see the distant stars and galaxies or observe total

solar eclipses. Natural selection might account for sight, but not for our ability to do astronomy. It cannot explain the correlation between life and discovery.

Assuming our planet was designed for complex life, as you suggest, why do you think it was designed in such a way that would allow us to be able to observe and measure the cosmos? Or is that a philosophical question?

Answering this “why” question is philosophical. So, I can give a speculative philosophical answer. Perhaps we were meant to discover those aspects of our universe that point beyond itself to its designer. For example, you can learn some things about a carpenter by studying his furniture or a painter from his paintings or a musician from his music.

Have the many factors making complex life possible been understood for a long time? Or are many of them recent discoveries?

A few have been proposed over a century ago, such as a planet’s distance from its star. Most have been recognized for less than 20 years. For example, the importance of a large moon for stabilizing the rotational axis of a terrestrial planet was discovered in the early 1990s. More recently, gamma ray bursts have been demonstrated to be very dangerous explosions that can sterilize a planet even thousands of light years away.

Despite the fact that you have published over 70 articles, you have been sharply criticized for your research into intelligent design. Why do you think some are so hostile to the idea of intelligent design? Is it fundamentally anti-scientific?

Some people have bought into the mischaracterizations of intelligent design which are so commonplace on the Internet, the pop culture and even in science journals. There is no question that people who spread this misinformation feel threatened; it would be easy for them to look up the correct information [on] intelligent design. Instead, they would rather believe in any number of conspiracy



theories about intelligent design, rather than face its profound implications.

What led you to believe that intelligent design is a good explanation for the origin of life?

Although I don't study the origin of life, I was convinced of life's design from several lines of evidence: the fine-tuning of the physical constants and planetary [factors necessary] for life and discovery, the information in DNA, nanomachines in cells.

Based on your experience, it seems that some in the scientific establishment use their power to blacklist scientists who have not ruled out intelligent design. What do you find unscientific about the way these scholars interact with other scholars?

It has certainly been a learning experience. I have been surprised at the extent to which scientists' views are determined

by political ideology. This is not only true of the opposition to intelligent design, but it also applies to other scientific controversies, such as global warming and embryonic stem-cell research.

Some of your research is in astrobiology. What is astrobiology? Astrobiology seems almost a contradiction in terms. When we look out at the stars, it seems that we see nothing but a lack of life, no? Do you think there is life out there somewhere?

Astrobiology is the study of life in the universe. The discipline used to be called exobiology, which is the study of life beyond Earth. But, that meant that it was a discipline without a subject. With astrobiology, Earth life is an instance of life in the universe, but it remains true that Earth is the only inhabited place we know of. Based on what we know today, I am doubtful that life could have arisen naturalistically in the

universe. Whether the universe was designed to have more than one planet with life is a question I don't have an answer for.

Of the various things you study, what do you enjoy studying the most? Why?

I most enjoy studying stars with planets. This is a new field with many new discoveries waiting to be made. I feel privileged to be involved in this field from the start and making a number of important discoveries.

Guillermo Gonzalez's book, *The Privileged Planet*, explains in detail many factors that not only make Earth habitable, but also make our world and universe discoverable at the same time. It's an excellent read for anyone interested in learning more about our planet and our universe. It's available at Amazon.com and elsewhere. In addition, a DVD is available by the same title, based on the book.



Do you
hear
what the
heavens
are saying?

The Hubble Space Telescope is helping us coax the cosmos into revealing its secrets and mysteries. And the more we study, the stronger the evidence becomes of an absolutely remarkable truth: There is an Author of the cosmos. Our increasing knowledge of the stars reveals not only what God has already done, but also what He is about to do.

Do you know why this vast, sparkling, shimmering, powerful universe exists?

"The heavens declare the glory of God ..." (Psalm 19:1). Do you hear what they are saying?

Our new free booklet **Our Awesome Universe Potential** will show you the Creator's highly valuable purpose for your life and the vast universe!



THE 1929 FINANCIAL CRASH UNFOLDED in just such a way as to inflict punishment. Every time stock investors thought it was safe to get back in the dance, they just lost more money. Every time consumers thought it was safe to start spending again, the job scene hit another low note. Businesses couldn't hold a tune—they went bankrupt by the thousands.

Eight decades later, the question facing the world is this: Is the worst really over, or is it just the opening note of a very familiar hymn?

History repeats itself. Even if the lyrics are not exactly the same, this verse certainly rhymes with the first. Unfortunately, most people don't know history.

Whistle a Happy Tune

Ask the average guy on the street. He is almost sure to tell you he has heard or read that the crisis is over.

The *New York Times* trumpeted: "Fed Chief Says Recession Is Very Likely Over" (September 15). *Newsweek's* Daniel Gross confirmed: "I'm prepared to declare that the recession is really, most probably over" (July 14). Bloomberg and *Forbes* are whistling their own happy tunes proclaiming the end of the recession too.

The good times are back. Stocks will keep going up until 2010, said money manager John Dorfman. "On balance ... I think the evidence favors continued gains."

Sadly, it is all too familiar.

In 1930, the average person was singing that the worst was over too, as were many of the so-called experts.

"Green Lights Ahead," cheered National Bank of the Republic (Chicago) Chairman G. Woodruff. "The red lights, through which our people last year drove, have changed" (Aug. 5, 1930).

Actually, *the worst was only beginning.*

Sucker Rallies

From 1921 to 1929, the Dow Jones hummed from 60 to a high note of almost 400! The Great Crash of 1929 changed that. It swallowed 48 percent of stock market value in just a few days. But over the ensuing months, the market bounced back, reclaiming around half of its losses. Investors breathed a collective sigh of relief, and money managers loaded up the stocks again.

Then the stock market abruptly crashed again, sending both share prices and bankers into funeral dirges.

Over the next three years, the market would "sucker rally" a total of *five times*—only to plunge to new lows on each occasion. Yet with each new rally, the



Great Depression REMIX

The lyrics are different
in 2009 than 1929—
but it's still the same
song. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

professionals invariably belted out that the crisis was over.

On Aug. 23, 1930, Moody's Investors Service wrote regarding its prosperity index: "We are, therefore, inclined to regard the present level of business activity as the approximate level from which *recovery will begin*" (emphasis mine).

And the market plunged.

On Nov. 15, 1930, the *Harvard Economic Review* predicted: "We are now near the end of the declining phase of the Depression."

And the market plunged again.

It would take more than three years of ups followed by dramatic downs before the Dow Jones would hit a real bottom—all the way back to around 50.

For the general economy, it took a decade of hopeful high notes and octave-dropping lows and finally a literal *world-wide bloodbath* to end the Depression.

Here is the point. Whether you look at the stock market, world industrial output or trade, the tune matches 1930. By some measures, things are even more discordant.

The Next Stanza

By March of this year, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had crashed by 53 percent

from its highs. The corresponding fall in 1929 was 48 percent. The Dow has now subsequently rallied by 50 percent—just as it did 79 years ago. Where to next?

The stock market's lengthy slump has ended at last, says popular Goldman Sachs soothsayer Abby Joseph Cohen. "We do think that the new bull market has begun."

"There is little evidence to be cautious," composed Citigroup strategist Tobias Levkovich.

Can you hear the pickup note to the next stanza? *And the market plunged again.*

Yet the stock market is not the only indicator that is in hurtful harmony with 1930.

According to the most recent data presented by VoxEU.org, an economic policy research center, world industrial production is also in uneasy unison with the 1930s fall. A look at the charts reveals a déjà vu nightmare chorus. Both the United States and Canada have seen their industrial production fall parallel to the 1929 crisis, as have Germany and Britain. Italy and France and Japan are doing much worse.

In the area of trade, our world is also worse off than that of our predecessors. Trade levels have fallen off a cliff. There are, however, some major differences between now and the first Great Depression.

In 1930 America was a producer. During that year, the U.S. produced 70 percent of the world's oil, 60 percent of its wheat and cotton, 50 percent of copper, 40 percent of coal. Additionally, America held half of the world's monetary gold reserves. Today, America is a net consumer, relying on other nations for energy supplies and strategic minerals such as oil and copper to meet demand.

America also used to be a creditor nation. But it has gone from being the world's greatest lender nation to its greatest debtor—a situation that is getting worse by the day. America is spending money like it is going out of style. It has paid out more money combating the current recession than it has on any other event in history, including World War II.

All the money might buy a little time—it might make the faux recovery last a bit longer—but it doesn't really change anything. A problem caused by too much spending and debt cannot be fixed by more of the same.

Unfortunately, America looks like it is getting set up for a refrain. The excesses of the past two-plus decades have not been rectified during the past few short months. More punishment is on the way.

History is repeating; you can feel the rhythm. The crescendo awaits. ■



BRITAIN'S IRON LADY WAS RIGHT

A voice of warning from 1989 is about to prove especially farsighted. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

MARGARET THATCHER
Prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990, she warned against allowing Germany to unify.

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS JUMPED on the story when documents were released in September disclosing Margaret Thatcher's vigorous opposition to German unification in 1989.

In one Kremlin transcript, the former prime minister was revealed as telling Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in off-the-record meetings in September 1989 that the "reunification of Germany is not in the interests of Britain and Western Europe." While that might appear different from public pronouncements, she stated, Britain does "not want a united Germany."

It's not hard to justify the release of these documents as headline news. They shine added light on what was a turning point in modern European history when the Berlin Wall collapsed in November 1989. But the British media and government opted not to report on the most important angle: *how Margaret Thatcher's sober forecasts are actually being fulfilled.*

Lampooned!

Among the nuggets the *Times* latched onto was Mrs. Thatcher's "bombshell" off-the-record admission to Mr. Gorbachev that while she supported German unification in public, privately she held "deep concerns" about the "big changes" afoot. "Even 20 years later, her remarks are likely to cause an uproar," wrote the *Times*.

"Mrs. Thatcher (as she then was) was wrong," the *Times* haughtily blurted. "As Germany reaches two decades as a reunited country, its unshakable place within the Western family of democratic nations is cause for celebration. *Apprehensions about a united Germany were misguided and have clearly been refuted*" (September 11; emphasis mine throughout).

They have? SAYS WHO?

The *Financial Times* reported that the decision by Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office to publish the documents was perceived as an "attempt by Britain to set the record straight and show that its diplomats were positive about reunification early on—in spite of Mrs. Thatcher's personal misgivings" (September 10). This perception wasn't inaccurate, as Patrick Salmon, chief historian at the British Foreign Office, confirmed: "What they do is they correct the impression that was around at the time, and later, that Britain was negative toward [German unification]," he said.

Such shallow and misleading representation of these revelatory papers in the British media, as well as by the British government, was a tremendous disservice to the British people, many of whom are upset and disturbed by the German-led EU's growing impingement on British sovereignty.

The release of these documents provided British politicians and journalists an opportunity to investigate *why* Thatcher opposed German unification, *if* her reticence was justified, and whether or not her fears are coming to fruition. However, they used them to *court Germany*, even though it meant turning their back on their former stalwart leader.

German media picked up the same story line. Germany's Spiegel Online reported that the "new documents reveal that [British] Foreign Ministry diplomats were considerably more far-sighted than

Germans and totally wrong in her views about German reunification, that some have spun her to be.

Throughout her illustrious political career, 11 years of which she stood tall as Britain's prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher proved herself an avid student of human nature and an eager disciple of history. Mrs. Thatcher's viewpoint on the "German question," as it was known then, was informed by a firm grasp on both history and the human mind.

"I do not believe in collective guilt," she explained in *The Downing Street Years*, "it is individuals who are morally accountable for their actions." Contrary to what some believe, Mrs. Thatcher blamed Hitler primarily for World War II, not the collective German people. "*But I do believe in national character*," she continued, "which is molded by a range of complex factors, [and] *the fact that national caricatures are*

Mrs. Thatcher opposed German reunification because she understood German history and the national character of the German people.

Thatcher, who was led by her gut reaction against Germany" (September 11).

"The long-secret papers show that the *British government played a far more constructive role in German reunification than had been previously thought*," Spiegel wrote. "Only one person had serious doubts about the change: Margaret Thatcher." This is pure revisionist history that belies the concern shared by the most astute observers of Germany's intentions to dominate Europe by using the European Union.

Thatcher's Apprehensions

Before we prove whether or not Thatcher's concerns were justified, we must first understand just what they were. And while the *Times* and its ilk reported on these documents as if Thatcher's opposition to German reunification was blockbuster news, history shows it was no state secret.

Mrs. Thatcher openly, eloquently and extensively explained her viewpoint in her 1993 autobiography, *The Downing Street Years*. Written shortly after the Berlin Wall's fall, the book gives context to her recently disclosed remarks, which were made in meetings that occurred between 1986 and 1990. Reading Thatcher's explanation, it's evident she was not the naive rogue, plagued by a lurking hatred of

often absurd and inaccurate does not detract from that."

Mrs. Thatcher opposed German reunification because she understood German history and the national character of the German people. "Since the unification of Germany under Bismarck," she wrote, "Germany has veered *unpredictably* between aggression and self-doubt." Study German history since the mid-19th century; it's impossible to argue with the facts on this point.

The documents released in September also recount remarks Mrs. Thatcher made during meetings with French President François Mitterrand. Mrs. Thatcher had already recalled some of these meetings (and remarks) in her 1993 book. In one meeting in France in 1989, she writes, Mitterrand was "more concerned" about German reunification than she was. The reason for his concern?

"He observed that in history *the Germans were a people in constant movement and flux*." Mitterrand's concern, as well as Thatcher's—as well as the recorded concerns of other historians, politicians and journalists—shows that, at the time, astute observers were leery of a repeat of German dominance in Europe.

Now notice Thatcher's reaction to Mitterrand's anxiety. At that moment, she

writes, “I produced from my handbag a map showing the various configurations of Germany in the past, which were not altogether reassuring about the future.” Thatcher was so devoted to history as her tutor, she actually carried it around with her in her purse.

That’s what informed her opposition to German reunification!

Because she was familiar with Germany’s historical proclivity to dominate Europe, Mrs. Thatcher warned often that it would be dangerous to lock a reunited Germany into a federal Europe. “*Germany is more rather than less likely to dominate within that framework,*” she explained,

“You have not anchored Germany to Europe. You have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you’ll find it will not work.”

—Margaret Thatcher

“for a reunited Germany is simply too big and powerful to be just another player with Europe.”

Thatcher feared German reunification because she knew it would wreak havoc on Europe’s political landscape. “Germany is ... by its very nature a *destabilizing* rather than a stabilizing force in Europe,” she wrote. This reasoning underpinned Thatcher’s remark to Gorbachev that “Britain did not want a united Germany.”

In her book, Mrs. Thatcher explains the apprehensions she had about German unification in three succinct points. First, a united Germany would rush Europe toward becoming a dominant federalist power. Second, although Europe might at first be led by a Franco-German axis, Germany would in time marginalize French leadership and become the unchecked leader of Europe. Third, a united Germany would facilitate the decline of America’s presence and influence in Europe.

The British press failed to do this in reporting this story, but you can: Consider the past 20 years of European history, and specifically that of the EU. Has Germany emerged at the vanguard of efforts to forge the European Union as a federalist superpower? **INDISPUTABLY.** Has Germany overpowered and outmaneuvered France to become the predominant, unbridled leader of Europe? **WITHOUT DOUBT.** And has America’s presence and influence in

Europe deteriorated in the shadow of Germany’s mounting and formidable presence? **UNDENIABLY.**

HISTORICAL FACT refutes the *Times*’ assertion that Thatcher’s “apprehensions about a united Germany were misguided and have clearly been refuted.” In fact, Britain’s “Iron Lady” was **SPOT ON!**

Vindication

If we view them objectively, the documents released in September vindicate more than condemn Mrs. Thatcher. That vindication, at least partially, comes with the knowledge that fellow world leaders had similar fears and opinions about Ger-

man reunification.

The documents reveal President Mitterrand telling Thatcher that a united Germany could “make even more ground than had Hitler.” If Germany expanded, he said, then Europe would be in the same position that it had been in before World War I. He also said that reunification could turn Germans into the “bad” people they used to be.

They also show Nikolai Ryzhkov, the premier of the Soviet Union, telling Gorbachev that if Germany was allowed to reunify on its own terms, “then in 20 or 30 years Germany will start another world war.”

Jacques Attali, adviser to the French president, was equally concerned. He told a Gorbachev aide that French leaders questioned whether Russia’s lack of interference in the fall of the Berlin Wall meant that “the USSR has made peace with the prospect of a united Germany and will not take any steps to prevent it.” He said, “This has caused a **FEAR APPROACHING PANIC.**” Attali later told Mitterrand that he was so fearful of a united Germany that, should it come to pass, he would “*fly off to live on Mars.*”

These documents reveal that Mrs. Thatcher was far from alone in her apprehensions; they actually justify her concerns as legitimate. It is true that these leaders mostly gave up their concerns after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Courageously,

Britain’s Iron Lady didn’t. “You have not anchored Germany to Europe,” she warned America during a conference in Colorado Springs in October 1995. “You have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you’ll find it will not work.”

As the *Trumpet* has explained extensively in recent issues, the “end” that Mrs. Thatcher mentioned is very nearly here. Germany *is* united and strong, and has cemented itself as the most powerful and dominant force, politically, economically and militarily, on the Continent. Soon, perhaps in a matter of months, Germany will impose its authority and power over Europe beyond what most people can readily imagine.

Prophecies in Daniel chapters 8 and 11 reveal that, in addition to revolving around Germany, end-time events in Europe will be heavily dominated by a single individual, and a man of German descent. This man will have a “fierce countenance,” which means he will be unyielding and merciless. The Bible says he will understand “dark sentences,” which, most commentaries agree, means he will conceal his true motives.

He will be skilled in intrigues, deceit, double-talk and double-dealing. He will rule with terrifying cruelty, just like his predecessor Antiochus Epiphanies, the second-century B.C. Greek king who slashed and slaughtered his way into Jerusalem before ransacking the Jewish temple and murdering Jews.

“Through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand,” Daniel writes, “and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand” (Daniel 8:25). The word *craft* means fraud. The expression “by peace he shall destroy many,” wrote Gerald Flurry, “means he is pretending ‘peace’ and friendship. Then suddenly comes the malignant shock! He destroys *suddenly* while his enemy is in this state of mind. This illustrates the deceitful malice practiced by this political tyrant” (*Trumpet*, June 1999).

Don’t be too quick to discount that forecast. It is rooted in historical fact and biblical prophecy. It will—together with Margaret Thatcher’s spirited warnings—be vindicated by the blood, sweat and tears caused by the soon-coming emergence of a German-led European empire. ■



Mind Your Manners

Recapture etiquette ... and family time. BY JOEL HILLIKER

IHAVE AN IMAGE OF THE QUINTESSENTIAL Italian family dinner, with a huge family—grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, parents, children—passing heaping dishes of pasta around a large yet cozy table, with chitchat, smiles and laughter sweetening the air along with the culinary aromas.

Apparently in our world, such a scene is becoming like a fairy tale. Not only are families increasingly scattered and tiny, but regular family meals are becoming a rarity.

In his book *Our Culture, What's Left of It*, Theodore Dalrymple describes a growing epidemic within Britain of family meals being replaced by uncivilized hunter-gatherer activity. He laments “the breakdown of the family structure—a breakdown so complete that mothers do not consider it a part of their duty to feed their own children once they have reached the age at which they can forage for themselves in a refrigerator—that promotes modern malnutrition in Britain.”

Children and adults forage and scrounge when hungry, or eat fast food on the go. They snack alone, even stealthily, often in the company of a television.

What a missed opportunity.

Even amid life's busyness, the daily evening meal should be a welcome coming together among family members. A chance to connect, to share, to listen to

each other. An opportunity to strengthen bonds of unity and love. An occasion for each person to see that he is a part of something bigger than himself.

It's also a chance to teach your children, by example, how to eat properly.

The need is certainly great. Just watch schoolchildren eat among themselves—even with an adult present. They tend to engage in some pretty unrefined behavior.

They need the reinforcement of good table manners that can occur only when a family eats together regularly.

Moved by these thoughts, I recently pulled a book off my shelf that had accumulated quite a bit of dust. Leafing through its pages, I quickly realized it had been sitting unused far too long.

It is called *Amy Vanderbilt's New Complete Book of Etiquette*. It was published in 1952; my copy was last updated in 1963. It's not even 50 years old—and yet, the rules of social graces it details seem to represent some exotic historical epoch. It helped me realize just how casual and low-minded our culture has become—and how quickly. In America in particular, it seems we *pride ourselves* on our uncouthness; we *exalt* the rude and the base.

I found one bit in this book extremely helpful: a list of rules children should be taught on dinner table conduct. Here, summarized from Amy Vanderbilt in 1963, are some things we *should not do* at the table:

- Sit down to a meal unwashed and uncombed or improperly dressed.
- Tilt our chairs or push them back from the table with all our body weight on them.
- Tuck in a napkin, nor suck our fingers instead of wiping them on a napkin.
- Lounge on the dinner table, including putting our elbows on it or sitting back on our spines. (Apparently it is okay to put elbows—preferably one—on the table between courses.)
- Put more than a manageable mouthful in our mouths at one time.
- Chew with our mouths open or with obvious noise or lip-smacking.
- Speak unnecessarily loudly, or chatter incessantly.
- Behave noisily and conspicuously.
- Burp, belch, sneeze or cough without attempting to turn away from others, and then only behind the cupped hand or a clean handkerchief.
- Scratch, pick the teeth, spit, comb the hair, or tend the nails.
- Pull our finger joints, drum our fingers, or indulge in any similar irritating little habits that set people's teeth on edge.
- Leave a spoon in a cup, or eat with a knife.
- Interrupt a conversation—except for an important reason and then only after asking permission to speak.

So there you have it. Soon after reviewing these rules with my daughters, one of them corrected my wife on the placement of an errant elbow during a meal. I told her that it was *far* more rude and inappropriate for a child to correct an adult than it was to misplace an elbow.

But that does bring up an obvious but crucial point: The best way to teach these rules is *by our example*.

And the only way to do that is by *eating together*, regularly, as a family. ■

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

GERMAN PRESIDENT Horst Köhler unveiled the country's first memorial to soldiers killed in the post-World War II military on September 8. While Germany is just one of many countries that memorialize their war dead, this is part of a disquieting trend of military taboos being pushed aside in Germany.

On August 2, German Chancellor Angela Merkel reiterated her support for a memorial to Germans who had to relocate from Eastern Europe after World War II. The Federation of Expellees, a group backed by the German government, is now moving forward with plans for a memorial in Berlin for these dispossessed. On August 24, a statement from the heads of the German and Polish bishops' conferences also drew attention to "the wrongs and loss of homeland experienced by Germans due to expulsions." Such developments reflect an increasing tendency to portray Germans as victims in the war. That sense of victimhood in Germany is helping to awaken national pride. Historically, this has had global repercussions; biblical prophecy tells us it will again.

Germany's ruling political parties agreed on how to implement the Lisbon Treaty on August 18, after weeks of negotiations. The Christian Social Union had wanted to force the German government to seek permission from the parliament and federal council before supporting legislation in Brussels. Instead, the government will have to listen to parliament, but will not be bound by what it says. The resulting bill, backed by all major parties but one, passed through



the lower house of parliament on September 8. It represents a significant power grab for Germany, giving it more control over European affairs.

High-ranking EU diplomats meet weekly with Hamas, despite its status as a terrorist group, Hamas told EUobserver in a September 12 interview. "We meet a lot of them from France, from Spain, from Germany, from Italy, from England, from Luxembourg. When they listen to us and we spend a couple of hours with them, they understand what is the real image of Hamas," said spokesman Ghazi Hamad. Also, Germany has been working with Egypt in negotiations with Hamas to secure the release of Israeli captive Gilad Shalit, according to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Such mediation is being used by Europe, and Germany in particular, as a way to play a larger role in the Middle East peace process.

MIDEAST

PAKISTANI NUCLEAR WEAPONS scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan has admitted assisting Iran in its nuclear program. In an interview broadcast on Pakistani television August 31, Khan described how he and other Pakistani military officials facilitated deals between Iran and Pakistan's nuclear weapons materials suppliers. Khan told the interviewer that if Iran succeeds in "acquiring nuclear technology, we will be a strong bloc in the region to counter international pressure. Iran's nuclear capability will neutralize Israel's power."

Iran and Venezuela signed three energy agreements on September 6 during a visit by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez to the Islamic Republic. Two of the accords stipulated that Venezuela and Iran will each invest \$760 million in the other's energy sector. The third deal was an

Iranian attempt to mitigate the risk of new sanctions from the West by importing 20,000 barrels of gasoline daily from Venezuela. The strengthening relationship between Iran and Venezuela is aimed at countering U.S. interests, both in the Middle East and South America.

In Yemen, government forces have been fighting Iran-backed Shiite unrest since early August. On August 31, the Yemini government summoned the Iranian ambassador over alleged media bias toward the Shiite rebels. Also in late August, security forces claimed to have uncovered six weapons caches belonging to Shiite militants that contained short-range missiles and light machine guns made in Iran. Stratfor reported that "with regional tensions escalating over Iran's growing influence, the country is developing into yet an-





other hot proxy battleground between the Persians and Arabs” (September 1). This is further evidence of Iran’s efforts to consolidate its power in the region, and also of the division in the Islamic world today that portends a drastic split indicated in end-time prophecy between those Muslim nations that will ally with Iran and those that will ally with a European power.

As U.S. forces draw down in **Iraq**, attacks within the country are increasing. On August 19, a series of blasts in Baghdad killed 95 people and wounded over 1,000. The explosions struck at the heart of Iraq’s Shiite-led government, damaging the Finance and Foreign Ministry buildings. The Sunnis are sending a message. They don’t like the security and political arrangements currently in place in Iraq, which favor the Shia, and want to remind both the Shia and the Americans of the trouble they could cause should their interests be ignored. They know that once



the U.S. leaves, they will have no guarantor. As Washington tries to maneuver its way out of Iraq without the country collapsing in a heap, Iran is watching closely, and will be sure to take advantage.

Major Iranian-backed Shiite groups in Iraq announced a new coalition, excluding Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, August 24 in a major realignment of Iraqi politics. In a strong move by Tehran to grab power in Iraq, its allies in Baghdad formed the new Iraqi National Alliance (INA) in preparation for parliamentary elections on January 16. The two main blocs in the alliance are the largest Shiite party, the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), and the Al Sadr

Trend, led by the anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Maliki has not yet decided whether he will join this new alliance on Iran’s terms or try to cobble together a rival alliance. Regardless, the new Shiite alliance gives Iran a firm hand on the future direction of Iraqi politics.

Hezbollah has been stockpiling chemical weapons in southern **Lebanon**, according to Kuwaiti newspaper *al-Seyasah*. The report, published September 3, cited European intelligence sources working with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon who claimed that Iran has flown chemical and biological warfare equipment to Lebanon via **Syria**. The newspaper said the ammunition dump that exploded in



Lebanon on July 14 contained chemical weapons.

The Obama administration has softened its demand that Israel immediately cease all settlement construction as a precondition for resuming peace talks with the Palestinians, *Haaretz* reported August 27. Now, however, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is maintaining that for peace talks to resume there must be a total freeze of construction in East Jerusalem. The primary impasse is over Jerusalem. This means, regardless of any negotiations, a clash between Palestinians and Jews is inevitable.

Hamas hosted 100,000 youths in Gaza this year at 700 summer camps, according to Arutz Sheva. In addition to being indoctrinated with Islamic ideology, children were given weapons and hand-to-hand combat training, as well as training on how to use

explosive belts for suicide missions. Through these camps and other methods, Hamas and other Islamist groups are poisoning the minds of a generation of Palestinian children to hate Israel.

ASIA

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT DMITRY Medvedev told Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko in a letter released August 11 that the Ukrainian president is the cause of sour relations between their two countries. Medvedev kept his attacks narrowly focused on Ukraine's leaders while embracing the Ukrainian people as a whole. Medvedev was clearly telling the Ukrainians that they need to change their leaders in the election on January 17 in order to have a strong partnership with **Russia**. Russia is trying to use its historical links to pry **Ukraine** away from Europe and America. Polls suggest that the January 2010 elections will markedly shift Ukraine toward Russia.

Russian businessman and former Energy Minister Igor Yusufov is poised to buy a German shipyard. State authorities and creditors agreed August 17 to the \$56 billion contract, a fraction of the shipyard's real value. The proposed buyout foresees Yusufov founding a company called Nordic Yards, which will then take over Wadan Shipyard's operations.

Chancellor Merkel expressed support for the transaction. The strengthening liaison between Germany and Russia bodes poorly for the West.

On August 26, the *Financial Times* reported that Russia is bolstering its relationship with **Mongolia**. President Medvedev signed a five-year contract to transfer management rights of Mongolia's railways, previously run jointly by the two countries, to Russia. Moscow is also now poised to mine uranium in Mongolia. These tightening ties with Mongolia, the "land bridge" between **China** and Russia, is another sign of the rising prophesied Asian superpower.

On August 27, Reuters reported that China had "called on the United States to reduce and eventually halt air and sea military surveillance close to its shores." The request came in the wake of a series of territorial disputes this year. This is another example of China flexing its military muscle.

China is worried about America's decision to resort to "credit easing"—essentially, printing money—to try to get out of financial troubles. This may force China to find alternatives to the dollar, according to one official. France, Russia and **India** have also called for an end of the dollar's role as the world's reserve currency. On September 8, the UN Conference on Trade and Development joined the chorus.

Russian geopolitical clout

was bolstered on September 10 when Venezuelan President Chávez recognized two pro-Russian rebel regions of **Georgia** as independent. Venezuela is the second country after **Nicaragua** to follow Russia's lead in recognizing the sovereignty of the two breakaway provinces within Georgia's internationally acknowledged borders. The rest of the world views South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which rejected Georgian rule in the early 1990s, as integral regions of Georgia. Caracas and Moscow also forged several agreements on energy, trade and defense.

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

A FLIGHT FROM CANCUN to Mexico City was hijacked on September 9.

Though there was no loss of life, the effect on **Mexico's** tourism industry could be devastating. Tourism had already dropped 18 percent since last year, mostly because of the drug war which has flared in Mexico.

Eighteen federal agents were killed in President Felipe Calderon's home state, Michoacan, in July. On August 20, the U.S. Justice Department announced indictments against 43 members of a major Mexican drug cartel, including Joaquin Guzman-Loera, Mexico's "most-wanted man," a chief supplier of cocaine to drug users in America.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced September 3 that the U.S. would cancel \$22 million of aid to **Honduras**. The State Department said, "Restoration of the terminated assistance will be

predicated upon a return to democratic, constitutional governance in Honduras." Yet officials have also said that President Obama's administration will not recognize the upcoming democratic elections. Thus continues its support of a man who was illegally seeking to seize dictatorial control over Honduras.

President Obama has found an unexpected—and perhaps unwelcome—supporter for his agenda: Fidel Castro. "The extreme right hates him [President Obama] for being African-American and fights what the president does to improve the deteriorated image of that country," the former Cuban president wrote in his state newspaper column on August 25. "I don't have the slightest doubt that the racist right will do everything possible to wear him down, blocking his program to get him out of the game one way or another, at the least political cost." Clearly, Castro knows a socialist agenda when he sees one.



Venezuelan President Chávez completed what he dubbed an "axis of evil" tour in September. Caracas and Tehran signed three new energy agreements on Sep-

tember 6, bringing the total to 35. On September 10, Chávez arrived in Moscow, meeting with President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin to discuss energy cooperation and arms purchases. In a tour that included visits to **Libya** and Syria, Chávez sought to decrease his country's dependence on U.S. oil purchases, thereby diminishing Washington's influence in Latin America.

The *Christian Science Monitor* claimed August 20 that Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party are targeting



SPARK OF OPPORTUNITY
As German workers stage "warning" strikes, Russia looks to buy their shipyard.

Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) opponents in order to diminish the opposition's clout in the unity government. One MDC official claimed that "Zanu-PF is using the police and the Central Intelligence Organization to harass our members." In the past year, more than 200 MDC activists have been killed.

World Bank President Robert Zoellick announced September 2 that he is talking to the Chinese government about investing in Africa. He stated that China's sovereign wealth fund, China Investment Corp., "expressed interest" in investing in the World Bank's new asset management company that aims to direct money from the private sector to Third World countries in Africa and Latin America. China is not motivated by altruism, however; it is after resources. By investing in these continents, it aims to gain access to more of what it needs to fuel its growing empire.

ANGLO-AMERICA

U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, patriarch of the dynastic Kennedy family and a king of the Democratic Party, died on August 25 of brain cancer. He was 77. The death marked the most recent in a family known for sustaining what some have called a "curse" that has resulted in more than half a dozen deadly tragedies since 1944.

Bloomberg reported September 10 that the U.S. trade deficit increased in July by 16 percent (\$32 billion), the most in over a decade. The trade gap with the EU almost doubled to \$8 billion.

Postal officials estimate that

the U.S. Postal Service will ship about 20 billion fewer pieces of mail this year than in the previous year, its largest drop in its 234-year history. It has a \$7 billion budget deficit for 2009.

The *Washington Times* reported in September that 2.5 million Americans fell below the poverty line last year as millions of jobs were lost, contributing to the highest number of poor Americans since 1998. One in eight Americans now lives on less than \$10,991 per year. Another record was set in June, when more than 35 million Americans received food stamps, up 22 percent from a year before and a new all-time record. The program now involves one in nine Americans.

As the American economy lurches, 34 percent of U.S.

workers say they have just one week of savings in the bank—or less. Financial advisers say workers should save the equivalent of six months' salary to be safe.

On September 16, the Senate released its version of a health-care reform bill, a measure that opponents say is hugely expensive and comes at a time when the nation can least afford it. The bill would require all individuals to purchase health care or pay a fine, expand Medicaid, and prohibit insurance companies from charging more to those who have health problems. The bill would cost \$856 billion.

California had a hard summer. On August 26, Toyota's board of directors announced that because of low sales and

General Motors' bankruptcy, it will close the last major auto plant in the state next March. The same day, a **gigantic wildfire broke out in California**. It grew to become the largest in Los Angeles County history and the 10th-largest in the history of the state. Its largest component blackened 157,220 acres, destroyed 78 homes and killed two firefighters.

In August, British opposition leader David Cameron decried the government's spending, calling it a "disgrace." This year alone, the British government expects to borrow £175 billion (US\$291 billion)—about 12 percent of gross domestic product and a record for peacetime. In the next five years, **Britain** is expected to double its national debt to £1.4 trillion (US\$2.3 trillion).

Australia's most important farming region is experiencing its driest weather on record. Its eight-year-long drought is the worst in a century. It has ruined crops throughout the 410,000-square-mile Murray-Darling Basin, which accounts for 40 percent of Australian agricultural production. Agence France-Presse reported that sections of the Murray River "have become little more than stagnant pools" (August 23).





Another Defeat at the Door

And guess who's knocking?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

UNDER THE GUN American Marines and Afghan soldiers under enemy fire drop to their knees as a cloud of IED dust chokes the air in Mian Poshteh, Afghanistan.

THE TALIBAN AND AL QAEDA in Afghanistan were America's first targets after 9/11. Before 2001 was out, so was the Taliban. Hopes of building a solidly democratic, Western-friendly nation were high as Hamid Karzai was made interim leader.

Eight years on, those hopes are gone. Afghanistan has proven impossible to bring to heel.

In the last three years in particular, control has increasingly slipped back to these radical Muslim groups. The last two years of George W. Bush's presidency saw a total of 282 American casualties there (compared to 197 the two years before, and 161 the four years before that). When President Bush left office, the International

Council on Security and Development (ICOS) think tank showed that the Taliban had reestablished a "heavy" presence in over 72 percent of the country and "significant" presence (defined as one or more insurgent attacks per month) in 93 percent. On UN security maps, over half the country was considered "uncontrolled hostile environment"—which, only a few years prior, *none* of the country had been.

Not a good showing after seven years of war.

During the presidential campaign last year, Barack Obama and his left-wing supporters excoriated the Bush administration for getting "sidetracked" in Iraq, when Afghanistan, so said conventional wisdom on the left, was the real battlefront in the war against terrorism. "In 16 months we should be able to ... bolster

our efforts in Afghanistan so that we can capture and kill bin Laden and crush al Qaeda," Mr. Obama said in the first presidential debate in October last year.

So—the first half of that 16 months has passed. Where are we? Despite the Defense Department committing an additional 21,000 troops to Afghanistan last spring, the war there has taken a deadly turn for the worse. New ICOS data shows that the Taliban's presence has grown: It is now "heavy" in 80 percent of the country, "substantial" in at least 97 percent. In the first eight months of 2009 alone, the U.S. had suffered by far the most casualties of any year since the war began: 200 soldiers out of over 340 total coalition deaths.

Many are wondering if the U.S. should cut its losses and run. A 51 percent majority in America now views the Afghanistan

conflict as a war that is not worth fighting.

Even some conservative commentators are now abandoning ship. On September 1, columnist George Will called on the Obama administration to scrap its Afghan policy, dramatically slash the number of troops and focus instead on “what can be done from offshore.”

Will has hardly been alone in pointing out the numerous flaws in the Afghan strategy. “U.S. rules of engagement restricting the use of air power and aggressive action against civilians have also opened new space for the insurgents,” Karen DeYoung wrote in the *Washington Post* (September 2). Rebuilding Afghanistan’s infrastructure has given the Taliban new targets to attack, she continued. And America’s inability to protect Afghan citizens is only fueling resentment against Western forces.

At present, DeYoung intoned, the Taliban is winning.

The Great Irony

President Obama’s handpicked commander, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, took charge of the Afghanistan war effort in June and submitted his confidential assessment of the overall war strategy to the Pentagon on August 30. According to a declassified version of the report produced by the *Washington Post* on September 20, McChrystal wrote, “Although considerable effort and sacrifice have resulted in some progress, many indicators suggest the overall effort is deteriorating.” Unless the insurgent momentum is reversed over the next 12 months, McChrystal warned, the United States is in danger of losing the Afghan war.

“Time matters; we must act now to reverse the negative trends and demonstrate progress,” General McChrystal wrote, indicating that a massive troop surge would be necessary to earn victory in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, bound by his campaign rhetoric to concentrate on the “front lines” of the terror war, upon becoming president, Barack Obama—of all people—found himself in the uncomfortable position of trying to drum up homeland support for an increasingly unpopular war!

“This is a war of necessity,” Obama told a gathering of war veterans in August. “Those who attacked America on 9/11 are plotting to do so again. If left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al Qaeda would plot to kill more Americans.”

What an ironic twist: the undisputed ANTIWAR candidate of the 2008 election



“Although considerable effort and sacrifice have resulted in some progress, many indicators suggest the overall effort is deteriorating.”

GEN. STANLEY A. MCCHRISTAL

urging a war-weary electorate to get behind the war effort. It’s as if the United States is going through a frame-by-frame replay of Iraq in 2007, before the surge. Only this time, we have the most radically liberal administration in American history occupying the White House.

While the new U.S. government may still opt for a surge-like strategy to save face in Afghanistan, it appears that President Obama may now be reconsidering whether or not the “war of necessity” is, in fact, *necessary*. In response to McChrystal’s war assessment, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on September 22, the Pentagon instructed McChrystal to refrain from making a formal request for additional troops until the Obama administration completed its “review of the U.S.-led war effort.”

According to the *Journal*, “General McChrystal’s call for quick action appears to be *increasingly at odds* with comments from President Barack Obama, who has insisted in recent days that he won’t be rushed into approving more U.S. troops for the war” (emphasis mine throughout). Even as America’s generals have now embraced the president’s new counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan, which he outlined earlier this year, Barack Obama is now seriously

thinking about scrapping the new strategy.

The first question America should consider, President Obama told a reporter on September 20 when asked about the war effort in Afghanistan, is this: “Are we doing the right thing?”

The Inevitable Outcome

If you find it difficult to imagine any scenario in which this turns out to be good for coalition forces in Afghanistan, you are not alone. “We’ve got a general who’s been gagged,” columnist Ralph Peters lamented soon after McChrystal submitted his August review, “a president trapped by his campaign promises, a muddled mission, crippling restrictions on our troops, a resurgent enemy, a worthless Afghan government—and an AWOL establishment media that, after hammering the Bush administration, gives Obama a pass on American casualties” (September 3).

Meanwhile, Peters added, “Iraq—which genuinely matters—goes ignored.”

Yes, even as America squanders its hard-fought gains in Iraq, which the *Trumpet* has repeatedly forecasted would happen, it is simultaneously being backed into a corner—and by the *very same enemy* poised and ready to seize Iraq once U.S. forces retreat.

Earlier this year, Adm. Dennis C. Blair, the director of National Intelligence, was asked by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to comment about the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan. According to a transcript of the proceedings, which was declassified on July 30, Admiral Blair said, “IRAN is covertly supplying arms to Afghan insurgents while *publicly posing as supportive of the Afghan government*. Shipments typically include small arms, mines, rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), rockets, mortars, and plastic explosives. Taliban commanders have *publicly* credited Iranian support for their successful operations against coalition forces.”

You can also add General McChrystal to the long list of government and military officials who lay blame for the Afghan mess on Iranian puppet masters. According to his August 30 report, the Iranian Quds Force is “training fighters for certain Taliban groups and providing other forms of military assistance to insurgents.”

Yes, of course—no matter the various battlefronts in this war against terrorism or the variety of names given to insurgent groups, *it’s always the same old Iranian state sponsor* WARRING against the United States and Britain—and one that will soon be armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons.

Blair's testimony and the McChrystal report will come as no surprise to our regular readers who *know* what we've been saying for eight years now: that the United States will NOT win the war against terrorism.

We say this because the same God who long ago prophesied of America's astonishing rise to superpower status also predicted

our swift and precipitous fall from power, as a result of our *rampant sins* and STUBBORN REBELLION against God.

"And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass," God warned in Leviticus 26:19, referring primarily to the American and British peoples of *our day*.

The pride the United States and Britain once had in their awesome military power and might has been completely broken and smashed!

As the Bible prophesied and Herbert Armstrong said as far back as 1961, the United States and Britain have already won their last war. ■

Democracy Won't Fix Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN is in trouble. It is filled with ineffective governing officials and powerless police officers, many of whom moonlight as criminals. Government services are in disarray. Reconstruction projects have proven unhelpful. Unemployment is widespread. Heroin production is booming.

Most concerning to many Afghans, the radical Taliban is staging a relentless comeback. NATO forces are simply too sparse to hold these terrorists in check.

Don't expect things to improve anytime soon—thanks to a botched national election in August. Operations against the jihadists will have to take somewhat of a backseat to efforts at patching up the wounded government.

President Obama called the election "an important step forward in the Afghan people's effort to take control of their future, even as violent extremists are trying to stand in their way." It's a nice thought—but anyone who still thinks democracy is the solution for Afghanistan should look closer.

Before the election, the Taliban threatened violence against voters; they launched rocket attacks and a suicide bombing that killed seven; they pulled one candidate from his car and shot him—the 13th confirmed political killing since spring. The intimidation worked: Voter turnout was estimated at 20 to 30 percent, and was especially poor in rural areas, which make up four fifths of the country. On election day, 73 more

attacks were carried out, killing 20 to 30 people. Several voters had their inked fingers chopped off.

The Afghan Elections Complaints Commission (ECC) received over 2,600 allegations of fraud, including ballot box stuffing, bullying of voters and lack of access to polls, particularly for women. "Fictitious polling booths were set up," reported Tim McGirk from Kabul, "and in some places, vote riggers were so brazen they did not even bother to remove the individual ballots from the booklets in which they were printed before marking them" (*Time*, September 10). "The problem is a basic lack of rule of law," the co-director of the Afghan Analysts Network told Times Online. "In eight years we haven't established a culture where you follow rules" (September 11). The ECC threw out ballots from 83 polling stations and called for a recount at over 2,500 others.

Additional complications arose from the fact that most of the country is tribal, with local elders who have immense power over the people they are responsible for. "We have tribal agreement," a laborer in an east Afghani village explained. "When tribal elders request anything we cannot avoid it." Another individual said that the elders had simply voted for the people. "They helped us and spared all the women the trouble of going and voting," he said. At many polling stations, 95 percent of the votes went for one candidate.

Two thirds of the population—including 85 percent of the



HOPEFUL An elderly Afghan man votes in Kabul in August, the second time in Afghanistan's ragged history that its citizens have voted for their president.

women—are too illiterate to have even read the names on the ballot.

At the time of this writing, Karzai had enough of a lead to avoid a runoff against Abdullah. But UN officials say they believe if the fraudulent votes are pitched, that wouldn't be the case. Problem is, another vote would take months to stage—months of instability that would open the door for even greater political turbulence.

In fact, the electoral mess is playing right into the Taliban's hands. "A stream of revelations about systematic cheating during last month's vote has given the Taliban fresh ammunition in their propaganda campaign to portray President Hamid Karzai's administration as hopelessly corrupt," reported the *Washington Post*. "Infighting among U.S., UN and European diplomats over whether to accept the results with Karzai the winner or force a new round of voting has also fed the Taliban line that the government in Kabul is merely a puppet of foreign powers" (September 21).

And at the end of the process, the president will either be Karzai or Abdullah. Each man would

have to reward the supportive regional warlord strongmen with whom they wheeled and dealt. That means giving them positions in the government or otherwise legitimizing their rule over regions of the country.

The bottom line is, democracy is an impossible fit in Afghanistan. The nation's history of ethno-regional warlordism is simply too strong.

"Ironically," wrote Stratfor on August 21, "attempts to impose a democratic political system in Afghanistan appear to be undermining the U.S. counterinsurgency strategy."

In September, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said it was "premature to make judgments" on whether President Obama's efforts there are successful, "because we're only at the initial stages of that policy."

You're welcome to keep waiting to make judgments. We'll stick with what we've said from the beginning. America is under a curse. The pride in its power is broken. That is why, as Gerald Flurry has written, "we cannot win the war against terrorism." **JOEL HILLIKER**

Is There One True Religion?

Where is the truth amid all the confusion? BY RON FRASER

THREE PRIMARY RELIGIONS ARE considered monotheistic—maintaining belief in one supreme Creator: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. All three revere Jerusalem as a holy city. None agrees fully on the way to worship the one God they all espouse.

Logic demands that if there indeed is one God, then it ought to follow that He would define the proper manner in which to worship Him, and reveal that way to man. Yet these religions differ vastly in doctrine and in practice.

One of these, Judaism, claims that the Old Testament writings preserved from ancient times by the Jews are the revealed instructions to man on how to worship God.

Varying divisions of Christianity lay claim to the same book, the Bible—incorporating both the Old Testament preserved by the Jews (albeit in differing versions) and the New Testament preserved by the Greeks—as the basis of their religion. Yet they disagree on their interpretation of its teachings.

The third of these great religions places faith in another book as the Creator's revealed knowledge of how to worship and obey God: the Koran of the Islamic faith.

Within each of these religions are many diverse branches, differing on religious beliefs and practices to the point of confusion as to just what it is that represents core doctrine. If religion is, indeed, the opiate of the masses, as Marx declared, then among these religions there is a brand to suit all tastes.

Is there one *true* faith? If not, then based on the assumption of all three of these religions that there exists one supreme God over all, has that God destined mankind to a life of confusion over the very basic questions about His nature, His religion and the reason He created man? These are fundamental questions with which countless generations of thinkers, philosophers, religionists and educationists have wrestled for 6,000 years of documented human history.

Honest Questions

Many men of science refuse to face this most fundamental of all questions about the nature of our being and of the universe. British historian Paul Johnson has stated that such men of knowledge “are not going to confess their own ignorance, indeed, their intellectual impotence” (*Spectator*, Nov. 12, 2005). In his subsequent writings, as he proceeds through his eighth decade of life, Johnson occasionally reverts to musings on the metaphysical. But that piece in November 2005 stands out for its challenge to skeptics who doubt

If there indeed is one God, then it ought to follow that He would define the proper manner in which to worship Him.

the very existence of the supreme Creator.

Paul Johnson is a deep thinker. He dares to consider questions that most scientists tend to discount due to their inability to come to terms with their outstanding relevance.

He dares to consider *God!*

In that same *Spectator* column, Johnson challenged one of the most brilliant of mathematical minds, Dr. Stephen Hawking, author of *A Brief History of Time*. Referring to a TV interview during which Hawking was asked, “What existed before the universe began?” Johnson quoted Hawking's reply: “That's a meaningless question.”

To this Johnson retorted, “Oh no, it isn't. ... No question is meaningless if it is prompted by a genuine thirst for

knowledge. Physicists expect us to believe their claim ... that not merely something but everything was created out of nothing, thus breaking the fundamental law of physics. ... [T]hey fear that trying to answer [questions about what happened before the ‘big bang,'] or admitting that they are meaningful, will involve them in debate about the three-letter word which, to them, is the final obscenity—G-O-D.”

Zeroing in on his own unique quest for answers to this question, Paul Johnson admitted, “Since an early age I have always been puzzled by God” (*ibid.*). Yet, unlike the men of science whom he derides for ignoring these most basic of questions, he has obviously been honest about his search to find answers. The logical foundation for his quest is this: “The fact of an all-powerful God, who transcends all the laws of physics, and equally supplies order in the vacuum left by their non-existence, is the only explanation ...”

Johnson's questions are akin to those asked by every true and honest thinker through the ages: “If God had always existed, why did He suddenly decide to create the universe and humanity? ... He created space and time at the same moment. But what was His motive? What did He hope or intend to achieve? What exactly is God's plan?” (*ibid.*).

Here is a man now in the eighth decade of his life's experience—a true scholar, well traveled, who has written volumes on the human quest for meaning in life—who has spent most of his own lifetime in an intensive search to find the answers to the very realities of the universe—of why it exists, what is its past and what is its future.

Chances are that many of the regular subscribers to our *Trumpet* magazine are involved in a similar quest.

Dr. Johnson, in fact, does get so close to the answer: “Only when we eliminate the material dimension altogether do those who believe in God acquire an overwhelming advantage” (*ibid.*). In other words, to take a leaf out of Herbert W.

Armstrong's book, if we seek to prove the existence of God we need access to what he termed "the missing dimension."

Paul Johnson gets as close as any human being can in this search for God, without direct access to that "missing dimension." He realizes that there is an *essence* that is part of the human persona—a non-physical component, a *spirit* in man—that gives a direct connection to man's Maker, who is the source of that spirit. This reality is a literal extension of the divine Godhead. Johnson expresses this reality thus: "God is essentially a spiritual rather than a physical being, and if He exists outside space and time and all the factors which owe their complexity to them, then the problems of existence begin to seem soluble" (ibid.).

That said, one needs a guide from one's Maker to work toward resolving these "problems of existence" of God.

Proof of God

There is but one source that contains the requisite proofs of God's existence: the documented Word of God. We call this collection of divinely inspired writings the Bible. But to the average man, this most published, most translated and most widely distributed book in the world remains an enigma. It is subject to countless individual interpretations. Numerous professional theologians call the concept of its inerrancy into question. Hence the confusing multitude of Christian denominations, each claiming a right to understanding its truths, yet none in complete agreement.

The plain truth is, unlike other so-called holy books, the Bible can be *proven* to be the inerrant Word of God. The most powerful of proofs of its divine source and its consistency in declaring truth is *fulfilled Bible prophecy!* (Request a free copy of our booklet *The Proof of the Bible.*)

One whole third of the Bible is *prophecy* for the future, most of which is being fulfilled in our day. Indeed, we who live in this age are among the most privileged of people, for we are surrounded by and indeed part of the unfolding of the most dramatic of all prophecies in the Bible!

For nearly two decades, the *Trumpet* magazine has exposed the proof of the fulfillment of these prophecies. Month by month, as current events link with history and biblical prophecy, the *Trumpet* has offered the most dramatic proof of the accuracy of biblical prophecies, some having been originally documented over 3,000 years ago!

Never was it more crucial to convey

this message of prophecy to this world. In fact, the future of mankind depends on the continuance of the enterprise to which God gave a divine commission to preach and publish the Bible's prophetic message to the *whole* world.

That original divinely commissioned enterprise has historically been called the Church of God (Acts 20:28). God declared of His Church, at its inception, that it would never die (Matthew 16:18). Thus it must be extant today in its original Spirit-led form, under its God-given manner of government and administration (Ephesians 4:4-16), preaching the same message given it originally by God (Mark 13:10). Otherwise, God Himself is proven a liar! And God, by His very nature, cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Romans 3:4).

Simply find that church—the proven continuance of the one *true* Church that teaches God's law and has the revelation of prophecy (Isaiah 8:16, 20; Revelation 19:10) and of God's plan for the salvation of humankind (Hebrews 10:12, 26)—and you will find the answers to these burning questions about the real meaning of life!

The plain truth is, unlike other so-called holy books, the Bible can be proven to be the inerrant Word of God.

The Way to Life

Honest searchers for truth must sympathize with a man of grand intellect such as Paul Johnson: a cultured, erudite teacher of history, a student of the fine arts, a common-sense commentator on human affairs who has genuinely spent all his life, from precocious childhood to his senior years, pursuing the answers to questions about God. The honesty of such a quest is the very opposite to the dishonest denial of the validity of such questions by the bulk of intelligentsia. As Johnson declares, their intellectual impotence is proven by the fact that they "have no explanation of being. Their attitude is simply an abdication of thought, a cosmic despair in the ability of the human mind to devise any

explanation of the most interesting and deepest problems of existence" (ibid.).

Dr. Johnson at least has the vision to understand a great overarching truth: that man possesses "an essential element or dimension with God, thus explaining the ... belief that we are all 'made in God's image'" (ibid.).

Paul Johnson makes just one critical error in his musings on the meaning of life. He states, "Death of the body is thus an insignificant punctuation in the life of the soul, which continues indefinitely" (ibid.). Yet the Book of books plainly declares, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20). The corollary of this would be, "The soul that is sinless, it shall live"! This presupposes that in order then for the soul not to die, one must find out the meaning of that term *sin*, then ensure that the soul finds the way of becoming *sinless*. Such knowledge opens up the way to *eternal life!*

But even before we begin that quest, we need to find out just what is this thing called "soul." The answer to that question gets to the very heart of what a human being is, why he is, who created him and just what is his eternal destiny. These are questions that still puzzle esteemed thinkers such as Paul Johnson. After decades of searching for the answers, Dr. Johnson muses, "What remains puzzling is why God decided to create a temporal universe, and a material dimension, subject to space and time, in which to put the souls of His creatures to the test of life. The answer may be infinitely complex or infinitely simple" (ibid.).

Indeed, the answer is infinitely simple (2 Corinthians 11:3). So simple that it can be only understood if we literally take on the mind-set of a child—being willing to be taught by God, wiping our mind clear of all previous bias, and allowing the clarifying light of biblical revelation to reveal the wonder of the meaning of life to us. As the Son of God declared, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). That conversion is a literal mind-changing, life-changing experience that links the human mind with its Maker, thus opening it up to revelation of God-breathed truth.

There is a book that will guide you in your search for the answers to these burning questions. It will lead you to the biblically proven, inerrant answers to these mysteries that have intrigued man for millennia. Request your free copy of *Mystery of the Ages*. It opens up a fantastic vision of real, genuine hope for man's relationship with his Maker! ■

Is Libya Really a Friend?

BY BRAD MACDONALD

LOOKING EAST Muammar Gadhafi has made overtures to the West, but his heart lies closer to Persian coordinates.

THE RADIANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN Libya and the West was an illusion, Gerald Flurry wrote in May 2006. It was bound to fracture. “Look for Libya to become more aligned with Iran in the near future,” the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief warned. “It gave up its weapons of mass destruction, as it leaned toward the West. *But that foreign policy is going to change.*”

Two recent events make that forecast worth revisiting. The first was the hero’s welcome given to Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, the only person ever convicted in the deadly bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Megrahi was released from jail in August after serving just eight years of a life sentence. He was then embraced by the son of Libyan strongman Col. Muammar Gadhafi and escorted back to Tripoli, where he was greeted by a cheering throng of thousands.

The second was the 40th anniversary celebrations of the coup that marked the beginning of Gadhafi’s reign over the North African state. Replete with fireworks, lavish parties and impressive military displays, Tripoli’s spectacular anniversary celebrations appeared, as on-site observer Damien McElroy put it, to be “designed to inflame tensions with America and Britain” (*Telegraph*, September 1).

Libya has been lauded for its overtures toward the West in recent years; Colonel Gadhafi has been rewarded for apparently repenting of his former ways, which included sponsoring Islamic terrorism and engaging in rogue nuclear activities. But given these recent events, it’s worth asking: Is Tripoli, as Mr. Flurry forecast it would, abandoning its friendship with the West and reorienting itself toward Iran?

Feigned Repentance

On Jan. 24, 2008, a bomb ripped through

the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, killing at least 38 people and wounding another 225. Three days later, Associated Press, citing a local Sunni security chief, reported that “a son of Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi [was] behind [the] group of foreign and Iraqi fighters responsible” for the brutal attack. A former al-Qaeda-cohort-turned-police-official in the Anbar province said the attacks were carried out by the Seifadin Regiment, a group of terrorists supported by Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, the eldest son and likely heir of Muammar.

That the younger Gadhafi’s name was connected to terrorist attacks in Iraq was not surprising. In 2007, in remarks that condoned if not promoted terrorist attacks as a political weapon, he warned Europe in an interview that the “only solution to contain radicalism is a rapid departure of Western troops from Iraq as well as Afghanistan, and a solution to the Palestinian question” (Austria Press Agency).

In December 2007, America’s West Point Military Academy released a report summarizing al Qaeda documents discovered during a September raid that year. “What stood out most in the report,” observed Stratfor, “was the growing Libyan component of al Qaeda in Iraq” (Dec. 21, 2007). According to the findings, Libya contributed far more terrorists per capita than any other nation, including Saudi Arabia.

Libya clearly has an ongoing love for Islamic terrorism. No wonder Megrahi was welcomed so warmly.

Solidarity With Iran

In December 2007, Iranian first vice president at the time, Parviz Davoodi, visited Libya in the first high-level visit from an Iranian official in 25 years. During the trip, Davoodi met Gadhafi and other senior officials and signed 10 agreements

of mutual cooperation in fields ranging from investment and finance to culture and higher education. Gadhafi spoke to the press about the importance of Iran’s role in the region and the world. Libyan Prime Minister El-Mahmoudi, after meeting with Iran’s vice president, stated, “We discussed the issues related to Iraq, Palestine and other issues, *and our views are identical on all those issues*” (African Press International, Dec. 27, 2007).

Compare that with remarks by Libya’s Foreign Minister Abdel-Rahman Shalgam in Washington one month later: “We want a new friendship,” he said, before assuring America that Libya had no interest in backing militant Islam. “Our interpretation of Islamic heritage *is completely different from the others who don’t accept the philosophy of coexistence*,” he said (*Washington Post*, Jan. 3, 2008).

In the space of a month, Libya swore allegiance to both Iran and the West. To see through this doublespeak, just consider Tripoli’s actions, which include signing deals and agreements with Iran, celebrating the return of Megrahi, and sanctioning and even participating in terrorist activities in Iraq.

We should also consider Gadhafi’s own words. In April 2006, in a speech given in Timbuktu, Mali, he stated that “*Mohammad’s faith will conquer all other religions whether they like that or not.*” Muslims have America and Europe trapped, he said. These countries must accept the fact that they will be Muslim in due course because “*Islam is the fate of mankind and the faith of humanity.*” Peace-loving, Western-friendly leaders don’t make remarks like that. Radical mullahs do!

Gadhafi also confirmed Libya’s solidarity with its Islamic brothers: “From the Fertile Crescent to the River of Senegal, the tribes of the desert will not engage in a fratricidal war. We shall not carry arms against one another. We live as one family. We protect the desert.”

Some might say it’s a pessimistic forecast. But it’s rooted in reality: Libya as a Western-aligned, peace-loving, non-confrontational state is merely an enticing mirage shimmering on the North African desert.

As Gerald Flurry forecast, Libya’s heart lies with Iran, the king of radical Islamic terrorism.

Understand Iran’s role in end-time prophecy! Request a free copy of Mr. Flurry’s booklet *The King of the South*.



FOR OVER 50 YEARS, ONE PARTY ruled Japan virtually uninterrupted. During that time, Tokyo remained a dependable supporter of U.S. policy. In September, a historic event took place: Japan elected new leadership.

In a landslide victory, a new party did the seemingly impossible. A new freshman class of leaders now governs the Land of

Where will the money come from?

“The financial crisis has suggested to many that the era of U.S. unilateralism may come to an end,” Hatoyama wrote in an August 26 *New York Times* article titled “A New Path for Japan.” “It has also raised doubts about the permanence of the dollar as the key global currency.”

But Hatoyama isn't just charting a

At a time when China is increasingly challenging American authority in the East and South China Sea, when North Korea is brandishing nuclear weapons, when Islamic terrorism is on the upswing in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, America can ill afford to lose Japanese military and logistical support.

But it is losing it.

JAPAN'S REORIENT

the Rising Sun. The effects are already rippling through Asia and across the Pacific.

Economic Independence

Yukio Hatoyama is Japan's new leader. He is threatening to split with the United States.

Hatoyama blames America for the global economic crisis and says that the U.S. is responsible for “*the destruction of human dignity*.” He campaigned on protecting traditional Japanese economic activities and reducing U.S.-led globalization.

During the run-up to the election, Hatoyama's finance minister told the BBC he was worried about the future value of the dollar, and that if his party were elected in the upcoming national elections, it would *refuse to purchase any more U.S. treasuries* unless they were denominated in Japanese yen.

Japan is the world's second-largest economy. It is also America's second most important creditor. Washington owes Japan over \$724 billion. The only nation America owes more money to is China (\$800 billion). The U.S. also imports \$140 billion worth of goods from Japan each year.

If Japan were to follow through with its threat to only lend in yen, the dollar would probably fall hard. That would mean more expensive consumer goods, higher unemployment, and currency inflation in America. If other nations like China were to follow suit, we would witness a currency crisis, Zimbabwe-style.

The new government in Japan has also pledged to diversify its foreign currency reserves away from the dollar. Thus, at some point, it will need to dramatically reduce how much money it lends to America. America is planning to borrow record amounts over the next couple of years, so something isn't adding up here.

separate *economic* course for Japan. His campaign also promised a more “independent” *foreign policy* from Washington—and closer relations with Japan's Asian neighbors.

Losing an “Unsinkable Aircraft”

Hatoyama has authorized a wide-ranging review of the U.S. military presence on Japanese soil. He is reexamining the agreement that permits U.S. warships to dock at Japanese ports and has said Japan should reassess why it is spending billions to house and transfer U.S. troops between its islands. Hatoyama has also moved to quickly end Japan's fueling support for the U.S. naval anti-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The day Hatoyama assumed office, U.S. and Japanese officials confirmed that discussions were underway to *remove all U.S. fighter aircraft from Japan*.

These dramatic moves are triggering alarm bells in Washington. The *Australian* reported the U.S. administration has requested “immediate clarifying discussions” on just how far Japan wants to take the disengagement. But America may not be able to do much if Japan is intent on reducing its presence there. Regarding the two nations' security relationship, Richard Armitage, former U.S. deputy secretary of state, said: “If the government of Japan asked us to change things, we'd argue, we'd kick and scream, but ultimately we'd have to do it.”

Japan is a major platform for American power projection. It is America's most important forward base in the Pacific. It is an unsinkable aircraft carrier from which American task forces can operate to secure the flow of trade and resources across the Pacific. Losing it would be devastating to U.S. security.

The Future Is With Asia

Clearly, Japan is rapidly losing interest in being allied with America. More so than at any time since World War II, it is identifying far more with its Asian neighbors.

Simply put, the new prime minister wants Japan to chart its own course and seeks to protect his nation's interests. Very practically, America sits 5,500 miles across the Pacific Ocean. The Chinese could fly to Tokyo for breakfast, Taiwan for lunch, and back home for kung pao dinner before America's fastest jets could make it much past Hawaii.

More poignant, however, is a simple fact: America's star is descending. Asia's is rising.

In his *New York Times* article, Prime Minister Hatoyama asked, “How should Japan maintain its political and economic independence and protect its national interest *when caught between the United States*, which is fighting to retain its position as the world's dominant power, and China, which is seeking ways to become dominant?” (emphasis mine throughout).

Hatoyama answered his own question: “[W]e must not forget our identity as a nation located in Asia,” he said. “I believe that the *East Asian region*, which is showing increasing vitality, *must be recognized as Japan's basic sphere of being*.”

He continued with some hard but undeniable words: “I also feel that as a result of the failure of the Iraq war and the financial crisis, *the era of U.S.-led globalism is coming to an end* . . .” Thus, Hatoyama concluded, Japan must “spare no effort to build the permanent security frameworks” essential to creating a new anti-dollar regional Asian currency shared by China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Hatoyama not only believes America's

economy and power are fading fast, he's publishing it in the *New York Times!* He sees Japan's future as being with Asia. And he's right.

Some analysts might argue that Hatoyama's anti-U.S. rhetoric is primarily political posturing. But the truth is that Japan was already heading in this direction before the election—the previous party just

Only “by moving toward greater integration” can Asia's problems be solved, he said.

This movement toward greater Asian cooperation will soon speed up drastically. Not only do the facts prove it, biblical prophecy forecasts it. A major military alliance between Russia, China and Japan is about to be locked in. (Read

election coverage by any Chinese print media—and it was front-page news in the Communist Party's *People's Daily*. Also, for the first time, a Chinese television station provided live coverage of the election that saw Hatoyama take power.

Japan's new policy is focused on winning friends on the Asian continent. America is about to lose an ally.

ATION

The recent election broke a 50-year pattern. The effects are already rippling through Asia and across the Pacific. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

A Prophesied Siege!

“The U.S. has

wasn't moving fast enough for the people! The last several administrations illustrated a clear desire to revamp Japan's pacifist constitution. In fact, Japan has amended its antiwar constitution 50 times since 1989 to allow for greater military usage.

Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force ranks as the second most powerful navy in the world. When ground and air forces are factored into the equation, many analysts rank the Japanese Self-Defense Forces as the fourth most powerful overall military on the globe. Japan also has some of the most technologically advanced defense companies. In May, the *Times* reported that Japan's industrial giants are pushing hard for permission to sell their hardware on the world stage. Meanwhile, certain prominent Japanese politicians are moving to reopen debate about whether Japan should seek nuclear weapons. One minister went so far as to say that Japan could produce several thousand nuclear weapons in a relatively short period of time if it felt threatened.

Plain and simply, Japan no longer needs American protection. And American involvement is just seen as a provocation to Japan's most important regional partners, Russia and China.

There is a bold movement occurring in Asia. Old animosities are being forgotten or resolved. “I believe that *regional integration* and collective security is the path we should follow,” Hatoyama reiterated.



FRESH FACE New Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and a new class of leaders have overturned decades of conservative rulership in Japan.

about this specific prophecy by ordering a free copy of our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.)

Prime Minister Hatoyama may be the most pro-Asian Japanese prime minister yet. He has pledged to ignore Japan's World War II shrine that honors the country's war dead to avoid offending Korea. His son attends a prestigious Russian engineering university. And he was the first Japanese prime minister to receive

been critical of new trends in Japan,

but *we are not a colony* of Washington and we should be able to say what we want,” said Makoto Watanabe, a professor of media and communication at Hokkaido Bunkyo University in Japan. “[W]hile under previous governments Japan had become a yes-man to the U.S., this suggests to me that *healthy* change is taking place.”

That change certainly will not be healthy for America.

The Bible describes a time when America will be besieged by its former trade partners. This siege, warned about in Deuteronomy 28:52, is both economic and military in nature. “And he shall *besiege thee in all thy gates*, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee *in all thy gates* throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee.”

America is about to be blockaded. For this to occur, Japan would need to take a radical turn from its recent historical political and economic persuasions.

It is radically turning. Today we are witnessing a dramatic fulfillment of this prophecy. America is about to become perilously isolated. The nation with the single largest merchant fleet in the world will turn its back on an economically waterlogged America. And America, without its most important military bases in Asia, will be one step closer to being pushed right out of the Asia Pacific region altogether.

America's ship of state is sinking. Japan's escape boat has already left. ■

BY RON FRASER

SOME YEARS AGO AT A SYMPOSIUM at Oxford University, I listened to Sir Alfred Sherman, one-time adviser to Margaret Thatcher, describe America as a deeply corrupt nation. At the time, I wondered how this very British gentleman, a brilliant thinker on the state of the world, could justify that statement. After all, it was well known that fraud and under-the-table payoffs were endemic to certain Asian countries, and African nations. It was simply the way that one did business in such places. But America? The “city on the hill”? The bastion of Judeo-Christianity, this exemplar of free democracy and free enterprise, “deeply corrupted”? Surely Sir Alfred should have chosen his words more carefully!

Well, a decade or so later, Sir Alfred’s words are ringing in my ears.

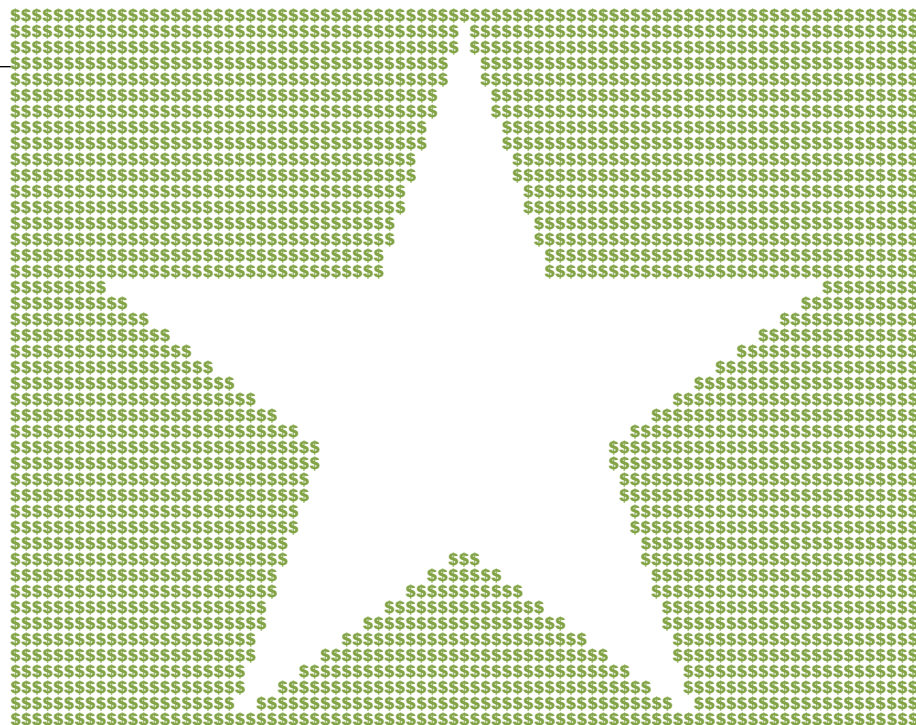
Tip of an Iceberg

It seems that each week, sometimes even day by day in any given week, we see yet another case of corporate, financial or government fraud in America.

In July, Economist.com ran a headline, “A Tangled Web,” with the quip, “A huge corruption investigation leads to a string of arrests in New Jersey.” Following an intensive 10-year investigation, the FBI and IRS unveiled a huge money-laundering operation that extended from the streets of New Jersey and New York across the Atlantic into the Middle East. The great surprise to those uninitiated in the ways of 21st-century America was the societal ranking of those involved: “A mayor, a rabbi and an organ trafficker sounds like the beginning of a bad joke. But the mayors of the New Jersey cities of Hoboken, Secaucus and Ridgefield, a council president, two state assemblymen, numerous other public officials and political operatives, and five rabbis are not laughing. They are among 44 people charged in criminal complaints filed on Thursday, July 23. The arrests were part of a 10-year federal investigation of both public corruption and an international money-laundering conspiracy. And, indeed, some organ selling” (July 24).

The problem is, this one example is but the tip of an iceberg, below which floats a huge, deeply entrenched, perverse way of life that has become endemic to American society. It’s a disease that has penetrated from the mansions of Beverly Hills to the trailer parks and ultimately the cardboard boxes and filthy dens of the street people of inner cities.

To be sure, in the English-speaking world, graft, fraud and corruption are not



AMERICA THE CORRUPT

“Fraud rolls across American history like waves move onto a beach.” —Bob Jensen, *History of Fraud in America*

restricted to America only. Publicized earlier this year in the United Kingdom was the revelation of that nation’s most senior public servants’ exposure in fraudulent use of public monies through false and extraneous expense claims. What is different in America is the sheer size, scope and depth of the problem, which has now reached epidemic proportions. It’s part of the whole system—politically, economically, commercially, industrially—in health and education and the arts. No segment of American society remains untouched by this deep-seated sickness.

Most educated people are aware of the famously corrupt Democrats of Tammany Hall. But that is part of pre-FDR, New Deal, early-20th-century American history. What Sir Alfred Sherman was commenting on was the sheer plumbless depth of fraud and corruption in American society—corruption that had become so entrenched by the closing years of the 20th century that it has since led to an explosion of record-breaking cases of corporate fraud.

A Failure of Education

The intriguing aspect of this is that the whole unsavory mess triggered by the subprime loans and financial derivatives fiascos of the past two years occurred on the beat of the new generation of MBAs that had flooded into business, commerce and banking, not to mention Wall Street, over the previous decade or so.

What was the moral compass of this great pool of bright young things and their mentors of a generation or two earlier?

Well, the majority of the oldest of their teachers graduated from the years of a godless evolutionary, Marxist-Leninist, liberal-socialist thinking, Dr. Spock-style child-rearing, peacenik, antiwar street-rebelling, civil-rights-asserting, law-breaking, gender-bending, “no absolutes” amoral pseudo-philosophizing, pot-smoking academia possessing little or no moral backbone. Little wonder that the products of that academic sausage machine have turned out the least moral generation of businessmen, bankers, financiers and assorted snake-oil

merchants within both commerce and government in recent Anglo-Saxon history.

It's simply a case of cause and effect. The numerous failed and fraudulent financiers, brokers, bankers and merchants of the day are but the products of their education.

Corruption in Oversight

Stock-selling scandals on Wall Street led to the crash of 1929. In the 1930s, the U.S. government enacted new securities laws and brought into being the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to oversee them so as to prevent the exploitation of the public by securities fraud.

The problem was that when an amoral generation both entered business and penetrated the SEC, it gained "a solid failing grade in terms of its oversight of stock exchanges and related market institutions. The SEC simply looked aside when it came to an ever increasing flood of Wall Street frauds of the 1980s and 1990s" (Bob Jensen, *History of Fraud in America*).

Jensen points out that "The high-water mark of frauds came in the 1990s when the media finally got wind of 'infectious greed' in investment banking, stock trading, bond rating, mutual fund, and other industries rooted on Wall Street."

Bob Jensen points to the condemning case made by Frank Partnoy in his book *Fiasco: The Inside Story of a Wall Street Trader*, in which Partnoy "shows how corporations gradually increased financial risk and lost control of ... overly complex ... financing deals that obscured the losses and disguised frauds [and] pushed corporate officers and their boards into successive and ingenious deceptions. Major corporations such as Enron, Global Crossing, and WorldCom entered into enormous illegal corporate finance and accounting" (ibid.).

Perhaps most frightening of all to the American public are the more recent revelations of the fraud and corruption that is exhibited in the backgrounds of many an appointee to influential office in the team assembled to govern the country following America's last presidential election.

Conservative commentator Michelle Malkin has published a masterful expose of the "culture of corruption" rife in Washington in her explosive best-selling book by that name. She claims that corruption in government stretches across "wealthy power brokers ... ethically challenged, bailout-bungling money men," to "crime-coddling lawyers." Malkin renders a mind-boggling case-by-case liturgy of lying, deceit, deep-seated corruption and fraud in the backgrounds of many who now hold

senior office within the upper echelons of this government.

The ACORN Scandal

Also of deep concern is the dodging and weaving of President Obama on the question of his long-term association with the corrupt left-wing community organization ACORN, with which he had a long-term link as a community organizer and legal adviser.

The Republican congressional website reports, "ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, touts itself as being the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families. But the corrupted organization and loyal Democrat ally has proven itself once again to be a mere front for groups to undermine democracy, the economy and civility—all at the expense of the U.S. taxpayers. The activist group became infamous last year when it was investigated for voter registration fraud in 15 states. To date, some 70 ACORN workers have been convicted for voter fraud registration."

In September, a series of scandalous videos were released. A man and woman posing as a pimp and a prostitute solicited help from ACORN officials in its Baltimore, Maryland; Brooklyn, New York; Washington, D.C., and San Bernardino and San Diego, California, offices. ACORN employees readily advised the "pimp" on how to get a housing loan, launder money, and falsify tax documents for a proposed brothel that would employ underage girls smuggled into the U.S. from a foreign country.

ACORN fired the employees, and Congress overwhelmingly voted to cut off the organization's federal funding—which amounted to a potential \$8.5 billion in stimulus money. Remarkably, however, the electrifying story was almost absent from mainstream news sources. When President Obama appeared on five Sunday morning news shows, *only one* interviewer brought the subject up. "Frankly, it's not something I've followed closely," the president claimed. "Mr. Obama took great pains to act as if he barely knew about ACORN. In fact, his association goes back almost 20 years" (*Wall Street Journal*, September 21).

This smells somewhat of the odor surrounding the president's 20-year association with a certain racially radical minister of religion. And the result may well be the same. Just as Barack Obama dumped his former spiritual guide of two decades, he now appears to be about to do the same with the singular enterprise that he once described in the most glowing terms as

directly associated with his own career development. "In 2007, in a speech to ACORN's leaders prior to their political arm's endorsement of his presidential campaign, Mr. Obama was effusive: 'I've been fighting alongside of ACORN on issues you care about my entire career. [W]e appreciate your work'" (ibid.).

Moral equivalency plainly denigrates the institution of the American presidency. Sadly, it appears to be the foundation upon which the current administration is built.

Found Wanting

America is sick at its heart.

Terminal moral disease eats at its vitals from the very top of its government machine to the common drug pushers on its decaying city streets.

This is a nation for whom the writing is on the wall. Like the ancient kingdom of King Nebuchadnezzar, America is "weighed in the balances and ... found wanting" (Daniel 5:27).

Just as the great Creator powerfully corrected the haughty king of Babylon, so Bible prophecy declares that the Anglo-Saxon nations, led by example by the Babylon of America, are destined to be profoundly corrected for their fraudulent, corrupting ways.

The time for the Anglo-Saxons to give account for their deeply entrenched sins is close at hand. And the means of that correction, to be rendered by Almighty God, is going to be a great SHOCK to the self-indulgent, hedonistic American and British peoples. Believe it or not, it will be delivered to them by a third round of warfare instigated by the very same nation that triggered the last two world wars!

To the uneducated in biblical revelation, this may sound completely off the planet. Yet it is as sure as tomorrow's sunrise.

You need to educate yourself in the reasons why the once greatest single nation on Earth has sunk to the level of the most fraudulent and corrupt. It is becoming an extremely urgent need for as many people as possible to be warned of the consequences of this Anglo-Saxon slide into the pit of moral depravity, deep-seated fraud and endemic corruption.

Request a free copy of our booklet *Lamentations: The Point of No Return*. If ever there was a book written for our time today, it is this book. You need to at least be acquainted with its message, even if you do not agree with it at this moment. For the chances are, you will recall and agree with its message when the prophecies that it contains are fulfilled, *most dramatically*, in the *very near future!* ■



Europe's Plans Will Destroy London

BY JOEL HILLIKER

EUROPEAN BUREAUCRATS SEE THE global economic crisis as an opportunity. "It's now or never," European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said. "If we cannot reform the financial sector when we have a real crisis, when will we?"

They are seizing the chance not only to reform the financial sector, but also to reshape the Continent. One of their most stunning moves has been to use this crisis as a pretext for advancing a long-term pet project: stripping the once-great Britain of its national sovereignty and global power.

The German Institute for International and Security Affairs, an independent think tank that advises the German government, predicts that Britain is finished. In an August report called "Great Britain at a Crossroads," it explained why the island nation is rapidly about to lose what little remains of its global political significance. Embedded within the report was a startling admission.

Britain's strong military always assured the nation "its seat among the great powers," the paper said. No longer. In Iraq and Afghanistan, its armed forces are stretched to the breaking point. Out-classed and underfunded, Britain will soon have to abandon one of its premier armament projects, such as its nuclear fleet. That decision will "lead to the loss of whole industrial sectors," striking a fatal blow to the already crippled British economy (translations from German-Foreign-Policy.com). Additional pains are coming, as the UK's tax revenues are projected to plummet 14 percent next year.

And on top of all that, the paper says—in not so many words: European leaders are about to deal the death blow to London's status as a global financial capital. How? Through oppressive regulation.

"European Commission plans to apply stricter rules for monitoring financial markets," it says, "could also lead to a SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF IMPORTANCE FOR LONDON AS A FINANCIAL CENTER" (my translation and emphasis).

That the burdens Europe is about to impose "could" drag London down is putting it charitably. With Britain already drowning in the financial collapse, Europe is preparing to *hold* it underwater with regulations.

We have already reported on the regimen it is about to dictate ("The Greatest Heist of All Time," October). In June, European leaders—an unenthusiastic Gordon Brown included—agreed to a massive regulatory superstructure. A European Systemic Risk Council will unite central bankers to help ensure big-picture financial stability, both across the Continent and country by country. More worryingly, under an umbrella called the European System of Financial Supervisors, three new pan-European watchdog organizations will begin overseeing financial institutions next year: a banking authority, an insurance and pensions authority, and a securities authority. This will create "a common supervisory culture and consistent supervisory practices," the plan says,

trumping the authority of member state supervisors and even directly supervising some firms. "In short, this body will have immense powers," says the Adam Smith Institute, a UK-based think tank.

The Adam Smith Institute rightly says that "the proposals seem opportunistic, using the financial crisis to provide an opening for *long-held political objectives*"—taking advantage while Britain "is too weak to object."

It was only a few years ago that Britain's bankers and businessmen were giddily boasting and toasting themselves as being "the world's greatest global financial center," as London's mayor said in 2006. Virtually overnight, London has been reduced to having to prostrate itself before European overseers. Clearly Europe is relishing the moment as it shackles Britain with burdensome regulations *fully knowing* that doing so will smother London's global influence.

Watch for Europe now to implement strategies to shift that business to the Continent. Biblical prophecy directs us to remain alert for Europe to become the world's financial capital, if only briefly, in this end time. With so much in flux right now, jittery investors are eager to find a new financial safe haven—away from both the United States and Britain. Contenders include financial centers in the Middle East and Asia. Prophecy informs us that the short-term, big-time winner will be Europe.

The UK did nothing to help itself with its own financial misconduct. But in the end its bigger mistake will prove to be its too-close relationship with Europe. The Continent simply doesn't have Britain's interests at heart, and never has had. From its inception 36 years ago, this alliance has been a disaster for Britain. Once history's greatest empire, the UK has surrendered its sovereignty piece by precious piece. Europe has almost entirely swallowed it within a single generation. Prophecy strongly suggests that Britain will wake up and leave the EU—but by then it will be too late. It will have grown irreversibly weak.

We remember the words of Herbert W. Armstrong after the UK joined the European Community on Jan. 1, 1973. In the March edition of the *Plain Truth* newsmagazine that year, he warned that Britain would one day look back on it as "a most tragically historic date—a date fraught with ominous potentialities!"

He was right. To those paying attention, that day is now. ■



BROWN

And the Ten Commandments were, in many ways, the foundation of the Constitution. Our forefathers believed that if we didn't keep God's Ten Commandments, OUR REPUBLIC WOULD COLLAPSE!

We can't afford to take the words of our founders lightly if we want to see our nation stand.

IT WAS MUCH HARDER FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS TO SPILL STREAMS OF BLOOD WINNING OUR FREEDOM, AND TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, THAN IT IS FOR US JUST TO MAINTAIN IT! SO WE OUGHT TO RESPECT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS ABOVE OURSELVES. But we are too vain and arrogant to see how profoundly strong they were and how pathetically shallow and weak we are.

Law schools routinely teach about being "legal realists." Like former Vice President Al Gore, they want an "evolving Constitution." But this reasoning gives the judges despotic powers. It also takes us away from the foundational law established by our forefathers.

Then why do our politicians allow it? The president and Congress often like the judges to do this, if the decisions are favorable to their views and they know their views will *not* be approved by the voters. Still, the judges are taking power from the legislature and the executive branches as they rewrite the Constitution.

Our politicians simply lack the vision to see how disastrous this process is. IT IS BASED ON SELFISH LAWLESSNESS—NOT LAW!

The great heresy being taught in our law schools is that the judges are not bound by law. Some are saying the Constitution isn't even law!

That means we are being led by the human reasoning of a dangerously liberal culture.

That is often the opposite of establishing the rule of law. HISTORY REVEALS THAT EMPIRES ARE DESTROYED IF THEY FAIL TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF LAW. BUT THE RADICAL LIBERAL CULTURE OFTEN HAS CONTEMPT OF HISTORY AND OUR FOUNDING FATHERS. Its followers foolishly rely on their own reasoning, which is not grounded in foundational law.

The Constitution is being altered dramatically. AND IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC! We are experiencing A CONSTITUTIONAL EARTHQUAKE, and most of our people don't even know it—yet. Your future is being changed for you, and often you have no input.

This process is sure to lead to anarchy! That is why you and I should be deeply concerned.

Seeking Destructive Lawlessness

Why did our Founding Fathers work so hard to establish the Constitution? Because it was to be the supreme law of the land.

"A well-known Harvard law professor," Mr. Bork wrote, "turned to me with some exasperation and said, 'Your notion that the Constitution is in some sense law must rest upon an obscure philosophic principle with which I am unfamiliar.'"

But notice what the Constitution itself states: "THIS CONSTITUTION, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

"THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, SHALL BE BOUND BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION, TO SUPPORT THIS CONSTITUTION; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

A Harvard law professor is actually stating that the Constitution is not even law! That view comes from our most prestigious university. The very fact that he would even make that statement shows that we are already getting into EXTREME LAWLESSNESS!

The majority of our leaders now agree with the Harvard law professor. He made a statement that shows we are failing to establish the rule of law. The real issue here is *lawlessness*.

That means your future will be adversely affected.

Cal Thomas wrote in the March 8, 2000, *Washington Times*, "In the final Democratic debate before the Super Tuesday election, Vice President Al Gore responded to a question about the type of Supreme Court justices he as president would select: 'I would look for justices of the Supreme Court who understand that our Constitution is a living and breathing document, that it was intended by our founders to be interpreted in the light of the constantly EVOLVING EXPERIENCE of the American people.' ...

"Mr. Gore's view of the Constitution, shared by most political liberals, IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PHILOSOPHIES OF OUR TIME. It establishes a class of philosopher-kings who determine the rights of the people and shreds the CONSTITUTION AS A DOCUMENT THAT CONFORMS PEOPLE TO UNCHANGING PRINCIPLES that promote their own and the general welfare.

"A 'living' Constitution, notes constitutional attorney John Whitehead, means the Constitution is 'up for grabs,' and it becomes whatever the justices decide, not the people through their elected representatives ...

"THE FOUNDERS NEVER INTENDED THE COURTS TO BE SUPREME. THEIR INTENTION WAS THAT THE LAW, ROOTED IN OBJECTIVE AND UNCHANGING TRUTH, WOULD BE PREEMINENT."

Law scholars today don't believe the Constitution was "ROOTED IN OBJECTIVE AND UNCHANGING TRUTH"—that is, they don't believe our founders established the rule of law. But that's just what the founders did. And now most lawyers and judges reject their foundational work.

Our views today reflect a deadly degeneration into lawlessness!

The radical liberal culture in politics wants a "living Constitution." Mr. Bork stated that many liberals imply the Constitution is dead. THEY DON'T WANT UNCHANGING TRUTH, ESTABLISHED 200 YEARS AGO, TO DIRECT THEIR LIVES. For more information on this subject, request our free booklet *No Freedom Without Law*.

The liberal *religious* culture similarly wants a "living Bible." Their "intelligence" demands that they adapt the Bible to modern times—even though every word was inspired by God (Matthew 4:4).

Most religions preach that God's law was done away, in spite of what Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Christ came to fulfill the law, or fill the law to the full. He essentially was saying every *t* must be crossed and every *i* dotted. Still, many thought, and still think, that He came to destroy the law. They *refuse* to believe the truth!

Christians are supposedly people who follow Christ, the Law-giver. That is how they got their name "Christian."

But whether secular or religious, WE ARE RACING INTO LAWLESSNESS, and our nation is plunging toward disaster. Any good history book will show us that!

The Bible should be even more convicting. Study it and see the deadly danger of lawlessness. When the new U.S. government was established, Benjamin Franklin said that we have "a republic, *if you can keep it*." It's all about either establishing the rule of law—or descending into lawlessness and chaos. ■

WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP IN THE Obama administration's fight against Muslim extremists? Going after CIA operatives.

It's a radical step into murky territory that gives a number of advantages to avowed *enemies* of the United States. A strong case can be made that it could lead to former high-ranking Bush administration officials—even President Bush—being indicted by foreign governments.

This decision may have the *appearance* of righteousness—America atoning for its sins and so on. In truth, though, it reflects an astonishing failure to understand the seriousness of the war the nation is waging, and the nature of the enemy it faces.

As the U.S. argues over which interrogation techniques are torture, we are forced to confront the limits of American power: Possessing history's most fearsome military does nothing to protect a nation whose leaders believe that battering and shackling its own intelligence agents will produce happier, mellow enemies and greater safety for its people.

"Death Sentence" on the War

Back in 2004, the U.S. Justice Department investigated several CIA interrogations of terror detainees for possible abuses. It charged only one individual, and he was later acquitted. In August, however, Attorney General Eric Holder named a special prosecutor to reopen those cases. "A review is never going to be final anymore now," lamented former Vice President Dick Cheney.

This action will have an obvious chilling effect on American interrogators. It means that even if they scrupulously follow the rules, someone could change the rules down the road. It means they face the axe or even jail time pending review of their actions by patently liberal officials.

To ensure that future interrogations are conducted according to the Obama administration's exacting standards, a newly created organ called the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group will supervise them. The *Wall Street Journal* explained, "Interrogation techniques will be limited to those in the Army Field Manual or that are 'non-coercive,' which suggests more constrained than a big-city police department. ... This means that the class of person who blows up skyscrapers, American embassies or the *USS Cole* would spend less time under a bare light bulb than a domestic robbery suspect" (August 26).

Of course, a detainee now knows ex-

actly what to expect and how far his interrogator is allowed to go. He knows the president is looking over the interrogator's shoulder, and that one false move would end this guy's career. And this is supposed to make America safer.

"[I]t's a death sentence for an effective war on terror," wrote columnist Daniel Henninger. "It makes what's left of the war—telephone wiretaps or monitoring money transfers—vulnerable to a steady stream of congressional and legal objection" (*ibid.*).

Lt. Col. Ralph Peters (Ret.), who has spent decades in military intelligence, contends that the clampdown "promises to do more damage to the intelligence community than even the crippling Carter-era shenanigans—whose effects are still felt today" (*New York Post*, September 2).

The people the president is trying to satisfy by implementing these steps do not want to make America stronger. They believe America deserves to be knocked down a peg or three. The policy of handcuffing interrogations and handing the agents' *s l i m m e d - d o w n* playbook to future terrorist detainees should further their goals quite nicely. To the extent that these people have a constructive goal for America's future, it is that the country would, having atoned for its arrogance, be able to take its seat among equals in what is supposedly a happy family of nations. This would, in their view, represent an improvement in America's standing in the world.

Eric Holder and his boss are working diligently toward this end. With deadly effectiveness, they are succeeding.

The glaring problem, though, with the idea that a prostrate America is an improved America—that submission to other nations will earn their admiration—is that those other nations are basically hungry to see the U.S. go down. It is absurd to interpret their eagerness to help President Obama dismantle American power as a sign of friendship.

And the truth is, submission to man *in place of* submission to God will always lead to curses (Jeremiah 17:5). That is ex-

The Enemy



Is Us

Rather than going after terrorists, Washington is attacking the CIA. BY JOEL HILLIKER

actly what is befalling a United States that is betting its future on the goodwill of foreign states. But you don't need the Bible to understand that. The signs are abundant and plain.

Submitting to Foreign Courts

While visiting Berlin last spring, Attorney General Holder was asked if he would cooperate with foreign or international tribunals to prosecute Bush-era officials for how they fought the "war on terror." His answer was essentially that Washington wouldn't arrest anyone or hand former officials over for foreign trials, but it *would* fulfill any "evidentiary requests" to help build legal cases.

In other words, if a foreign or international court wants to try U.S. officials, the White House is there to supply the evidence it needs. Whatever is necessary to "clean up" America's international reputation.

"This is an administration that is determined to conduct itself by the rule of law," Mr. Holder said. "And to the extent that we receive lawful requests from an appropriately created court, we would obviously respond to it." By "rule of law," the attorney general was referring to *international* law—laws written by nations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere—*trumping* the U.S. Constitution, the foundation of America's national sovereignty.

You can be sure that Mr. Holder is going to start receiving those requests from foreigners eager to impose their laws on American officials. A number of foreigners are already getting busy.

For example, the United Nations "special rapporteur on torture" has said that George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld should be tried for torture. "Judicially speaking, the United States has a clear obligation" to put them on trial, Manfred Nowak told German television after President Obama's inauguration.

A Spanish court is investigating Bush administration officials for torture of Guantánamo Bay prisoners. The case is being reviewed by the judge who success-

fully had Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet arrested in England in 1998.

Human rights groups in France and Germany have said they want to bring legal action against Mr. Rumsfeld. And surely there are some enterprising lawyers in the Organization of the Islamic Conference that would love to file a case or two as well.

All of these entities are being egged on by the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR). This radical New York-based legal advocacy group, which sells "Torture Team" playing cards of Bush-era officials, "has been attempting to convince Germany, France, Spain, and other countries to file war-crime indictments against former Bush administration officials, including President Bush, Vice President Cheney and Secretary Rumsfeld," Andrew McCarthy wrote in the *National Review*. "In representing America's enemies, CCR has collaborated with many private lawyers, who also volunteered their services—several of whom are now working in the Obama Justice Department" (August 28; emphasis mine).

Yes, the new Justice Department is stacked with people who have legally represented al Qaeda and other Guantánamo detainees.

Is it any wonder, then, that they want to share evidence with foreigners eager to imprison former U.S. officials? That they want to put CIA anti-terrorism operatives on the chopping block? That they want to prioritize the international legal order over America's national law—and its clear national interests? No—it's no wonder. Still, the speed at which they're moving takes one's breath away.

How do these events factor in to biblical prophecy? One way to answer that question is to see what prophecy *does not* say.

Invisible America

Daniel 11:40-44 could be considered the keynote prophecy of the *Trumpet*. And as *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explains in *The King of the South*, this is an end-time prophecy about the clash of three distinct power blocs. Verse 40 discusses the first clash, which occurs when the king of the north (a German-led European empire) invades the Middle East and destroys the king of the south (led by Iran). This clash marks the beginning of World War III.

The second major clash is mentioned in verse 44, when the king of the north, after clashing with the king of the south, is forced to turn and confront the "tidings out of the east." This, as the Bible explains elsewhere, is the army of a great Asian bloc, led primarily by Russia and China.





Mr. Flurry spoke about this prophecy to students at Herbert W. Armstrong College in September, saying, "The most important part of this prophecy is *what it doesn't say*." Read the entire prophecy. The United States (identified in the Bible as Israel) is not mentioned once. Why?

Because at that time, America will not exist as a major political or military force in the world.

This spectacular prophecy is a forecast about the **DOWNFALL OF AMERICA** as a superpower as much as it is about the rise and collision of the king of the north, the king of the south and the kings of the east.

Look at the Bible's other key prophecies about major geopolitical events we are about to witness, including half of Jerusalem being forcibly seized by Muslims (Zechariah 14:2), and a destitute Israel asking Germany for military protection (Hosea 5:13). There's an unseen but clear common denominator in all of these scenarios: the startling *absence* of the nation that, until recently, has been among the most active participants in these arenas: the United States.

Match those conspicuous omissions with dozens of other prophecies that foretell America's downfall, and the truth becomes unequivocally clear: The world's mightiest superpower is about to be conquered.

America's *will* has been **BROKEN**—a *curse* God promised to send upon our disobedient people (Leviticus 26:19). The belief that America's war against Islamic extremism is best prosecuted by going after American intelligence agents stems from a *broken will*. It will hasten defeat for America.

Someday soon, war itself will be history. Scripture promises it. Swords will be beaten into plowshares; nuclear bombs will be melted into playground equipment.

But guess what: Even that time of peace won't be brought about through negotiations and treaties, nor by gestures of goodwill. It will come only after the King of kings returns, "and in righteousness he doth judge and *make war*" (Revelation 19:11). He will fight with a sharp sword and rule with a rod of iron (verse 15). Once the nations submit—and only then—will He be able to teach and enforce the way of peace for all flesh.

God speed that day. ■

Request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for a comprehensive scriptural explanation of America's future.



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00 am, Fri

Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri; KWGN 10:00 am, Sun

Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/ WTLH-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30 am, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed

Hawaii, Kaula Ho' Ika Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

Illinois, Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WREX-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.2 9:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPP 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBXP 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun



Michigan, Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri

Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg K SXF 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri

Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun

Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun

Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun

Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun

Nebraska, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun

New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri

New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun

New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun

New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun

New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun

New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri

New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun

New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun

North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun

North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri

North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 6:00 am, Fri

North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri

North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun

North Dakota, Bismarck KBW 10:30 am, Sun

North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun

North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun

North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun

North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri

Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun

Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun

Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun

Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun

Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun

Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri

Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri

Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun

Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun

Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun

Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri

Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri

Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun

Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri

Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri

South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun

South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun

South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun

South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun

Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun

Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri

Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri

Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri

Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri

Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun

Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun

Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri

Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri

Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri

Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun

Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun

Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Seattle-KVOS 8:30am, Sun

Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri

West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun

Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun

Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri

Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun

Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun

Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; Grace Television Network 11:00 am ET, Sun.

British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun

British Columbia, Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun

Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun

Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu

El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun

Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun

Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun

Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun

Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Barbados CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun

Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun

Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun

Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun

Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00 am, Sun

A German Charlemagne?

PERHAPS THIS IS JUST WHAT GERMANY and Europe need to halt the Muslim takeover (“Is Germany’s Charlemagne About to Appear?”, October). It was Charlemagne’s grandpa, Charles Martel, who did it at Tours. We need a strong Germany again to stop the Muslim onslaught of Europe and the West. Islamic expansion needs to be stopped at any price. *Go Germany!*

Tevis Tumulty—ARIZONA

German Military Empowerment

EVEN WHEN DEFEATED, GERMANY WAS able to resurrect in a very short time and start the Second World War (“Military Empowerment by Stealth,” October). I wonder about the result of their third resurrection and the damage they will cause. I pray that the citizen of America and his brothers will turn to their God and cry for His protection.

Akosah Boateng—KUMASI, GHANA

Respect the President

VERY EVENHANDED ARTICLE (“RESPECT President Obama,” October). It’s amazing that some people who decry the lampooning of former President Bush by the media as a blight upon our country feel fully justified doing the same to our current president. If you disagree with the president’s actions (which I do by the way) then by all means voice your complaint. But when we lower ourselves as a people to crude humor and mocking, we only show our ignorance and lack of character.

Nate—UNITED STATES

Corrections

A REFERENCE IN “IS GERMANY’S Charlemagne About to Appear?” (October) to a document by President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill saying it was their purpose to “destroy German militarism and Nazism” said it was signed after the Allies defeated Germany in World War II. In fact, it was signed in February 1945 at the Yalta Conference.

THE JEWISH INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL Security Affairs was named incorrectly in “Moderation in the Middle East” (October).

THAT IS WELL SAID AND A LONG TIME coming. I’ve watched in vain hoping to find such an article! I’d also like to add that the bad didn’t start with this administration—homosexuality was honored by Bush’s vice president, and many of our economy’s woes started long before Obama also. It would also be refreshing to see his good points highlighted. Thank you nevertheless for an excellent commentary!

Carolyn—OREGON



The Universe

A POINT NOT MENTIONED IN YOUR ARTICLE (“The Perfect Seat for Viewing the Universe,” October) is that there is a mathematical relationship between the size of the Earth and the moon. If you can form a right-angle triangle, make the base equal to the diameter of the Earth, and make the height of the triangle equal the diameter of the Earth plus the diameter of the moon. If you then divide the base by the hypotenuse, you get 38 percent. This is called the “golden triangle.” Try Googling this term for a full explanation. This is also the triangle formed by the Great Pyramid of Giza (if you sliced it down the middle)—the Egyptians were aware of this mathematical relationship.

Alex Smith—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

IT IS BEYOND ME AS TO HOW ANYONE could look at the vast universe and say “it just happened.” Really amazing stuff! Thank you. *David Rhoton—TENNESSEE*

The Economy

EXCELLENT ARTICLE (“WHY JOSEPH Should Be in Charge of the Economy,” October), it sums up the dilemma of the whole economic crisis. The lesson of Joseph basically follows the sound principles of original Keynesianism: Store up funds of a budget surplus during the boom years so that you can run a deficit when you need it during the recession years. Unfortunately, these sound principles have been abandoned by the new, perverted type of Keynesianism: reckless spending and permanent deficits. It is unfortunate but typical of human nature that clear logic could have been so easily and successfully twisted by politicians and other figures who beguile the public with phrases like “Keynesian economics” and “profitable investments” only to advance their selfish goals.

F. Schirmer—NUREMBERG, GERMANY

NOT ONLY HAVE WE FAILED TO STORE UP our grain for lean years, we have managed to pass legislation that a portion of it should be burned in our automobiles in the form of ethanol, advancing our pace of self-destruction.

Rein Westerbaan—CANADA

Racial Time Bomb

MR. OBAMA AND MR. GATES SHOULD BE getting down on their knees every day thanking God that they live in a country like the USA (“America’s Racial Time Bomb Is Ticking,” October). America is such a racist country that they elected a black man president ... and Mr. Gates, a black man, is a professor at Harvard, one of America’s top universities. I’m sure black people living in Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, etc. would give their right arm to be able to live in a country like the “racist” USA. Grow up, Mr. Gates, and stop being so ungrateful.

Bill—SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF THE “race” issue that is a part of our national fiber. I am a 66-year-old black man, who grew up in the “Jim Crow” South; Louisiana to be exact. Never in all my life have I had a confrontation with any law enforcement officer. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong taught there is “cause and effect.” The reason I never had any trouble with the law was because I ALWAYS showed the law its due respect. Most Harvard graduates are extremely arrogant and full of conceit. Mr. Gates would have done well to take Mr. Colin Powell’s advice: Step outside the door and “reflect.” I’ve done this many times in my lifetime. This ticking time bomb exists all around us. The best protection is to have on “the whole armor” of God.

Lee Henderson Jr.—UNITED STATES

IMAGINE HOW MANY RACE CARDS ARE being played here in South Africa, which is still happily applying discrimination based on color every day! All job application forms have “enter race” blocks to be completed, plus white employees are “legally” excluded from company share distributions every month.

Dave Bawden—SOUTH AFRICA

Comments?

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Youth and the Digital Drug

Are we raising the dumbest generation? BY RON FRASER

LAST YEAR, A THOUGHT-PROVOKING COMMENTARY ON our digital age was published titled *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future*. Its author, Emory University English professor Mark Bauerlein, stirred up quite a hornet's nest with his thesis that today's youth are dumber than any prior generation due to their being hooked on digital technology.

In the preface to his newly released paperback edition, Bauerlein states that the initial release of his book caused no small brouhaha. Despite some disagreement, he wrote, "A blank and broad question lay on the table. Do the digital diversions of the young cut kids off from history, civics, literature, fine art? Does mounting screen time dumb them down?" He thinks the answer is *yes*. The observable facts clearly support that conclusion.

The average American youth spends no more than eight minutes per day reading. This fact, Bauerlein suggests, "points to what may be the great social consequence of the digital advent. It turns on, precisely, the relationship of generations and *the duties of elders*. For, we all agree, one responsibility of adults in our society is to acquaint the rising generation to a civic and cultural inheritance. They have the experience and perspective that come with aging; *the young do not*. Teenagers live in the present and the immediate. What happened long ago and far away doesn't impress them. They care about what occurred last week in the cafeteria, not what took place during the Depression. They heed the words of Facebook, not the Gettysburg Address. They focus on other kids in English class, not leaders in D.C." (emphasis mine).

That the digital distractions hamper the transfer of quality knowledge to youth is a reality unique to our age.

If the adult members of a society refuse to—or are incapable of even beginning to—inculcate into the minds of following generations the best of the cultural heritage of their forebears, then that society is dooming itself to its own destruction.

Professor Bauerlein observes correctly that "Maturity follows a formula: The more kids contact one another, the less they heed the tutelage of adults. When peer consciousness grows too fixed and firm, the teacher's voice counts for nothing outside the classroom. When youth identity envelopes them, parent talk at the dinner table only distracts them."

Knowing that "the lure of school gossip, fear of ridicule, the urge to belong" are uppermost in the average youth's mind, Bauerlein issues his most powerful challenge to adults. For youth "to grow up into mindful citizens and discerning consumers, then, adolescents must break the social circuit and think beyond the clique and the schoolyard. But they can't do it themselves—peer pressure is too strong—and so adults must help draw them away. Mentors can provide instruction in bigger things: the op-ed page, actions of Congress, ... what transpired in the Gulag, what the

First Amendment says, the fate of Adam and Eve. ... They steer young minds toward deeper wisdom and young tastes toward finer consumptions. The story of heroes and villains from history sets the eminences of senior year in bracing relief."

There exists clear biblical revelation as to the ultimate destructive source of this great distraction—this digital drug—and the ultimate intended goal. The Apostle Paul speaks of those who live their lives "according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

It is of this "prince of the power of the air" and his demented minions that the Bible speaks when it warns that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

Through the digital drug, this malevolent spiritual force can exert an influence unique to our time. As Bauerlein portrays it, "Youths undergo an intense awareness of one

another, a high-pressure social feeling. The stakes are high—is anything worse than exclusion?—and so they have to tune in, to manage that omnipresence. They don't really enjoy it, for when they leave my class and flip open the cell they register concern, not glee. But if they don't check in, they don't know whether something big might have happened. Peer pressure long preceded the microchip, of course, but e-mail, cell phone and the rest have cranked it up to critical levels, fostering an all-peers-all-the-time network. Communication is horizontal, centered on a narrow age-bracket, while parents and teachers hover outside the loop baffled by the immersion."

The good professor argues that "Late-teens and early-20-somethings stand at a delicate threshold that marks the most important intellectual growth of their life. They have passed the basic skills of elementary and middle school, and now they acquire the higher knowledge and understanding requisite to good citizenship and tasteful consumption. These are the years in which they read good books, discuss great ideas, judge past events, and form moral scruples. If it doesn't happen in high school, in college, and in the home at this time, it probably never will."

There is one book that many have proven to be the ultimate tool in raising responsible youth accountable for their own actions. It is the Bible. Never in its entire history since its original canonization has this Book of books been so easy for the open, unprejudiced mind to understand. For parents, that's the Book that is the most essential tool to place in the hands of your children to ensure they avoid becoming part of "the dumbest generation."

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