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TRUMPET



RUSSIA'S RETURN

How the attack on Georgia
signals a dangerous new age



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COVER Russia's Vladimir Putin ordered tanks to roll into Georgia. *AFP/Getty Images (2); Putin: Alexey Druzhinin; tanks: Dmitry Kostyukov*

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Russia's Attack Signals Dangerous New Era

RUSSIA'S ATTACK ON GEORGIA IN AUGUST MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A DANGEROUS NEW ERA IN HISTORY. THIS WAS THE FIRST MILITARY STRIKE OF A RISING ASIAN SUPERPOWER—and there will be more!

It is critical you understand the meaning behind this attack.

Look at a map of the Caucasus region (see page 3). Almost all of Russia's oil comes from the Baku region on the western Caspian Sea. The Baku-Supsa oil pipeline cuts right through Georgia, and until recently it transported oil through this strategic area *free from Russian control*. Since Russia's invasion, that is no longer the case. Russia now has control over the oil and gas going through those pipelines, amounting to many billions of dollars' worth!

Russia is *determined* to be an ENERGY SUPERPOWER in an age when the whole modern world is hungry for energy. If Russia sees its primary source of oil being threatened, it is going to fight!

We can understand Russia's violent actions far better in light of some recent history in the Balkans.

Breaking Promises to Russia

"U.S. Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton had promised the Russians that NATO would not expand into the former Soviet Union empire," wrote George Friedman of Stratfor. "That promise had already been broken in 1998 by NATO's expansion to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic—and again in the 2004 expansion, which absorbed not only the rest of the former Soviet satellites in what is now Central Europe, but also the three Baltic states, which had been components of the Soviet Union" (August 12).

Today, you have the son of one of those presidents trying to also bring Georgia and Ukraine into NATO. I don't believe Russia will *ever* allow that to happen.

Friedman continued, "The Russians had tolerated all that, but the discussion of including Ukraine in NATO represented a *fundamental threat to Russia's national security*. It would have rendered Russia indefensible and threatened to destabilize the Russian Federation itself. When the United States went so far as to suggest that Georgia be included as well, bringing NATO deeper into the Caucasus, the Russian conclusion—publicly stated—was that the United States in particular intended to encircle and break Russia" (emphasis mine throughout).

Making Georgia a part of NATO would put the security of Russian oil on the western Caspian at serious risk. All it would take is 30 minutes of bombing to knock out this major source of Russian energy! So as far as Russia is concerned, THIS IS A MATTER OF SURVIVAL. I don't believe America's president understands just HOW SERIOUS this issue is to the Russians.

However, I also don't believe that Russia is so afraid of the United States. Yes, the U.S. could bomb that area—but that is highly unlikely. The nation the Russians truly fear is *Germany*.

Turning Kosovo Over to Germany

Dr. Friedman went on to describe Russia's response to the deci-

sion by Europe and the U.S. to support Kosovo separating from Serbia. Moscow was against it because it didn't want similar independence movements in Russian territories getting any stronger. "The Russians publicly and privately asked that Kosovo not be given formal independence, but instead continue its informal autonomy, which was the same thing in practical terms. Russia's requests were ignored. ...

"From the Kosovo experience, [Moscow] concluded that the United States and Europe were not prepared to consider Russian wishes even in fairly minor affairs. THAT WAS THE BREAKING POINT. If Russian desires could not be accommodated even in a minor matter like this, then clearly *Russia and the West were in conflict*. For the Russians, as we said, the question was how to respond. Having declined to respond in Kosovo, the Russians decided to respond where they had all the cards: in South Ossetia" (ibid.).

RUSSIA WANTED A WAR—and for an important reason! Kosovo was the breaking point.

Remember that history. Germany supported the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. All of Europe and America were openly hostile to Germany's action at that time, but Europe caved in when Germany threatened to pull out of the European Union. Soon, civil war broke out in Yugoslavia. The U.S. secretary of state at the time said Germany was responsible for the war in the Balkans—but he quickly shut his mouth. The "superpower" America fell in step with Germany!

This foreign-policy shift in 1991 enraged America's traditional allies Britain, France and the Netherlands. These nations saw what Germany was doing, not only in Yugoslavia, but all over Europe. Postwar Europe had *hoped* to keep powerful Germany under control—with *help from the U.S.!* Instead, America helped Germany enforce its will on Europe!

Once the U.S. released and then supported this European beast in Croatia and Slovenia, there was no stopping it. It didn't cease until *all of Yugoslavia* was under its strong influence or control!

Kosovo was a turning point in the Yugoslavia war. After this state essentially came under German influence and control, the rest of Yugoslavia was certain to fall. When Germany's oppressive influence moved beyond Croatia and Slovenia, the careful observer could see that Germany's ambition was to control all of Yugoslavia.

Germany's defense minister at the time, Volker Rühle, urged the use of force against Serbia regardless of backing from the United Nations. "WE MUST AVOID TO BE DEPENDENT ON A RUSSIAN VETO," he said at a meeting of NATO defense ministers. He said that the relationship between NATO and Russia meant that "Russia has no veto whenever NATO needs to act." Russia was going to veto it, and Germany wanted to get around that—and convinced the U.S. to join in!



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

So Germany led the U.S. into breaking its promises to Russia.

You can read about this history in my booklet *The Rising Beast—Germany’s Conquest of the Balkans*. In that booklet, I called Yugoslavia “the first military victim of World War III”—that is how significant this was!

Russia rightly blames the U.S. for what happened. We lied to Russia about expanding NATO, and then ignored Russia over Yugoslavia, which culminated in Kosovo declaring independence this year.

The U.S. allowed itself to be a tool of Europe—and helped its rise! America bombed Serbia into submission and then handed it over to a German-led European Union! If you know Europe’s history and prophecy, you realize what a SHAMEFUL ACT that truly was! America likes to think of itself as squeaky clean and righteous, driven by only the purest motives. But this was truly an act of treachery—and incredible weakness.

We have written quite a lot about this issue, and receive many sympathetic letters from Serbs who were double-crossed by America. Remember: The Serbs were America’s ALLIES in World Wars I and II, and Germany was our enemy! In the Yugoslav wars, EVERYTHING WAS TURNED AROUND.

America is one of the modern nations descended from biblical Israel. We have a history with God. We should be setting the example for the world! When we make a promise, we should keep it! And we should be placing our faith in God rather than in our enemies. Today, Yugoslavia is gone because of our evil.

The *Intelligence Digest* of Aug. 11-25, 1995, said this: “Germany’s control of Western Europe is exercised through the European Union (EU), and AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR GERMAN DOMINANCE OF THE EU HAS BEEN EVIDENT SINCE AT LEAST 1990. ... [WASHINGTON] IS FOLLOWING AN INTENTIONAL POLICY THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO LEAVE BOTH EAST AND WEST EUROPE UNDER COMPLETE GERMAN DOMINATION. ...

“SO GERMANY, WITH THE FULL BACKING OF AMERICA, IS TO BE THE SOLE GREAT POWER OF EUROPE.”

In biblical prophecy, God CONDEMNS America for treating the Germans like our “lovers”! He prophesies that this relationship will end in our destruction! (See Ezekiel 23; you can read about this prophecy in our book *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet*.)

Russia’s Revenge

Russia shrewdly evaluated these events and saw an opportunity.

In not taking action over the Kosovo issue, “Moscow had two motives, the lesser of which was as a tit-for-tat over Kosovo,” George Friedman observed. “If Kosovo could be declared independent under Western sponsorship, then South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the two breakaway regions of Georgia, could be declared independent under Russian sponsorship.” Those two breakaway regions have many Russian sympathizers. “Any objections from the United States and Europe would simply confirm their hypocrisy.” In other words, Russia could say, *Hey—that’s what you did in Kosovo and the Balkans—you just went in and conquered the whole area! Don’t accuse us for simply doing what you did!*

This strategy worked to perfection once Russia invaded Georgia. “The Russians knew the United States would denounce their attack,” Friedman wrote. “This actually plays into Russian hands. The more vocal senior leaders are, the greater the contrast with their inaction, and THE RUSSIANS WANTED TO DRIVE HOME THE



IDEA THAT AMERICAN GUARANTEES ARE EMPTY TALK” (op. cit.).

Does Russia fear America? Not very much. And it is using this opportunity to make the U.S. look STUPID AND WEAK BEFORE THE WHOLE WORLD!

Russia had been *planning* for this invasion for some time. As Ralph Peters wrote in the *New York Post*, “Let’s be clear: For all that U.S. commentators and diplomats are still chattering about Russia’s ‘response’ to Georgia’s actions, the Kremlin spent *months* planning and preparing this operation. Any soldier above the grade of private can tell you that there’s absolutely no way Moscow could’ve launched this huge ground, air and sea offensive in an instantaneous ‘response’ to alleged Georgian actions. ...

“Every *one* of these things required careful preparations. In the words of one U.S. officer, ‘Just to line up the airlift sorties would’ve taken weeks.’

“Working through their mercenaries in South Ossetia, Russia staged brutal provocations against Georgia from late July onward. Last Thursday, Georgia’s president finally had to act to defend his own people.

“But when the mouse stirred, the cat pounced” (August 12). How much have you read about this in the news?

Vladimir Putin is called the prime minister of Russia, but that is a cover-up. He really is the dictator of Russia. He called the breakup of the Soviet Union “the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century.” That gives you some insight into his thinking. He is trying to resurrect the Soviet empire. He may not want to exercise the kind of brutality of some of his predecessors, but he certainly is intent on using whatever power is necessary to secure his country’s resources! When this former KGB agent calls the Soviet collapse a “disaster,” you have to believe he is going to do something about it! Remember how Adolf Hitler told the world

SIGN OF THINGS TO COME

Georgian troops, here fleeing their burning armored personnel carrier, will not be the last to face Russian aggression.



THE BALKANS AND THE CAUCASUS



exactly what he was going to do in his book *Mein Kampf*, years before he did it? Why will we never heed such warnings?

Friedman concluded, “The war in Georgia, therefore, is RUSSIA’S PUBLIC RETURN TO GREAT POWER STATUS.”

That is exactly right. The Bible warns us to expect a GREAT POWER RISING FROM THE EAST. It calls it “the kings of the east” (Revelation 16:12). The attack on Georgia was the FIRST ACT OF WAR FROM THE KINGS OF THE EAST!

Outmaneuvering America

Melik Kaylan wrote in the August 13 *Wall Street Journal* about the damage the attack on Georgia will do to the world, especially America. “Having overestimated the power of the Soviet Union in its last years, we have consistently underestimated the ambitions

of Russia since. ... [F]ew have noticed *the direct strategic threat of Moscow’s action to U.S. efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan*. The Kremlin is not about to reignite the Cold War for the love of a few thousand Ossetians or even for its animosity toward 5 million Georgians. **THIS IS CALCULATED STRATEGIC MANEUVERING.**”

Maneuvering for what? “[M]ake no mistake, IT’S ABOUT COUNTERING U.S. POWER at its furthest stretch with Moscow’s power very close to home.”

RUSSIA IS CHALLENGING AMERICA. THE SOVIET EMPIRE IS MAKING A COMEBACK! “In effect, we in the West are being challenged by Russian actions in Georgia to show that we have the nerve and the stamina to secure the gains not just of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but of the entire collapse of Soviet power,” Kaylan wrote.

These Central Asian countries are prime trade partners with Afghanistan. If Russia gains control of them again, it could choke off trade to Afghanistan, which could seriously hamper U.S. and NATO efforts there. “We could walk away from this challenge, hoping for things to cool off, and let the Russians impose sway over the lower Caucasus for now. But NO ONE WILL FAIL TO NOTICE OUR WEAKNESS. If we don’t draw the line here, it doesn’t get easier down the road with any other border or country. *We would be risking the future of Afghanistan, and the stability of Iraq, on the good will of Moscow and the mullahs in Tehran.* This is how the game of grand strategy is played, whether we like it or not” (ibid.).

Look at the response of the U.S. to this catastrophe. Russia knew it would be weak and timid—and it was right!

America: An Unstable Ally

Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili has been a strong ally of the U.S. He graduated from two colleges in the U.S. and has been trying to build a strong democracy in Georgia. His nation is so strongly pro-American that it named a street in its capital after George W. Bush. The *New York Times* wrote, “In recent years, Mr. Bush has lavished praise on Georgia—and the so-called Rose Revolution that brought Mikheil Saakashvili to power—as a model of democracy-building. The feeling was mutual: When Mr. Bush visited Tbilisi in 2005, the authorities estimated that 150,000 people showed up to see him” (August 10).

What are those 150,000 people thinking now? SURELY THEY ARE BITTERLY DISILLUSSIONED WITH THE U.S. “We killed as many of them as we could,” one Georgian soldier told the *New York Times*. “But WHERE ARE OUR FRIENDS?” Good question!

During his 2005 visit to Georgia, President Bush told its people, “As you build a free and democratic Georgia, *the American people will stand with you.*” Did they?

The U.S. is building a *pattern* of such weakness and disloyalty. Look at Pakistan. President Pervez Musharraf decided to join America’s war on terror—and that decision probably cost him his job! Now that he has resigned, that nation has become far more dangerous—and IT HAS NUCLEAR BOMBS!

Look at Lebanon. The U.S. applauded its move toward democracy—but then did nothing when Hezbollah took over. Right now, this Iranian-sponsored terrorist organization has veto power over the Lebanese government!

Over and over, the countries that trust America are going down!

What do you suppose the Iranians are thinking as they watch Russia wrest Georgia away from its alliance with the U.S.—and America does nothing? That is inspiring to them! They rejoice over every sign of American weakness—of which there are plenty. They are in a waiting game with the U.S. over Iraq, ready to take control after the U.S. leaves. The most popular U.S. presidential candidate seems intent on pulling U.S. forces from Iraq just as soon as he can get away with it.

WAIT AND SEE: THE TIDE IS ABOUT TO TURN IN IRAQ. God has broken the pride of our power (Leviticus 26:19).

Russia and Germany—Behind the Scenes

Let's look more deeply at some evidence of what may be occurring behind the scenes with Russia's invasion.

Russia has much at stake in the Caucasus (see sidebar, page 6). It is extremely sensitive to anyone getting close to that area. Again, it doesn't fear the U.S. much—but it does fear Germany, and will do what it needs to in order to neutralize it.

Actually, Russia and Germany *fear each other*. Russia supplies quite a lot of Europe's energy—especially Germany's—and that gives it power.

By attacking Georgia, Ralph Peters wrote, "The Kremlin is telling Europe: *We not only have the power to turn off Siberian gas, we can turn off every tap in the region, any time we choose*" (op. cit.).

The *Wall Street Journal* added, "... Putin's Russia got its hands around the energy-needy throats of Germans, the French, Italians and many other Europeans." This is a cutthroat business! "When this crisis ends, Georgia will be either a model for a world that works or a world whose members do business with knives," it said. "If the world's foreign ministries, CEOs, investors and policy intellectuals can't see the implications for their world in Georgia's fate, it's time to reorder our best efforts to playing by Mr. Putin's rules" (August 14).

That is the way it is so often in this world! That is reality—and it is about to get even more fiercely competitive!

But look at history. Every time competition between Russia and Germany heats up, they form a deal with one another—JUST BEFORE GOING TO WAR!



SAAKASHVILI

On April 1 on theTrumpet.com, we wrote, "On the one hand, Russia needs Ukraine and Georgia to be aligned with itself. It cannot afford to have NATO forces based in countries so crucial for its own national security. ... Recently, however, U.S. President George W. Bush met with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. At this meeting, Bush said that Washington would push for Georgia to be given a Membership Action Plan (MAP), a road map to entry into

NATO. Bush also said it would do the same for Ukraine.

"By pushing for NATO membership for Georgia and Ukraine, THE UNITED STATES PITS ITSELF DIRECTLY AGAINST RUSSIA."

Many in NATO are all for giving out the MAPS. Last year, the Merkel administration said it supported giving MAPS to Ukraine and Georgia. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the German minister of foreign affairs, also sounded like he was in favor of Georgia joining NATO.

However, Steinmeier, for one, has since come out *against* the plan. "Now Berlin is arguing strongly against a Georgian MAP," we wrote in April. "It says Georgia is not qualified for a MAP because of unresolved conflicts on its territory. Berlin has also argued, off the record, that 'Russia has no veto, but Russia's views must be

taken into account'; 'Russia is a factor [in decision making] and this is undeniable,' and 'Russian concerns cannot be ignored if we want a real partnership with Russia.' This is the opposite of what Germany said a year ago. Steinmeier is now saying, 'I cannot hide my skepticism' about Georgia and Ukraine joining the alliance."

Why would Steinmeier suddenly be so against moving toward NATO membership for Georgia or Ukraine? Germany is sending mixed signals to the world. But what are the German leaders saying privately to the Russians about Georgia and Ukraine?

Germany knows Russia can be very brutal. Perhaps Putin told Germany, *We didn't do anything about Kosovo and the Serbs—you'd better stay out of the Caucasus! If you give us problems over Georgia or Ukraine, we're cutting off your energy—or we're going to war! And we have a lot of nuclear weapons!*

I believe Germany may well have been *complicit* in Russia's plan to attack Georgia! If Russia formed an agreement with Germany over the Georgia situation, then Russia would know the only possible other nation it would have to be concerned about is the U.S. And Russia knew that America was too weak to do anything about it!

Russia has Germany—and all of Europe—over a barrel. Cutting off part of the flow of gas to a country would wreak havoc on the economy!

Steinmeier's about-face on Ukraine and Georgia smells rotten! The U.S. is EXTREMELY FOOLISH to trust in this nation—to treat it as a "lover." THAT IGNORANCE IS SURE TO END IN THE GREATEST POSSIBLE DISASTER!

The fact that Steinmeier was so quick to dismiss the idea of NATO membership for Georgia and Ukraine tells you something else: Germany sees that it doesn't have a future with NATO anyway! Its ultimate plan is to kick NATO aside and stand as an independent power! It doesn't respect America's view on these nations. So America ends up being a dupe *all along the way*.

The relationship between Russia and Germany is very tense right now. Germany ignored Russia over Kosovo—but Russia will not be ignored anymore. The presence of a deal between these two nations is not a sign of peace. Like the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, and so many others before it, it is a sign of exactly the opposite. Both of these nations are looking to secure their shared border—so they can pursue their imperialistic aims elsewhere! IT IS A PRECURSOR TO WAR! That is the way they operate! And the U.S. has no clue.

What to Watch

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG PROPHESED BACK IN 1956 THAT GERMANY WOULD GET CONTROL OF THE BALKANS. HOW DID HE KNOW?

In Daniel 2 is a prophecy depicting a series of world-ruling Gentile empires in the form of a statue. The legs and feet of the statue represent the Roman Empire, which has historically been split into "two legs," east and west. The feet represent the final rise of this empire in these last days. Mr. Armstrong wrote, "The strong indication of these prophecies, then, is that some of the Balkan nations are going to tear away from behind the Iron Curtain."

Actually, they didn't "tear away." The U.S. helped to tear them away—so they could join the prophesied beast power! That fact would have shocked Mr. Armstrong!

In a letter on Feb. 18, 1980, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "There will now be an effort to bring Yugoslavia into the Holy Roman Empire alliance!" Again—it was the prophecies of the Bible that enabled him to know that!

The Daniel 2 prophecy and several others show that the coming European empire will be comprised of "ten kings," which

Continued on page 6 ➤



THE QUESTION

How will the EU—here in Parliament—respond to Russia’s attack on Georgia?

Europe’s Greatest Need—Exposed!

BY BRAD MACDONALD

NOTHING exposes the truth like a crisis. Witness Russia’s premeditated, bloody invasion of the democratic, Western-friendly nation of Georgia. The war quickly revealed some ulcer-causing realities, including: Russia’s return to aggressive imperialism; America and the West’s gaping geopolitical and military impotence; the aridity of the Kremlin’s opposition to former Soviet satellites embracing NATO and the West and the extent (all-out war) to which Russia is prepared to go to maintain dominance of its periphery; and, importantly, the emergence of a strong, militaristic Russia, which, remember, has a *nuclear arsenal*.

Moscow’s invasion of Georgia also exposed another reality: *the cumbersome, fragmented state of European leadership and foreign policy*.

While Russian tanks steamrolled a pro-Western, strategically located European ally, all that European leaders could do was agree to conduct an emergency meeting of EU foreign ministers, make ineffective remarks about how the crisis should be handled, and shuttle diplomats back and forth between Tbilisi, Moscow and the Continent. Russia’s invasion was met by a hodgepodge of reactions from European leaders. While leaders of Poland and the three Baltic states (all former Soviet bloc states) issued a strongly worded statement calling on the EU and NATO to oppose Russia’s “imperialist policy,” Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini spoke out against allowing an anti-Russian coalition to form in the EU, warning that a strong condemnation of Russia would be negative for all of Europe.

Janet Stobart and Sebastian Rotella from the *Los Angeles Times* were among the few who reported on Europe’s impotent response: “The crisis in the former Soviet republic of Georgia exposes the problems and limitations afflicting Europe, particularly the dream of a strong European Union playing a key role on the world

stage The European reaction has in some ways evoked the familiar stereotypes: *The EU is rich but bureaucratic, sophisticated but timid, big but profoundly divided* between the aging powers of the West and impatient newcomers of the East. Its main weapon when dealing with Moscow, analysts say, *is soft power*”

(August 13; emphasis mine throughout).

In exposing Europe’s greatest weakness, Russia’s invasion of Georgia also revealed what an increasing number of Europeans must consider Europe’s *greatest need*, which is to become a *mighty, united power capable of confronting Russian belligerency!*

It’s easy to look at the disarray in Europe and say this will never happen. Just watch! Both Bible prophecy and history inform us that Russian nationalism will be a powerful catalyst for the emergence of a united European power operating under the vibrant leadership of a singular man!

Sweat has been beading on Europe’s brow since January 2000, when Vladimir Putin set Russia on the path—marked by the destruction of democracy and the consolidation of government control over virtually every sector of industry and society—toward nationalism and autocracy. “Russian elections have recently moved President Vladimir Putin much closer to becoming a dictator,” wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in January 2004, immediately after Putin was reelected. “*This strikes intense fear in Europe.*”

Europe’s fear has intensified tenfold since then! In the past eight years, Putin has transformed Russia into a nuclear-powered dictatorial state with phenomenal wealth and geopolitical influence, thanks largely to Russia’s massive oil and gas deposits. Europe is heavily dependent on Russia for much of its energy needs.

It gets worse: Putin’s strategic, well-timed, even brilliant, invasion of Georgia indicates that the *Russian military has evolved into a highly competent, advanced fighting machine, capable of rapid offensive deployment—and willing to defy international opinion and wage war!*

Europe must be terrified!

How will it respond? Will it cower and disintegrate in the face of the roaring, blood-thirsty bear? Or will it shed its divisions and

disagreements, consolidate behind an accepted leader, become politically and militarily empowered, and stand up to defend itself from the Russian behemoth?

The answer is clear if we’re willing to believe European history and Bible prophecy. *Both history and prophecy show that nothing is more terrifying than a terrified European continent!*

Two thousand years of European history show us that when Europe is pushed, it *always* pushes back—often with ferocity and *blitzkrieg* warfare!

Remember the Roman Empire. Empowered by its highly organized, ruthless army, Rome conquered the continent of Europe—from the northern *and* southern rim of the Mediterranean, to Britain, to the frontiers of what is now called Russia. Remember the Frankish Emperor Charlemagne. It took him little more than a single generation to gut much of the Continent of non-Christians (particularly Muslims) and raise the Franks from a relatively small tribe of Europe to a single political, *Christianized* political unit dominating territory unparalleled in size since the days of imperial Rome. Remember the Crusades, a sickening series of violent offensive wars in the Middle East and the Holy Land by bloodthirsty Roman Catholic Europeans bent on curbing Muslim ambitions. Remember World War II, when Adolf Hitler and Nazism, embraced by millions of eager converts, blitzed north, west, east and south across the plains of Europe, pillaging towns and cities, erecting death camps, raping young girls, tossing infants in the air and shooting them, slashing unborn babies from their screaming mothers, and gassing and machine-gunning millions of men, women and children.

The postwar peaceful and benign Europe we know is a temporary anomaly. *European history is stained with retaliatory strikes against opposing forces and unimaginable horrors!*

Informed by this history, isn’t it logical that a revived, nuclear-armed, energy-rich, imperialist Russia might incite the resurrection of European imperialism?

This is something Herbert W. Armstrong warned about for years. “*What Russia is doing will be the spark to bring the heads of nations in Europe together with the Vatican to form a ‘United Nations of Europe,’*” he wrote in 1980.

For years, Mr. Armstrong warned that European nations would get the strong leadership they so desperately yearn for. In addition to history, Bible prophecy tells us Germany and the Vatican will provide this leadership. A resurrected imperialistic Russia will serve as a *prod* toward the fulfillment of a prophecy Herbert Armstrong and now Gerald Flurry have been warning about for decades: *the resurrection of an imperialistic, German-led, Catholic European empire!*

could represent 10 nations or groups of nations. Mr. Armstrong often taught that a POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC CRISIS would spark these “ten kings” to strongly unite very quickly.

The fact that Russia has LAUNCHED A WAR shows just how easily such a crisis could occur!

Will the Georgia strike actually spark European unification? Will a crisis occur over Ukraine? That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well.

What Is at Stake

THE conquest of Russia by any foreign power has always been difficult. With the exception of Genghis Khan, no power has ever been able to subdue it. It's just too big. Napoleon and Hitler both met their comeup-pance trying.

Though part of the problem is its size, topography is also very much on Russia's side. On its western frontier, the vast open flatlands of Ukraine, providing no cover to any eastward advancing incursion, and the extensive marshlands plus heavy forestation of Belarus tend to act as a buffer to aggression from the west. In the south, nature provides a fortress. Sandwiched between the Black and Caspian seas is the Caucasus, a narrow corridor leading up into Russia. This passage is guarded by the vast Caucasus Mountains. If one wishes to invade Russia further east, the endless plains, deserts and mountains of Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan must first be conquered.

The Caucasus is crucial to Russia's defenses, and not just because of its location. It is key to Russia's fuel supplies also. In 1940 the French General Gamelen wrote, “Dependence on oil supplies from the Caucasus is the fundamental weakness of Russian economy. The Armed Forces were totally dependent on this source also for their motorized agriculture. More than 90 percent of oil extraction and 80 percent of refinement was located in the Caucasus (primarily Baku). Therefore, interruption of oil supplies on any large scale would have far-reaching consequences and could even result in the collapse of all the military, industrial and agricultural systems of Russia.”

Hitler was obsessed with the area, especially Azerbaijan's capital, Baku. He was convinced Germany needed the oil in the Caucasus and the farmland in the Ukraine to be self-sufficient and invulnerable. Indeed, if Hitler had controlled these two areas, Germany could have produced all its own fuel and food.

Hitler, however, failed. While the Nazis made their way to Baku, the German 6th Army was defeated at Stalingrad. His panzers never made it through the Caucasus Mountains. Some historians believe that, had Hitler made it to Baku, the war would have ended very differently.

Today, 19 percent of proven world gas reserves are within nations bordering the Caspian, not including Russia. This area is expected to become a major area of oil and gas extraction, with oil production levels predicted to reach 4 billion barrels a day.

Azerbaijan today has one of the largest known undeveloped offshore reserves in the world.

The Caucasus is the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Not only is there much fossil fuel in the Caucasus and in the Caspian Sea, but the area is also key to transporting oil and gas.

This small area is receiving more and more of the world's attention. The little nation of Georgia occupies a crucial strategic location on the southern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains and the eastern shore of the Black Sea. Ukraine, on the northern shore of the Black Sea, is also key to controlling the Caucasus. In addition to housing Russia's Black Sea fleet and its continental ballistic missiles, Ukraine is a buffer state in defending Russia's south.

The allegiance of both Georgia and Ukraine is, in a way, crucial to the hegemonic plans for expansion of both the EU and Russia.

Europe is desperate for a fuel supply that comes with no strings attached. It is especially desperate for gas. Unlike oil, which often travels in containers, the only real way to move gas is through pipelines. Europe gets some gas from the North Sea. Some it imports from North Africa. That is not enough. Europe needs to get most of its gas from the east. Currently it comes from Russia, but Russia has no qualms about pulling the plug on the West when the urge arises.

Europe, fed up with this situation, is turning to new suppliers. Though Iran and other Middle Eastern nations such as Egypt have offered to fill the need, these sources may be just as unreliable as Russia, if not more so. Europe's only hope for gas, aside from the

We have witnessed the beginning of a NEW ERA! We saw an extraordinary military strike by one of the kings of the east! And don't forget China, another of those “kings.” It is making inroads all over the world (see article, page 8). What POWER those kings of the east are amassing—and so quickly! Europe can see it! And it is formulating a counterstrategy.

The whole world should see this developing and realize: THIS WILL INEVITABLY END IN NUCLEAR WAR!



GOLD MINE

An oil field on the Caspian Sea just outside Baku

volatile, unpredictable Middle East, comes from the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea and Central Asia. At the moment, all this gas travels to Europe via Russia. However, Europe has a number of projects underway to build pipelines directly from Europe to the Caucasus. Armenia has no diplomatic relations with Turkey, and is under a trade embargo from both Turkey and Azerbaijan, so no pipelines can travel through Armenia in the foreseeable future. All of these pipelines would have to travel through Georgia. It is the only possible route to get oil from the Caspian region to Europe without direct Russian or Iranian involvement.

With Russia now controlling Georgia, however, the bulk of Europe's gas must come from Russian-controlled territory or Iran.

This is what is at stake in this little nation. Control of Georgia means control of the Caucasus. It means that Europe is forced to choose between Russia and the Middle East for its gas.

Both Russia and Germany are on the rise. Each is trying to increase its power in the world. Germany is conquering the Balkans, and Russia now has control of Georgia. As these powers compete against each other, watch for a new Molotov-Ribbentrop pact to emerge. It may be that dealings are already underway to conclude such an agreement.

The Caucasus is Russia's Balkans. In Europe, control of the Balkans was imperative for the eastward expansion of the German-dominated European Union. For similar strategic reasons, just as Germany ruthlessly went after the Balkans, watch for Russia to ruthlessly consolidate its imperialist goals in the Caucasus.

RICHARD PALMER

Watch Europe to see how it responds to these dramatic developments in Asia. Another prophecy in Daniel shows what we should be looking for. It says that Europe is about to be taken over by “a king of fierce countenance” (Daniel 8:23). He will be an extremely shrewd, cunning, deceitful strongman.

Watch for the rise of this strongman very soon—perhaps even months from now! As Russia gets stronger, as the world grows more dangerous, as economic problems escalate, the Germans will be **CRYING OUT FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP!** They are looking for a **KING**—with a fierce enough countenance to stand up to Vladimir Putin!

“And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause *craft* [or deceit, fraud, falsehood, treachery] to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many ...” (verses 24-25).

Is Angela Merkel going to be that “*king of fierce countenance*”? No. Germans will be looking for a **STRONGMAN!**

War With the Lamb

We often quote Daniel 11:40, which speaks of a clash in this end time between the king of the north—that European empire—and the king of the south, a radical Middle Eastern power led by Iran. At the time this prophecy is fulfilled, America is so weak, **IT IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED!**

Notice how this spectacular prophecy continues: “But **TIDINGS OUT OF THE EAST AND OUT OF THE NORTH SHALL TROUBLE HIM ...**” (verse 44). The king of the north, after destroying the king of the south, will be **TROUBLED** by what is happening to its east and north—that is, **IN CHINA AND RUSSIA!**

You can already see the fulfillment of this prophecy occurring in embryo today! Europe is **DEEPLY TROUBLED** by developments in Russia and China. It is plotting what to do about it. Daniel’s prophecy continues, “therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” This European empire will launch a **FURIOUS PREEMPTIVE STRIKE** against that Asian army. These events are also described in detail in the book of Revelation. (Request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.)

Revelation says the Asian army will number an astonishing 200 million men! And it is going to counterattack against Europe and obliterate it. This is warfare like this world has never seen.

There is **WONDERFULLY GOOD NEWS** in the midst of all these horrors. In Joel 2:11, this Asian army is actually called *God’s* army. The great Creator God will inspire it to wreak havoc on the European beast power. Then both of these armies will gather in Armageddon to fight each other, but will end up fighting Christ at His Second Coming—and both be soundly defeated.

The “king of fierce countenance” will try to fight Christ, and will be “broken without hand” (Daniel 8:25). The armies will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them (Revelation 17:12-14). That will mark the beginning of a new, peaceful age for the whole Earth!

But realize what horrifying blackness will occur before the dawn of that day. It will be a time of suffering unlike any in human history. And we are already seeing the beginnings of that blackness!

ARE YOU AWAKE TO WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN THIS WORLD?

In the last issue of the *Trumpet*, I said that we had passed the point of no return for America, Britain and the Jews in the Middle East. (That is also explained in my new booklet on Lamentations.) Within a couple of weeks, Russia invaded Georgia! The first act of

Three Things to Watch

RUSSIA’S move into Georgia is guaranteed to be a spur to action within the European Union on three fronts.

First, a negotiated settlement of the differences between Russia and the EU (Germany in particular) over Georgia will lead to ongoing negotiations on a pact between Russia and Germany. An emerging imperialist European Union may then feel sufficiently confident in its relations with a reviving imperialist Russia so as to turn its attention southward, away from its eastern border, to deal with the increasingly worrying thorn in its flesh: Islamic extremism’s northward push.

Second, Vladimir Putin’s recent initiatives in the Caucasus will push Germany and Russia toward settling the territorial dividing line between these two expanding imperial powers. With the Islamic crescent pushing at both from the south, the EU and Russia must soon settle their differences over the Caucasus, Ukraine and Kosovo so as to not be distracted by these situations from their need to contend with the aggression of rising Islamic power.

Putin’s actions in Georgia will simply speed up discussions between Russia and Germany on just where their common border will be drawn. Ukraine is already choking up politically just contemplating what that outcome might be.

Third, the empowerment of Russia via the political persona of Vladimir Putin will accelerate the search within the EU to nominate—perhaps at the EU summit in October—influential personalities to appoint as EU president and EU foreign minister, the two most powerful positions created under the Lisbon Treaty. At present, the EU has no political counterpart to Putin. The provocative events in Georgia will heighten the search for a personality with the power and personal strength of character to cobble together a semblance of unity among the 27 disparate member nations of the EU such that they can counter Russia.

There’s an existing cabal of influential personalities that all have a history of relating well with Putin. They just happen to be Germans: ex-German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder; Germany’s current Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier; and the senior bureaucrat charged with bringing order to the disorderly EU bureaucracy, the ex-prime minister of Bavaria, Edmund Stoiber. Germany’s current Chancellor Angela Merkel’s renowned frosty relationship with Putin places her outside of being influential in concluding any lasting deals with the Russian president, or holding either of the two most influential posts being created within the EU.

Watch this cabal. Watch Vladimir Putin. Watch the Caucasus. Watch the Balkans. Watch Ukraine!



SCHRÖDER



STEINMEIER



STOIBER

RON FRASER

war by the kings of the east!

Think about this: **THE SOLDIERS THAT MARCHED INTO GEORGIA ARE SOME OF THE SAME SOLDIERS THAT WILL MARCH FROM MEGIDDO TO JERUSALEM TO BE DESTROYED BY JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF!**

That is how close we are getting to the *end* of this age of man! Are you ready for what is about to occur? ■



What the China Miracle Means

The country that dazzled the world in hosting the Olympics is hastening a resource war. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

BOOMING China's explosive growth, reflected in its bombastic introduction for the 2008 Olympiad, will lead to more conflict, not less.

RUSSIA KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT was doing by timing its invasion of Georgia for August 7. It so happened that the world was engrossed in an apparently far more compelling drama at the time: the imminent start of the spectacular Olympic Games in Beijing.

China used the occasion to announce itself to the world as a power every bit as vibrant and muscular as the athletes it hosted. Unabashedly confident, radiating with national pride, exploding into modernity—China is on fire.

“There are simply no words adequate ... to describe this phenomenon, especially as seen by the eye at street level,” one of our readers wrote us from Beijing after the Olympics’ opening ceremony. “Economic growth figures, China’s purchase of U.S. Treasury bonds and takeover of British companies—[these] can’t capture in words what is visible to a person in this city. Ordinary people who still regard China as [backward] would be stunned into silence if they laid eyes on Beijing (which ... is not as large as the main commercial city, Shanghai). In fact, judging by what I see, the day China surpasses the U.S. as the world’s largest economy is much nearer than all the forecasts indicate.”

Critics groused about China’s poor hu-

man rights, its authoritarianism, its support for corrupt regimes, its pollution. Correct as they are, their criticisms simply aren’t going to stop this bullet train. This country is barreling into the future—and, in the process, changing the world.

This is a revolution. It is, in fact, a *prophecy*. A look at the future.

America Plus a Billion

In one sense, it’s a question of simple math. China has 1.3 billion people—one out of every five people on Earth. That’s America’s population *plus a billion*. Now, multiply any trend—social, economic, technologic, gastronomic—by 1.3 billion, and you will see a huge global impact. And the trend in China is definitely toward *bigger, faster and more*.

China uses nearly half the world’s cement. From having *no* highways just 20 years ago, today it has 30,000 miles of them. And those roads bear the weight of 25,000 more cars *every day*—9 million more per year. Soon, China will be not only the world’s biggest market for new cars, but also its largest carmaker. It consumes one third of the world’s iron and steel.

Today, China has 147 airports. In the coming decade, it plans to build 97 more.

Each year, almost 8 million Chinese move from the country to the city. This

urban migration is driving the construction of the equivalent of Chicago plus Detroit—each year. Today, the United States has 9 cities of over a million people. China has 160 of them.

China’s mushrooming economy—growing at five times the speed of America’s, and due this year to pass Germany’s as the world’s third largest—creates a million new jobs per month. In a single generation, China has lifted 600 million people out of poverty, half of them into the middle class. Such development is simply jaw-dropping. Historically unprecedented.

Here’s why this trend is so earthshaking. It takes a lot of *resources* to fuel such explosive growth on such an enormous scale. More food, more electricity—more everything. That’s a crushing reality when over a billion people suddenly start gaining an appetite for consumption.

The trouble is, some of those resources are already in short supply on our planet.

An ABC News report, *China Inside Out*, quoted one expert saying that for China’s mammoth population to enjoy affluence as great as America’s, the necessary resources would demand *another planet*.

And that is why, with just a pinch of foresight, you can see where this trend is headed.

The World's Hungry Teenager

China is about to pass the U.S. as the world's largest energy consumer. Between 2000 and 2006, China's *increase* in energy demand exceeded all the electricity it had used to that point in history. Right now, some Chinese factories have to shut down several days per week simply because they don't have enough voltage. The nation is making a heroic effort to keep pace with demand: Last year alone, it built new power-generating capacity equivalent to what all of France uses. It commissions a new power station every four days. Besides the 30 new nuclear power plants it is currently constructing, it plans to build 500 more coal-fired power plants in the next decade. It already consumes about a third of global coal production.

Meanwhile, those 9 million new Chinese cars each year need gasoline. China already imports 160 million tons of oil per year, and this demand is skyrocketing. With \$115-a-barrel oil already ravaging oil-importing economies the world over, China's growing oil thirst puts additional, unwelcome strain on supplies. Just a decade ago, China was a net *exporter* of oil; now it's the number-two importer after America.

China is the world's hungry teenager. In order to fill these colossal cravings, Beijing has launched an extraordinary outreach program into the rest of the world.

Forcing the Issue

China has started by being an invaluable neighbor, making itself the top or number-two trading partner of virtually every nation in Asia. "Seeking strength in numbers, Southeast Asian governments strive not only to tap into China's new wealth, but also to embed Beijing in a thicket of organizations and dialogues in the name of 'community-building' and closer integration," wrote Ellen Frost in *Global Politician*. "Conscious of residual wariness, Chinese leaders go out of their way to reassure their Asian neighbors that Chinese intentions are entirely peaceful. Unlike Washington, China has projected a sympathetic and listening attitude, offering aid and trade deals without immediately demanding anything in return. Beijing has settled virtually all of its land-based disputes and put its maritime territorial disputes in the East and South China seas on the back burner" (May 14).

Beijing is also extending itself diplomatically, economically and even militarily into anywhere and everywhere in the world with resources for sale. It has significant economic ties with all but five of Africa's 53

countries. It has stormed virtually the whole of the Caribbean and Latin America. It has laid inroads throughout the Middle East—the government's goal is to do \$100 billion in total trade with the region by 2010.

And Beijing exhibits none of the qualms many Western nations do over doing business with corrupt, authoritarian, dictatorial, even genocidal regimes. It doesn't sermonize—it just floods other nations with cash, workers, infrastructure, weapons and whatever else they need. Usually, it leaves with resources. And in some cases, it leaves behind a political mess.

Look at what is happening here. China's meteoric growth and aggressive chase for resources is forcing the issue on the rest of the world.

Ethical hang-ups, anemic ambition, bureaucratic sluggishness—these factors are starting to leave other nations out in the cold in the intensifying contest over Earth's wealth. China has upped the ante. Its success—in what could be viewed, at this stage, as soft imperialism—obliges other nations that want to remain competitive to step up. You can already see it happening.

This is what makes these trends so prophetic.

A Terrifying Reality

Watch. The rise of the Chinese juggernaut graphically presages a developing—and terrifying—reality: that, more and more, the nations reaping the richest rewards in this rapidly developing resource war will be the more assertive, enterprising nations. The more rapacious nations.

They will also be the more *autocratic* nations—those governed by tough, politically empowered leaders, those least encumbered by political correctness and bureaucracy. These are the nations that will strike aggressively, ruthlessly, to stake their claims and defend them.

This trend portends more than just a world dominated by more aggressive nations. As soon as you have more than one power acting this way, you have all the makings for out-and-out WAR.

Now, align these trends with *biblical* prophecy. Read Revelation 17 and 18. There you see a detailed, horrifying picture of an emergent empire of unprecedented rapacity. In order to fuel its furnaces and drive its imperialist machinery, it will conquer nations, establishing colonies and protectorates the world over and raping them of their resources. In its opulence it will seduce and deal with the globe's wealthiest corporate moguls, riding their backs and enriching itself at the expense of the rest of the world.

Those biblical prophecies speak of *our day today*—this time of America's decline, of China's rise, of global economic instability and WMD proliferation. We are about to see the sudden, violent surfacing of this superpower.

But this empire will not be China! It will not be Asian at all.

In fact, in view of biblical prophecy, we must view China's rise as being a likely *provocation* for this empire to rise up and strike!

This passage in Revelation—along with dozens of others that provide more vivid details—is speaking of an emerging *European* empire, a resurrection, in fact, of the *Holy Roman Empire!* You can be sure it is watching intently what China is doing today, and, behind closed doors, plotting its retaliation. It simply will not be left behind in the coming resource war.

You need to understand these prophecies—their fulfillment is going to rock the world off its axis. Order a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's masterful booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* for a riveting study of this vital subject. On theTrumpet.com you can also read our March 2006 article "The Battleground" for more information.

The China miracle we are witnessing before our eyes is prophecy being fulfilled! For not only is it certain to provoke Europe to assume a far more combative posture in securing its much-needed resources, but China itself—along with its newly empowered and belligerent neighbor Russia—has a significant role to play in the events prophesied to unfold shortly. Request a free copy of our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy* to understand. And keep your eye on China. Within a few short years, this nation—the ascendant, proud China that has emerged today—will dazzle the world with pyrotechnics far grander than those recently on display in Beijing. Watching its vault into great-power status truly is a look at the future. ■



KINGS OF THE EAST

To learn more about the future of these two rising Asian powers, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. Ordering information on back cover.

DRESSED IN THE DAZZLING AND the debonair, seven young men and seven young women explode onto the stage—every movement drenched with enthusiasm, every face charged with a joy that literally begins to shake the room. An entire elementary school student body is clapping, tapping and cheering to the upbeat look and sound of this unique group. They have attended “show choir” assemblies before—but there is something special about this one.

That is a typical reaction to a performance by the Herbert W. Armstrong Col-

lege Young Ambassadors—a 14-member singing and dancing group that tours the community and produces an annual film that features an inspiring and uplifting musical revue.

This college is sponsored by the Philadelphia Church of God, which also sponsors the *Trumpet* magazine. Since Herbert W. Armstrong College is patterned after Ambassador College (founded by Herbert Armstrong), it is only fitting that we resurrect the same group which so magnificently represented that college. The term “show choir” doesn’t quite do justice to what they accomplished under Mr. Armstrong. They

truly were *ambassadors*. Each year, they produced full-length films that gave an entertaining tour of the campus and were viewed each fall by Worldwide Church of God members at Feast of Tabernacles sites around the world. Two of those films, *Festival 1981* and *Festival 1982*, were even broadcast on Jordan TV, which showcased the college to the entire nation of Jordan and surrounding Middle East nations.

What the Young Ambassadors really represented was a wholesome, uplifting



AMBASSADORS of ENTER

form of entertainment that has become more and more rare since their founding.

Their biggest fan, Mr. Armstrong, had some of the Young Ambassadors over to his home one evening in 1984—an event that was filmed and included in *Festival 1984*. “You Young Ambassadors are doing a great service to the people of the Church,” he told them, “and many of the children are beginning to learn a better kind of music” He then explained how so much of modern music was “one of the things that [is] ruining young people right along with drugs, excess alcohol, illicit

sex. Those things all go together—and wrong music. It’s time that the people in the Church know the difference in music, and I’m glad they’re coming to learn some of the music that you young people sing.”

Mr. Armstrong said that one of the highlights of his year was getting to preview those festival films. He watched them again and again. He even viewed one of these films with Israeli leaders in his hotel room during a visit to Jerusalem, and “they thoroughly enjoyed it,” he told Church members (member letter, March 25, 1983).

Mr. Armstrong died in 1986; the Young

Ambassador program died with Ambassador College in the early 1990s. Those Young Ambassadors who inspired Mr. Armstrong, thousands of Church members (this writer included) and even a select portion of world leaders left some big shoes to fill. We knew that when we resurrected the YA program in the fall of 2005.

Since then, the Herbert W. Armstrong College Young Ambassadors have been living up to their name—representing the college, the PCG and fine entertainment to all those they come in contact with.



YOUNG AMBASSADORS ENTERTAINMENT

Musical group represents a college and a vision of the future. BY RYAN MALONE



We have produced three festival films (*Festival 2006*, *Festival 2007* and *Festival 2008*). Taping usually occurs on the HWAC campus and mostly during the students' spring break. Sometimes the group will venture out to film at a specialized location that fits a particular song. The group has filmed at several places around Oklahoma.

It's not just the film locales that take the group off campus, though. The Young Ambassadors perform for the community at elementary schools, retirement homes and dinner club meetings. The group sang the United States national anthem for Oklahoma City's minor league baseball team in May 2007. They also performed for the LibertyFest parade on July 4, 2006. They sang and danced on a float they built, and won fourth place in their category for the float. (Some of these performances can be viewed online at www.pcog.org/ambassadors.php.)

As artistic director, I am privileged to work with these fine young people and follow them on their community tours. The reactions they receive from the community venues where they perform are truly stunning. Most of those booking us know that we represent a church-sponsored college—but we don't go to them with religion. We don't go to them with songs about Jesus (the public schools would kick us out faster than you could say "be-bop"). We simply showcase our repertoire of uplifting, wholesome music: including Broadway musical numbers, Disney favorites, swing/jazz hits and popular ballads. In a world where dancing has become negative, androgynous, arrogant and provocative, our dancing emphasizes positive energy, masculine and feminine grace, poise, strength, athleticism and artistry,

CLASS ACT

The Young Ambassadors not only are nimble on their feet, but they also get around well off-stage, traveling to perform shows at local elementary schools (top); singing, dancing and meet-and-greeting at retirement homes and dinner club meetings; and filming on location for uplifting video presentations viewed by people around the world (bottom).



and absolutely nothing sexually charged.

Most of our Young Ambassadors are not trained singers or dancers. Our recordings aren't necessarily of Grammy-winning caliber, nor are our couples ready to hold their own at the next ballroom competition. The oohs, ahs, clapping-along and cheers we receive from our audiences, however, remind us simply of what a refreshing breath of air this type of entertainment is in this dark world. We hear reports of par-

ents talking about the assembly their child went to and how that was all the students could talk about when they got home.

Our college's motto is "Education With Vision." Here we teach a vision of a time when godly education will permeate the planet. Our singing and dancing—though many songs are of yesteryear—evoke music and entertainment of a FUTURE time. We represent not only a college or a church, but a world soon to come. ■

The Prosperity Myth

The buy-now, pay-later age is ending. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

THE *ECONOMIST* SAYS AMERICANS are overreacting to the slowing economy. By historical measures, it writes, there is little cause for such consumer gloominess, especially considering that Americans have more wealth than any other people in history.

But is it possible that much of that wealth is an illusion?

The *Economist* is not alone in its sunny proclamations. “The fact of the matter is that we in the United States ... have just lived through—and continue to live in—the greatest period of prosperity in human history,” said Patrick Toomey, former House of Representatives member. “Over the last 25 years, more wealth has been created, more people have been lifted out of poverty, standards of living have been elevated more dramatically, and the quality and length of life have improved more than ever before in recorded history” (*Imprimis*, May 2008).

The great wealth-creating American economy is “the greatest story never told,” Toomey says, a “tremendous story” made possible by *American economic freedom*.

A superficial look at general living conditions seems to confirm that opinion. America is rich and increased with goods. The expanding economy, said Toomey, “resulted directly in a better standard of living for virtually every segment of American society—including the poor. Among families living below the official poverty line in the early 1970s, less than 40 percent had a car, almost none had color televisions, and air conditioning was virtually unheard of.” But by 2004, an astounding “46 percent owned their own homes, almost 75 percent owned a car (indeed, 30 percent owned two or more cars), 97 percent had color TVs, and 67 percent had air conditioning. The poor in the U.S. have an average of 721 square feet of living space per person, as compared with 430 in Sweden and 92 in Mexico.” He cited phenomenal increases in ownership of luxuries such as cable TV, personal computers and cell phones.

Americans certainly “own” more things than ever before. But where did all this supposed wealth come from? It didn’t just appear out of nowhere. Is it really the result of American economic freedom? Or some other financial innovation?

In reality, the greatest story never told is that much of the economic miracle that began in the 1970s was really a sham.

“Wealth” by Another Name

History very easily recounts *effects*—wars, riots, bull markets, airplane crashes and so on. But the underlying *causes* of those events are not always so easily discerned. What if America’s prosperity today had little to do with increasing productivity, superior Yankee ingenuity, or the other commonly mentioned factors? What if the primary underlying cause of America’s current wealth was something completely disconnected from what economists commonly purport? And what if that foundation was false?

Then all their fancy predictions would be worth less than the paper they’re printed on.

Today, most of what economists measure as wealth is actually something also known by an altogether different name: *debt*.

Debt is what keeps America functioning, and growing levels of debt since the 1970s are what have been erroneously taken for the American economic miracle of the past 30-odd years. It’s *not* wealth. It’s *debt*.

It was in the 1970s that America started to become a nation of consumers. Good old-fashioned thrift and common sense went out the window, and “keeping up with the Joneses” became the fetish. Americans went on the spending spree of the ages. Consequently, gross domestic product grew. But it was mock growth. The nation’s GDP began to reflect consumer and government *spending* more than American industrial production. And even much of that spending was on *imports*.

But most economists didn’t worry. By and large, they just looked at the numbers

and reported that the economy was expanding, and that was all that mattered. “Keep doing what you’re doing,” they said.

And most people didn’t argue. After all, consumers felt like kings as they loaded up the toys and bought second homes. But unfortunately, as the *Daily Reckoning* says, it was just a “misleading sensation caused by inflation of their house prices, credit cards, cheap products at Wal-Mart, and home equity lines” (July 25).

Americans weren’t really any wealthier. They just looked and felt wealthier as they spent the wealth accumulated by previous generations—and then some, hawking their financial future and their children’s in the process.

It certainly wasn’t rising wages that provided for all the extra spending, although some extra income did come from increasing numbers of two-income families. A 2007 report conducted by the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Brookings Institute found that as of 2004, men in their 30s earned 12 percent less than men their same age did in 1974 after adjusting for inflation. The Labor Department notes that for the month of July, wages experienced the biggest year-over-year decline since November 1990—falling an astounding 3.1 percent from one year earlier.

And now, like an addict, America is desperately trying to maintain its standard of living, even though the next borrowing binge could push it over the edge.

Getting Rich by Spending?

The government leads the way. When the economy began to slow last year, what was the Federal Reserve Bank’s response? First, it drastically slashed interest rates. Why? To make it easier for people and businesses to borrow and spend more money.

See **MYTH** page 23 ►



WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

TENSIONS BETWEEN **Russia** and Europe escalated hugely in August (see cover story, page 1). Russia's invasion of **Georgia** shows that a bold and powerful nation is growing in the East. America's lack of response shows that a weak-willed, divided nation is declining in the West. That leaves Europe in the middle. Prophecy reveals that it will coalesce into a unified and formidable force.

The pope wants a more robust role in this unified Europe. He is not happy with the state of Catholicism on the Continent. In July, he refused to meet with the European Parliament in Strasbourg, which invited him to speak as its principal Christian guest in its Year of Intercultural Dialogue. At an international meeting with the heads of various religious communities in July, Cardinal Franc Rode complained that Europe is "moving backwards in the area of religion because legislative bodies on the Continent are increasingly moving further away from Christian principles." Watch for increasing efforts by the Vatican to reverse this trend. It is already scoring some considerable successes. Bowing to Catholic pressure, the **Croatian** parliament passed a law July 15 that will force businesses to close on Sundays. This particular law is prophesied in the Bible to be enacted and enforced throughout the Continent—and beyond. Request our free booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* to understand this vital prophecy.

Italy took an alarming lurch to the right in July. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is now above the law apparently. He was facing trial in Milan, where he was



accused of paying a \$600,000 bribe to his former tax lawyer to give misleading testimony, when Italy's senate on July 24 approved a law banning criminal investigations of the president, the prime minister, and the speakers of the Senate and Lower House.

A few weeks later, following a declaration of a state of emergency over immigration, **the Italian government sent troops to the country's major cities to confront crime and increase security.** Three thousand troops were deployed to Rome, Milan, Naples, Bologna, Verona and Palermo to combat street crime, which is frequently blamed on illegal immigrants. These moves must be viewed in light of Europe's history and biblical prophecy. They represent a step toward dictatorship and reveal a swing to the right in Europe.

Meanwhile, the final craft in **Germany's** first spy satellite program launched from Russia July 22. The 1,700-pound SAR-Lupe 5 satellite, outfitted with cloud-piercing and night-vision radar, is the fifth in the SAR-Lupe project. Now completed and operational, this

constellation of satellites can provide images of any location on the globe in an average of 10 hours and show objects as small as 3 feet. According to the deputy inspector general of the German Federal Armed Forces, this spy satellite network puts Germany "eye to eye with other countries." Still, this fact went almost unreported in the media. The world has forgotten Germany's recent and remote history at its peril. Watch Germany very closely.

MIDEAST

IT IS GROWING MORE EVIDENT that the "Cedar Revolution" of 2005—when **Lebanon** supposedly kicked **Syria** out of its country—is dead. On August 13, **Lebanese President Michel Suleiman and his Syrian counterpart, Bashar Assad, agreed to establish full diplomatic ties** for the first time since Lebanese independence more than 60 years ago. Suleiman was in Syria for a two-day visit, the first visit to Damascus by a Lebanese president since Syria withdrew its troops from Lebanon in April 2005.

Now that Hezbollah has controlling power in Lebanon's government, Syria is happy to deal with Beirut. But, as *Global Politician* stated, the establishment of friendly relations "will represent not the normalization of Syrian-Lebanese relations, but rather the enveloping of Lebanon into the regional alliance led by **Iran**, of which Syria is a senior member" (August 8, emphasis ours).

Israelis are growing concerned about East Jerusalem following two bulldozer attacks in July by Arabs from there. In the latest, on July 22, four cars were crushed, a bus smashed and 16 people wounded in an attack outside the King David Hotel in West Jerusalem. "Both attacks," wrote Martin Sieff, "have to be seen in the context of a slow but steady escalation in terrorist violence against Israeli civilians and security forces over the past few months within Jerusalem itself" (Human Events.com, August 6). There have been five major

U.S.A.

Cuba

Venezuela



attacks in Jerusalem, in which 12 Israelis have been killed, so far this year. According to *Haaretz*, during the first half of the year, the Shin Bet security service arrested 71 Palestinians from East Jerusalem suspected of being involved in attacks, compared to 37 such arrests during all of 2007. We are in fact witnessing the earliest stages of violence that will result in half of Jerusalem falling into the hands of the Palestinians, as prophesied in Zechariah 14.

Following a bevy of corruption charges leveled against him in recent months, **Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert** announced on July 30 he would resign in September and not run in the Kadima primaries. Depending on whether the new leader can hold the ruling coalition together, we could soon see further political instability in Israel and even a fresh national election.

Meanwhile, on August 12 *Haaretz* reported that Olmert

offered Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas 93 percent of the West Bank for a future Palestinian state. The Palestinians' response? Abbas's spokesman said the proposal was "not acceptable," calling it "a waste of time." With

Olmert desperate to get a deal in place before he leaves office, expect the Palestinians to hold out for their demands—which include an Israeli withdrawal from Jerusalem—without budging an inch.

Iran believes it has victoriously outmaneuvered the West over the nuclear issue. August 2 was the deadline that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany had given to Iran to respond to an offer of eco-



nommic incentives in return for freezing the *expansion* of its nuclear work—an offer that actually amounted to an acceptance by the Western world of a nuclear Iran. By ignoring the deadline, Tehran sent a clear message. While hosting Syrian President Bashar Assad in Tehran, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad defiantly announced that Iran wouldn't back down "one iota" in its tussle with the West over its nuclear program. Meanwhile, the 118-nation Non-Aligned Movement endorsed Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear power on July 30. The endorsement, said Iranian

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, acts to "remove this notion that the international community opposes the nuclear activities of Iran."

It appears Iran is stepping up its efforts to thwart the U.S.-led coalition's operations in **Afghanistan**. According to the Afghan daily *Anis*, Iran has become the main thoroughfare for jihadist traffic leaving **Iraq** for **Pakistan's** tribal belt. The paper described Iran as a "tunnel for terrorists" to Waziristan.

President Pervez Musharraf announced his resignation August 18 rather than face a threatened impeachment.



Musharraf, who had already lost most of his power following U.S.-pushed elections in February, had been the closest thing the United States had to an ally in Pakistan. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry foretold the likely result of Musharraf being pushed from power in his January article “Pakistan and the Shah of Iran,” asking whether the U.S. was about to repeat the blunder it made in 1979 with Iran.

Turkey’s ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) narrowly survived after the country’s Constitutional Court on July 30 rejected a case filed by the public prosecutor to ban the party on charges of trying to undermine the secular nature of the republic. Fines were, however, imposed on the AKP. While the European Union had condemned the attempt at banning the ruling party as being undemocratic, don’t expect this outcome to help Muslim Turkey in its bid to join the Catholic-dominated European community.



pushing many radical Islamists across the border into Pakistan and Afghanistan. The influx of Muslim jihadists from China into these terrorist safe havens will likely strengthen the global jihadist movement.

Despite continuing human rights abuses in Tibet, **U.S. President George W. Bush chose to meet Chinese President Hu Jintao in Beijing** and repledge America’s commitment to fostering good ties with China. Though Bush did utter some words of criticism about China’s lack of religious freedom

before he met with Hu, they amount to empty words. America relies heavily on China to finance its government spending—and Chinese leaders know it.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin visited China on July 26-27 to meet with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan for talks on energy cooperation. China’s rapidly industrializing economy desperately needs access to Russian oil and gas, while Russia—always on the lookout for new customers to increase its leverage over its European regulars—is also looking to secure its sparsely populated eastern borders.

Speaking at an industry conference held in late July, Russia’s Prime Minister Vladimir Putin uttered just five sentences of criticism against

Mechel, a Russian coal and steel company, and it triggered a 38 percent nosedive in the company’s shareholder equity. The event shows the power Putin holds over the Russian economy. It also revives memories of the governmental takeover of Yukos, once the largest oil company in Russia, which collapsed under dubious back-tax bills and saw most of its assets pass into the hands of state-run Rosneft. As with Yukos, Putin’s criticism of Mechel involved tax evasion. It would not be surprising if Mechel soon finds itself a state-owned corporation.

ficial inflation rate is just over 2 million percent—though many economists believe the real rate to be much higher. Zimbabwe announced its latest economic panacea on July 30: eliminate the last 10 zeros on its currency. The 10 billion-dollar bill is now the one-dollar bill.

China’s announcement on July 30 that it will invest \$5 billion in **Niger** to develop oil production has sparked concerns of exploitation. According to the BBC, Niger’s mining union says the deal was made with contempt for regulation and in great secrecy. This follows China’s pattern of economic exploitation in Africa.

Tens of thousands of South African workers stayed home from their jobs on August 6, crippling parts of the country’s most important economic sectors—mining and manufacturing. The strike was in protest of skyrocketing food and electricity prices and, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, could hardly have come at a worse time. The South African economy is already suffering from high inflation and an unreliable transport and energy grid. Especially hard-hit is the gold mining sector, which saw production drop by 12.3 percent in

AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA

ON JULY 24, **Zimbabwean** leaders finally began talks to resolve the country’s political crisis, which churns in the wake of failed presidential elections and the subsequent illegitimate re-election of incumbent Robert Mugabe. No results have been announced as of this writing. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe’s of-

ASIA

AMID THE POMP AND splendor of the Beijing Summer Olympic Games, **China** experienced an increase in Islamic terrorism on its western border. In early August, Islamic separatists in the Xinjiang province released two videos threatening the Olympics. These separatists also conducted a series of violent attacks on government establishments and security personnel within Xinjiang. The stringent security crackdowns and omnipresent controls the Chinese government enacted in response to these events, however, only succeeded in



June compared to the same month last year. China has now surpassed **South Africa** as the world's largest gold producer. Falling production levels are adding another financial burden to the cash-strapped South African government.

Newspaper reports of July 23 said Russia intends to station nuclear bombers in **Cuba**. Stratfor said the plan under consideration is for a refueling base, not a nuclear base. Either way, it is a major provocation aimed at Washington.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sechin, a former KGB man with ties to the Castros, was dispatched to Cuba on July 30, reportedly to discuss Russian energy investments. Stratfor said his visit was "intended to grab the attention of the U.S. administration"; in other words, the Russian government deliberately publicized the visit so Washington would know Moscow is active in Cuba again. As Latin America begins to unify against the U.S., Moscow is evoking memories of the Cold War.

Venezuela is no longer America's fourth-largest supplier of crude oil, having been overtaken by **Nigeria**. Falling Venezuelan shipments to America are the result of increasing sales to China and crumbling oil infrastructure. Exports to the U.S. from January through May this year were down 10 percent from the same period last year. As Venezuelan imports continue to decline, expect the competition for resources to heat up.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has banned 272 officials



from participation in November's elections, prompting an uproar. Chavez blamed the objections to the ban on the U.S.

ANGLO-AMERICA

WHEN THE AMERICAN economy falls, no one will be able to say the writing wasn't on the wall. Some recent writing on the wall came in the form of Morgan Stanley, the second-biggest securities firm in the **United States**, telling clients in early August that they are not allowed to withdraw money from their home equity lines of credit. The decision followed a report by the American Bankers Association that consumers nationwide are falling behind on home-equity line payments at the fastest rate in 20 years. Morgan Stanley is largely an investment bank for the rich, which begs the question: If the rich are now a credit risk, what does that say about the rest?

Even with the federal government scrambling to cover

the banking sector under the latest financial bombshells, analysts are predicting that still more American banks will fail. Loan defaults and the continued slide of home prices could cause as many as 150 of the nation's 7,500 banks to fail within 18 months, financial experts are saying. The *International Herald Tribune* said that other banks might shut down branches or seek mergers.

Overall, inflation in the U.S. continued to surge in July due to increasing food and energy prices. This was the third month in a row of rapid inflation; in the previous 12 months, prices rose 5.6 percent, a spike not seen since 1991. Retail sales fell as well, constituting the weakest performance in five months. Consumers' purchasing power was at an 18-year low. Food prices rose 1.2 percent from June and energy prices jumped 4 percent.

In the **United Kingdom**, the economic picture is also bleak. The number of people losing their homes for failing to make their mortgage payments rose over 40 percent during

the first half of this year. The number of households that are over three months late on their mortgage payments rose from 129,600 at the end of 2007 to 155,600, making up 1.33 percent of all mortgages. Repossessions are now at their highest level in over a decade.

The strongest earthquake to hit a populated area of Southern California in more than a decade rattled buildings and nerves July 29. The 5.4-magnitude quake occurred 29 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles and was felt from L.A. to San Diego, and 230 miles east in Las Vegas.

The Washington papers reported in July that the "race card" had entered the election campaign between John McCain and Barack Obama. The presumed Republican nominee said that Obama had played the race card to bolster his chances following comments Obama made on the campaign trail in Missouri. The issue continues to be extraordinarily touchy in American life. This news is significant because it presages prophesied race conflict in America.

Are the nuclear warheads America is storing in Europe about to come under German control? **BY ANDREW MILLER**

The Next Nuclear Super

GERMANY HAS A NUCLEAR ARSENAL that includes approximately 20 B61 nuclear bombs and around 130 other nuclear devices. Of course, the Germans do not actually own these nuclear weapons, but they do keep them and train their fighter pilots how to use them.

These weapons are part of the American nuclear arsenal in Europe. Washington currently has approximately 350 nuclear weapons scattered across Europe in Turkey, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and, of course, Germany.

The release of a confidential U.S. Air Force report in June claiming that U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe are not properly guarded by American security officials sparked a debate in Germany over whether or not these warheads should remain in Germany or be withdrawn. Amid fears that Islamic terrorists could pirate the fissionable material out of some of these bombs, several politicians from the Social Democratic Party and minor opposition parties called for the weapons to be removed to the United States. The ruling Christian Democratic Party and the German Defense Ministry affirmed, however, that they don't want these nuclear weapons anywhere but where they are right now.

Christian Democrat foreign-policy spokesman Eckart von Klaeden says Germany's strategy of nuclear deterrence must be preserved and that Germany cannot afford to relinquish nuclear weapons as long

as there are nuclear weapons elsewhere in the world (*Spiegel*, June 23). These comments were echoed by German Deputy Defense Minister Thomas Kossendey in a speech he gave before the German parliament's lower house in late June defending the strategic asset of American nukes in Germany.

German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung went even further, saying he wants to keep both the nuclear weapons and several Tornado fighter jets (capable of dropping nuclear bombs) on reserve until at least 2020 for a possible nuclear war.

Comments like these echo remarks made two years ago by former German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz, who said that Germany needed to develop its own national nuclear arsenal as a security measure against terrorist-sponsoring states.

With Iran on the brink of attaining nuclear weapons—not to mention the possibility of nuclear technology falling into the hands of any of several independent terrorist groups—the threat of nuclear war is growing. Some German officials are clearly using this as a pretext for keeping America's nuclear weapons within their reach—potentially making Germany a nuclear power in its own right.

The Grand Design

Back in July of 1983, *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong met with Dr. Otto von Habsburg, head of the 700-



year-old House of Habsburg and visionary architect of today's expanding European Union. Here is what Mr. Armstrong related in a July 24, 1983, co-worker letter regarding Dr. Habsburg's views on European unification: "In my private meeting with him, Dr. Habsburg expressed disappointment that progress on the European reunification had moved so slowly. I expressed the conviction that some totally unexpected world-shocking event could occur suddenly at any time that would high-pressure European nations to go together overnight, adopting the constitution already prepared by the European Parliament. This Parliament, although without substantial power, is composed of leaders who are framing the constitution in advance. He mentioned that there are madmen such as [Libya's] Gadhafi and [Iran's] Khomeini who could



USE IT OR LOSE IT

Europe's nuclear warheads will be no exception to a rule that has ravaged mankind throughout history: Every weapon man has invented, he has used.

pull off some startlingly unexpected international act that would press the panic button in Europe.”

If a terrorist-sponsoring nation such as Iran were to conduct a major terrorist strike against Germany or some other European state, the whole continent could unite overnight. That was Dr. Habsburg's view on the issue. Today, several key members of Germany's current government are saying they want to keep America's nuclear weapons around for just such an eventuality.

The threat of Islamic terrorism and the problem of illegal immigration are increasingly driving Germans to right-wing politics. Most of the opposition to the idea of keeping American nuclear power in Germany is coming from the left-wing Social Democrats. The popularity of this

party is declining, however, even as the center-right Christian Democrats gain strength. As this trend continues, calls to retain America's nuclear weapons in Germany will only get louder.

More than this, the voices now calling to retain these nuclear weapons may soon start calling for more control over them. If securing the weapons is too much of a problem for the United States, the Germans may prove willing to fill that role. Both John McCain and Barack Obama, the U.S. presidential candidates, have indicated they will push for Europe to take on a more robust military role on the world scene if elected. It is entirely possible that German security guards could soon be guarding the B61 nuclear weapons already stored on their air force bases.

This scenario is very similar to a worldview espoused by the late Dr. Franz Josef Strauss, long-time premier of the German state of Bavaria and influential Christian Social Union politician. Strauss, who was hailed as the “strongman of Europe” in his day, wrote in his book *The Grand Design*: “Europe ought to have concentrated all its efforts on developing the defense of its territory on an independent basis. I can well see the day in which America, given the creation of a European nuclear force in which the United States is not itself a participant, would be entirely willing to cooperate with assistance in research and with deliveries of materials. At least such a prospect is more likely than that Washington would find itself willing to give up the American right to veto in an Atlantic nuclear force and thereby risk having this force used against the wishes of the United States.”

It is possible a German-led European Union could develop an independent nuclear force in cooperation with the United States if the next U.S. president endorses

the EU accepting more global peacekeeping responsibilities. For a time, this would seem to be a mutually beneficial relationship—Europe and America working together in an attempt to bring about world stability. An end-time flowering of German-U.S. relations is in fact prophesied in the Bible, in Ezekiel 23.

If the U.S. economy collapsed into a major depression, however, this partnership would be quickly stripped of its American half, and a united Europe transformed into the world's next nuclear superpower by taking over control of U.S. nuclear assets on German soil, added to France's existing nuclear capability.

Nuclear Holocaust

In the April 1980 issue of the *Plain Truth* magazine, Herbert Armstrong actually forecasted exactly such an eventuality—that of a nuclear-armed European empire.

“You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about how and how soon they may unite and provide a united European military force so they can defend themselves!” he wrote. “And so they will no longer have to give in meekly to Russia! And who will they blame for their humiliation and their necessity now to have a united Europe, with a united government, a common currency, and a common military force as great or greater than either the USSR or the U.S.A.? They will blame the United States! And when they are strong enough to assert themselves, they will first attack Britain for standing firm with the U.S., and THEN THEY WILL RETURN A LOT OF HYDROGEN BOMBS THE U.S. HAS STORED NOW IN EUROPE!” (emphasis mine).

As shocking as this scenario may sound, it is prophesied in your Bible. Ezekiel 23 tells of a time when the hypocritical nations of Israel (modern-day America and Britain) will work together with Assyria (modern-day Germany) as lovers. This relationship is prophesied to be short-lived, however, before God raises up the Assyrians against His people in punishment. Prophecies such as Isaiah 10:5-6 speak of Germany being used as the rod of God's anger against America and Britain. Other passages, such as Matthew 24:21-22, indicate that this punishment will come in the form of nuclear blitzkrieg.

For a more detailed explanation of Germany's nuclear future, request a free copy of our booklet *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany*.



The Secret Formula for *Utopia*

What the World Tomorrow will be like ... and *why* it will be that way.

BY RYAN MALONE

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF UTOPIA? Perhaps a world with no crime, thievery, abuse, rape or prisons. No hunger, suffering, pollution or squalor. No broken homes, cheating or discrimination. Perhaps even no illness or terminal disease. No murder or war of any kind.

Let's make the image practical. What about a world in which no one ever stole anything? How drastically that would affect every aspect of our lives! Think of all that exists because of thievery around us. Think of all the safes, keys, vaults, combination locks. Think of the security systems many have in their homes or the anti-theft devices in most modern cars. All these would be totally unnecessary!

Imagine shopping and *not* being under the eye of a security camera, not walking out past a sensor that detects shoplifters: There would be no more shoplifting! Imagine walking down a crowded street or in an airport terminal, not worried about someone ripping your purse off your arm or picking your pocket.

Take it further: What if everyone honored even the *intent* of this no-stealing idea—instead of the *spirit* of stealing and greed, each had the spirit of GIVE? People would be generous. No one would try to get money dishonestly—by fraud or slick salesmanship. Business practices would be utterly altered!

What we have done is envisioned the world if it were to keep just one of God's Ten Commandments—in letter and spirit.

Many believe God's law to be an outdated code—a done-away set of rules from a brooding, Old Testament Lord to one

group of people centuries ago. The Ten Commandments, most modern "Christians" believe, were "nailed to the cross." Christ kept these commands for us, they say, and all we have to do is believe on Him.

But select any one of those 10 laws and envision what the world would be like if everyone kept it—at all times and in the perfect intent of the law.

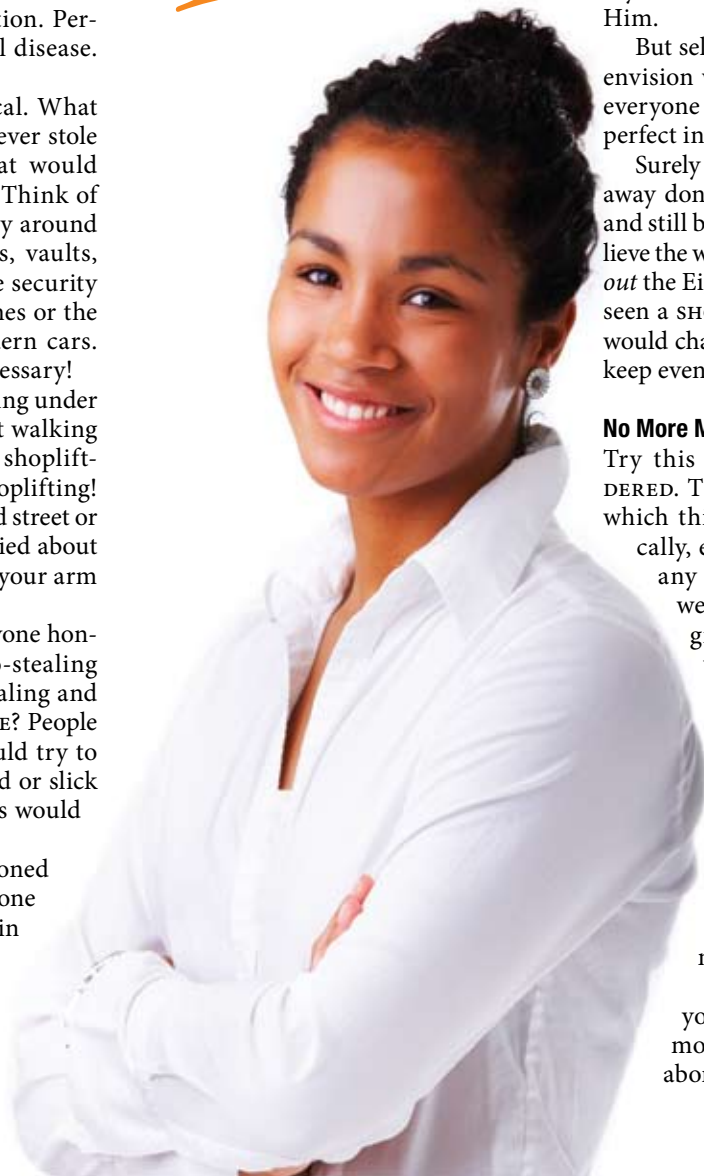
Surely those who say God's law is done away don't believe that we can all STEAL and still be righteous. Surely they don't believe the world would be a better place *without* the Eighth Commandment. We've just seen a SHORT list of the many things that would change if the whole world truly did keep even just that one commandment.

No More Murder

Try this one: Imagine if no one MURDERED. There would be *so many* ways in which this world would change—politically, economically. No more need for any country to have a military or weapons of any kind. Global, regional, internal military conflicts would DISAPPEAR.

Bringing this onto a more personal level, how many in this world fear being a victim of violent crime? How many parents have fear every day when their child enters a public school? Imagine no more drills as to what to do when a gunman enters the school. No more bomb threats.

No fear of others harming you, your family or your friends. No more domestic violence. No more abortions. No fear that anyone close



to you would take his or her own life—NO MORE SUICIDE!

The command not to murder, if truly kept, would even affect industry. There would be no life- or environment-endangering pollution. No more smoking; no ash trays; no cigarettes; no more commercials either for or against tobacco. No more harmful food products.

This would cause a huge chain reaction that would lead to greater physical well-being for every human alive.

All of these examples would abolish the need of costly federal and state-run prisons. What a richer world it would be from that fact alone! No jails. No police, except to provide peaceful direction and supervision of communities.

When Jesus Christ came to this Earth around 2,000 years ago in human form, He reinforced the spiritual implications of this Sixth Commandment, making it clear that even an attitude of hate directly violates this command (Matthew 5:21-22). Imagine if there were no more hate, no more prejudice, no more RACISM! All would have loving, outgoing concern for every other human being.

The world, after just two commandments of that “harsh, old law” being enforced, would be UNRECOGNIZABLE to the world we know today!

A Truthful World

Still not convinced? Add this commandment to the scenario: What if EVERYONE told the truth? How would our lives be different? Our jobs? Our homes? If everything people said were the honest truth. No more false rumors or unfounded accusations. No more deceptive advertisements on television. This policy of honesty would undoubtedly lead to many other law-abiding actions.

There are countless other examples of how the world would change if only a few of God’s Ten Commandments were kept in full.

How difficult it is to *envision* a world like this. In fact, the world would be so totally different, the natural, human mind would dismiss it as mere fantasy. After all, how could any of this ever happen?

But all of this *will* happen—and MORE! The world described above was a picture—inadequate in comparison to the reality—of a peaceful, joyful, utopian World Tomorrow, coming upon the Earth soon. And what made it so joyful was only THREE of God’s Ten Commandments—those forbidding lying, stealing and killing—being kept.

Love for Fellow Man

In this World Tomorrow, not only will these three commandments be enforced and kept, but the remaining seven will be kept as well. Imagine THAT!

In addition to no one lying, cheating, stealing, killing and polluting—enforcing the Fifth Commandment would mean no children dishonoring their parents, no juvenile crime, no upside-down families, no gangs. Children, abiding by this critical command, would live longer, healthier lives as God has promised (Ephesians 6:2-3). When children grew older, they would continue to honor their parents—taking care of them in their old age.

The keeping of the Seventh Commandment—which forbids fornication and adultery—though seemingly unfashionable and restrictive to most in our modern world, would have a chain reaction of unbelievably positive events that would affect almost everyone we know, almost every movie or television show, almost every song on the radio. Not one person would be affected by divorce. There would be no unwanted teenage or out-of-wedlock pregnancies. There would be no marital infidelity. Pornography would cease to exist. No need for parental controls on the Internet. Women could walk the streets after dark without the fear of being raped. The horrific AIDS virus, syphilis, gonorrhea and all other sexually transmitted diseases would be erased!

No strife, competition and envy (as forbidden by the Tenth Commandment). What a difference this would make in the world of sports, business, education, even in the home.

And all these benefits are fundamentally enforced in the last six commandments.

But looking at the first four, which pertain to love and worship of the true God, there would be even *more dramatic* results!

One World Religion

The First Commandment would ensure that all would accept the existence of the Creator God. No more would the educated cling to their theories of the big bang or of evolution. The world’s scientific geniuses would use their talent to help ILLUSTRATE in thorough and colorful detail how God created the magnificent universe. Since all scientific effort and thought would be built on this foundation, everything taught would be TRUE knowledge.

This would also mean no more religious bickerings, persecutions or wars. No more sidewalk preachers trying to “save your soul.” All people would have the same foundation of truth in their beliefs.

All would worship God first and foremost, putting all other desires as secondary. All would hold God’s name—and all that His name stands for—in the highest esteem. Blasphemy and persecution would be nonexistent. Swearing and cursing would be erased from the human mind.

Those who claim that the commandments are “nailed to the cross” might admit that the last six most definitely must not be done away, if one is to be a true Christian. Some would even tell you that God certainly could not have meant to delete the first two or three commands—being that no true Christian should ever be able to

The world described above was a picture—inadequate in comparison to the reality—of a peaceful, joyful, utopian World Tomorrow.

deny the existence of God or Christ, or resort to idol worship. But almost all mainstream “Christians” fumble around on the Fourth Commandment—the one requiring the observance of the Sabbath as holy time devoted to worship of God among His people. Surely THAT ONE must be done away. There is no way we can be expected to keep that law in our modern world!

But how much better the world would be if all kept this commandment. The Bible reveals that, in this World Tomorrow, all will be keeping God’s Sabbath (Isaiah 66:22-23). Jesus told us, “The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath” (Mark 2:27). This commandment was intended to be a great BLESSING for humanity.

As part of this commandment, God directs us to be efficient and productive for six days of the week. Then we are truly to REST from these labors physically and mentally for one 24-hour period. How much work would man accomplish if he observed this commandment! It would be proper work—no one would overwork, driving themselves into an early retirement or an early grave. Everyone would feel the same refreshing renewal at the end of every week.

Businesses, restaurants, factories would shut down, as some even do for Sunday, but for the *seventh day*, as God has commanded—as God Himself did after the six days of creation (Genesis 2:1-3). No one would complain about this massive shut-down, because all would have experienced

a highly fruitful week just prior.

Understand the chain reaction this would have. Imagine how YOUR job or school would change!

Imagine all people worshipping God on the same day of the week. No longer would there be a myriad of different religions, all claiming a different god and a different day. Imagine the unity among all humankind!

How Will This Come?

The illustration of the world as it would be if everyone kept God's commandments versus what the world is like today should be enough to prove the utter *impossibility* of mankind doing this on its own!

But this kind of world is COMING!

Isaiah prophesied of a time when "the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it" (Isaiah 2:2). There is coming a time when God's government will be in full force.

God plans to put those called out now, who learn these lessons now, on the front lines of leadership in this coming Millennium of peace.

And what will God's government be enforcing? Verse 3: "[F]or out of Zion shall go forth THE LAW, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Again, it is God's perfect, righteous LAW—His Ten Commandments—which, when observed, yield this time of unimaginable peace and abundance over all the Earth. It is this law, which mankind refuses to accept, that will bring the world the joy and abundant living it so desperately seeks!

All the effects of keeping God's law, as stated in detail above, will be amply evident. But a number of other fantastic occurrences, as a result of Christ's direct rulership of planet Earth, will be seen as well.

Notice these miraculous events. Isaiah foretold a time when the "desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1). He states that the "parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water" (verse 7). Other scriptures also show that God will miraculously turn the deserts of the world into lush, thriving, cultivatable, fertile farmland.

"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent" (Zephaniah 3:9). Notice that! All

will speak the same, pure language. This communication phenomenon will further unify the world. Illiteracy will be eradicated and all people will be properly educated.

The Scriptures indicate many other ways in which the world will be changed dramatically—the ways the cities and nations will be built, the way they will be ruled, the way the economy will be drastically restructured.

God's Word also indicates that marvelous tools and machines will be created to level some of the mountains and reduce the size of some of the world's large oceans (Isaiah 41:15-20). This will increase the livable surface area of the Earth—so everyone will have enough space to live comfortably. No more high-rise apartments or crowded subdivisions that cram as many people as possible into small areas—contributing to increased crime, violence and disease.

Safety for All People

As God has set in motion a spiritual law that produces wonderful blessings for

man, so has He set in motion physical laws to operate our minds and bodies. That means, in addition to

enforcing spiritual laws, God will enforce these physical laws of healthful living upon the masses. Sickness, disease and terminal illness will all be wiped out. No more obesity; no more eating disorders. No more drunkenness; no more drug abuse.

There will be no more famine (Ezekiel 36:29-30). The "Third World" will be no more. Even in what are now developed countries, there are ghetto and slum portions that rival Third World conditions. Not in tomorrow's world! Every neighborhood will be clean and safe for everyone.

The enforcement of physical laws of health will mean there will be no more hospitals as we know them. (Imagine never hearing another siren in the distance.) The Bible reveals that blindness, deafness and other major ailments will be a thing of the past (Isaiah 29:17-18; 35:5-6). Ultimate protection by God and His saints will ensure that mankind is free from harm of any kind.

Even harm from what once were dangerous animals will not be a concern anymore. Read these astounding word-pictures from Isaiah 11: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and

a little child shall lead them" (verse 6). Imagine a neighborhood child you know leading his pet "cat" around by the mane!

"And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and THE LION SHALL EAT STRAW LIKE THE OX" (verse 7). The nature of the ferocious animals, even some of their biological makeup, will be changed miraculously by God. Otherwise, could you imagine a lion—which today is equipped with teeth and stomach and bodily form to hunt and kill other animals for meat—eating grass from the same field as a cow?

Notice verse 9: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." The animals will not be allowed to cause any harm, because God's knowledge will be EVERYWHERE!

This knowledge will also turn *man* into a peaceful being. All men and women will be required to "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks" (Isaiah 2:4). The end of this verse states, "[N]either shall they learn war any more."

Our Part Today

This is the world as it WILL BE!

Beginning very SOON, God's government will be restored to Earth! God's magnificent law will be in full force. Satan will be gone—not able to deceive or influence man. What a combination of wondrous results this will create! Can you picture how different this world will be? Can you imagine all the wonderful ways this world will be utterly transformed into a thriving paradise?

If the world will change this much from the keeping of God's laws, then how much can *our* lives change NOW by obeying God's Ten Commandments more perfectly? God gave us these commands for our benefit. If we keep them, God promises super-rich blessings: We can experience a *personal utopia!* Our lives can be filled with peace and joy and abundance on an individual level.

God plans to put those called out now, who learn these lessons now, on the front lines of leadership in this coming Millennium of peace, when this utopia is expanded to the entire planet.

Let this vision stir your imagination! Let it fill your life with excitement and anticipation! This is no storybook fantasy. It is the real, coming World Tomorrow!

For more, request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like!* ■

When that didn't work, the government borrowed \$168 billion in "stimulus" money to send checks to each and every American for the express purpose of more *spending*. The new \$300 billion housing bill is more of the same—the U.S. spending more money it doesn't have, to bail out homeowners and bankers who got in over their heads by borrowing too much.

But debt is the problem, not the solution. Somehow politicians and economists have convinced themselves otherwise. At best, increased debt and more spending is a temporary fix.

"Record deficit of \$482 billion forecast for 2009," blared the *Financial Times* (July 29). And that estimate doesn't include tens of billions worth of additional "off budget" items (as if somehow "off budget" spending doesn't count as part of the deficit). Yet, many financial conservatives will tell you not to worry, because as a percentage of GDP, the deficit is actually slightly smaller than it was 25 years ago. They casually dismiss the deficit as ultimately inconsequential.

But the deficit *does* matter! The fact that today's *debt-inflated* GDP is not the GDP of 25 years ago is completely missed. Back then, the GDP represented a much greater percentage of *production*. Today it more largely measures *spending*.

And now, as the economy sheds jobs, the banking sector tightens lending, and consumers don't have so much money to spend, people are starting to wonder, *What could have possibly gone wrong?*

"The whole economic model was a scam. You can't really get rich by spending more money," writes economic analyst Bill Bonner. "It's saving money—and investing it in productive enterprises—that makes you rich. Yet, for the last 30 years, the feds have been encouraging consumer spending as a way to boost the economy. Wall Street turned over trillions of dollars—pretending to 'add value' by better allocating capital and credit. What it really did was pay itself huge fees for *loading down the whole society with debt*" (*Daily Reckoning*, op. cit.; emphasis mine).

If you borrow too much money, eventually you are going to suffer when you have to pay it back.

Stock Market Scam?

If you are looking to the stock market to bail out your finances, you may want to reconsider. It is no coincidence that the marathon bull run of the past several decades occurred alongside the greatest expansion of debt the country has ever seen. Now that borrowing isn't so easy, it could be the

bear's turn. And the bear is hungry.

Leverage up some more, buy stocks and hope they go up enough to pay back the principle, people were told. So investors bought hedge funds, which leveraged themselves with debt at 25 to 1, 50 to 1, and even higher.

But what happens if credit tightens and the stock market goes down? The answer to that question was always a little vague. Debts eventually need to be repaid—but where is the money going to come from? From selling more stocks! Won't that just push the stock market even lower and trigger more margin calls, leading to more selling? Yes. And couldn't that become a vicious cycle? Yes.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, dark clouds may already be forming over the stock market as investors try to reduce risk. Even Calpers—the California Public Employees' Retirement System plan, one of the largest retirement plans in the U.S.—is trimming its exposure to stocks. Forouki Majeed, the senior investment officer for asset allocation and risk management, said that for the last 10 years, stock market investors have seen virtually no return.

So the myth of the stock market as a generator of wealth may be a scam too. Compared to the rising price of consumer essentials like gasoline, the Dow Jones has actually *gone nowhere* for the last 40 years. Imagine that—risking money for 40 years and reaping virtually no return. What returns investors do get are being reduced by the falling dollar. Measured against the euro, the Dow Jones Industrial Index is back at 1999 levels.

Investment manager Jeremy Grantham half-jokingly told investors recently that the only good investment right now would be a big mattress—meaning that in the current precarious economic climate, and with so many banks on the edge of failing, it almost makes sense to do what people did in the 1930s and protect your money by stuffing it inside your bed.

Debt Junkies

America is a debt-junkie nation living in a fairy-tale world where borrowing and spending can go on forever. Just ask your neighbor, or the woman in the check-out line, or the guy at the basketball game.

"Yes, I own a house," or "Yes, that's my Toyota," he or she might say.

But is it really theirs, or is it the bank's? Is the furniture inside their five-bedroom ranch theirs, or is it a "no payment or interest until 2010" deal? Is the flat-screen TV really theirs, or is it the credit card company's? Do their cell phones really belong to them,

or are they part of a two-year contract?

You see? America has lots of "things," but how much is actually owned and paid for? And how many of those "things" that we indebted ourselves for will still be here and in working order in five or ten years?

When it is all tallied up—mortgages and home equity lines of credit; credit cards, vehicle loans and business debts; municipal, state and federal debts; Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid liabilities; and underfunded pension plans—most Americans will not only find out they aren't nearly as wealthy as they thought, but that as a whole they are downright *broke!*

At one point America was a net creditor nation. Now it is the world's biggest debtor. There was a time when, financially, America was the richest nation on Earth—and everything was paid for, with savings, quality manufacturing capability, and large global export surpluses.

But believe it or not, the root cause of that prosperity did not primarily have to do with any physical American innovation. The prosperity was a direct result of blessings from God.

Where the Wealth Came From

A little more than a century ago, America's greatest thinkers knew where America's wealth came from. "We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the Earth," Abraham Lincoln said, "as regards fertility of soil, extent of territory, and salubrity of climate. We find ourselves ... the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in their acquisition or the establishment of them." Lincoln looked upon our vast wealth and power as an inheritance from God—something we did not earn ourselves.

Similarly, George Washington believed America would have never come into existence without God's blessing. Benjamin Franklin went so far as to compare early America to the biblical Promised Land. He called the original American colonies "God's new Israel."

These men, and many others like them, knew it was *God* who gave America its unprecedented prosperity and power.

Today, the blessings are being removed, and you can see that in the mismanagement of the wealth we have been given. You can read about why God gave America so many blessings, and why He is now taking them away, in Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. This free book gives the answer to the underlying causes of America's current economic trouble. ■

FOR CENTURIES, THE STRATEGIC Balkan Peninsula has featured as a slice of Europe over which wars have been fought, treaties made and broken. It became a vital pawn in the carve-up of nations after World War I, had the boundaries of its ethnic enclaves confused under Tito's regime, then its various nationalist feelings taken advantage of and played against each other in the latest push for its colonization by the EU.

In this latest process, one nation has been demonized in the mind of the public: Serbia.

In the words of British political economist Rodney Atkinson, "The grossest calumny in the continuing anti-Serb bias in the British press is the myth that it was the Serbs who were 'nationalists.' In fact, they (and many Croats, Bosnians and Kosovans) were the multiethnic federalists seeking to preserve Yugoslavia, and the extreme nationalists were those who now govern the statelets of Croatia, Muslim Bosnia and Albanian Kosovo. The EU supported and funded that nationalism which they condemn WITHIN the EU but which they exploit in order to undermine nation states OUTSIDE the EU! Germany's interest in destroying both Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia was to reverse the results of the First World War which established those states" (Free Nations).

There you have in a nutshell an explanation of how Marshall Tito's united Yugoslavian nation became a multistate Balkan appendage to the European Union.

German-Vatican Collusion

That the United States was an all-too-willing pawn in the breakup of Yugoslavia—instigated by the German leadership under Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Vatican under the papacy of John Paul II—is a matter of documented history. With the USSR having imploded by 1991, the sole superpower left at the time was the U.S. The American administration fell into the trap of helping to play out—and largely pay for—Germany's foreign policy for gaining control of the strategic Balkan Peninsula under its European Union umbrella.

The U.S. materially contributed to the instigation of the illegal Balkan wars by submitting to pressure from a combination of self-interest groups. As Srdja Trifkovic, foreign affairs editor for *Chronicles* magazine, has observed, "The motives of [the late U.S. Ambassador Walter] Zimmermann and his political bosses in Washington were not rooted in the concern for the Muslims of Bosnia as such, or indeed any higher

SERBIA

The Demonizing of a Nation

How one of the West's staunchest allies was turned into a pariah BY RON FRASER

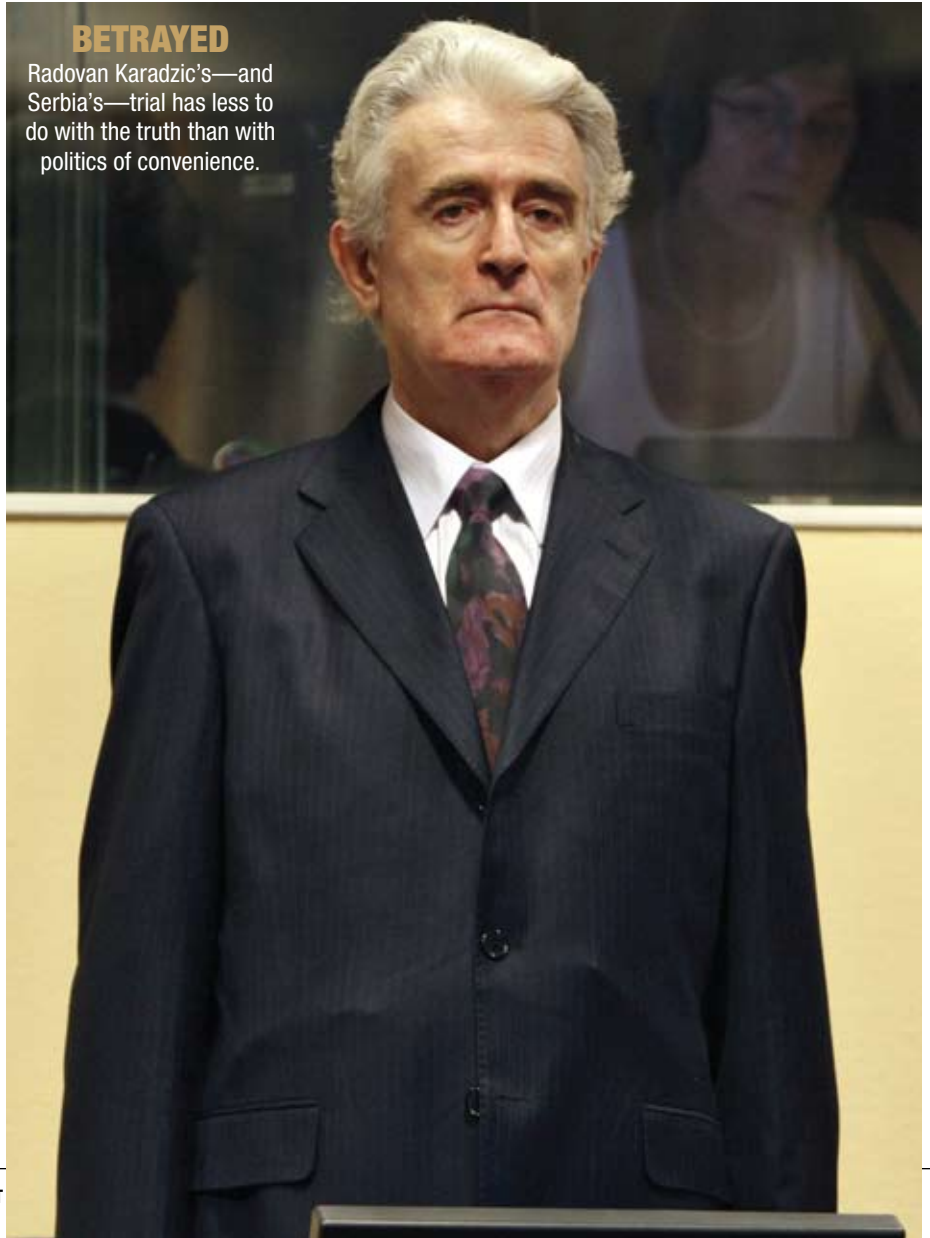
moral principle. Their policy had no basis in the law of nations, or in the notions of truth or justice. It was the end result of the interaction of pressure groups within the American power structure ..." (July 22).

In addition to the strongest of Vatican and German lobbies, these pressure groups

included, among others, the cashed-up Saudis and other Muslims seeking to extend Islamic political interests in Europe. The result was "a virulently anti-Serb, agenda-driven form of realpolitik that was to dominate America's Bosnian policy. Just as Germany sought to paint its Maastricht

BETRAYED

Radovan Karadzic's—and Serbia's—trial has less to do with the truth than with politics of convenience.



diktat on Croatia's recognition in December 1991 as an expression of the 'European consensus' ... Washington's faits accomplis were straightforwardly labeled as 'the will of the international community'" (ibid.). A gullible media took the bait. The truth as to what actually triggered the Balkan wars was largely ignored.

In discussing Germany's continuing drive to dominate an imperialist union of European states (progress toward that goal being twice interrupted in the 20th century—by World Wars I and II), we can hardly underestimate the importance of the first foreign-policy initiative of the unified German nation following the fall of the Berlin Wall in the autumn of 1989.

The recognition of Croatia and Slovenia by Germany, supported shortly after by the Vatican, was the spark that set off the Balkan powder keg. As Trifkovic explained, "The truth is that *there was no internal, Bosnian threat to peace at the beginning of 1991* Yet once reunited Germany was committed to the recognition of Croatia and Slovenia, the Muslim leadership in Sarajevo knew both that the old Yugoslavia was dead and that historic opportunities beckoned" (ibid.). War—plus the carve-up of the Balkan nations into political entities slated for EU domination—was the result.

In the process, the Serbs were demonized.

Loyal Ally Betrayed

James Bissett, former Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia, stated in a June 2003 speech to a group of Canadian Serbs on the anniversary of the historic battle of Kosovo that during his tenure in Belgrade in the 1990s he was "an eyewitness to the subsequent violence and breakup of the country. I also was a witness to the 'historical amnesia' suffered by the political leaders of France, Britain, the United States and my own country, Canada. These countries were Serbia's old traditional allies in two world wars yet they shamefully stood by and joined in the betrayal of Yugoslavia."

Ambassador Bissett was scathing in his remarks on the effects of this betrayal of the Serbian peoples by the leaders of those nations with whom they were previously allied. He declared, "The breakup of Yugoslavia was a disaster for the Serbian people. Thousands killed and many more thousands forced to flee their ancestral homelands. ... *Yet the greatest tragedy of all is that the Serbs have been blamed for everything that has happened since the breakup.* They have been blamed for the breakup itself. They have been blamed for start-

ing the violence. They have been blamed for the ethnic cleansing that occurred. They have been blamed for the massacres. They have been blamed for genocide. Finally, they have been blamed for the NATO bombing of their own country!"

Search for a Scapegoat

One outcome of this grave injustice was Slobodan Milosevic's arraignment by the International Court of Justice at The Hague (a body not recognized by the U.S.) to undergo an illegal trial, during which he eventually succumbed to illness and died, denying his accusers the opportunity to render their predetermined verdict of guilty.

Meanwhile, the chase for a Serbian scapegoat continued, consummating in the arrest of Radovan Karadzic in July, setting the scene for the next costly show trial at The Hague.

Srdja Trifkovic observed, "... Karadzic personally and the Serbs collectively were severely damaged by the Western media handling of their mistreatment of Muslim prisoners and by their expulsion of non-Serb civilians in the summer of 1992. Similar atrocities by Croats and Muslims against Serbs and against each other, while no less common, were less conspicuous and deemed unworthy of attention. The Western elite class chose its sympathies at the start and kept up an agitation in favor of military intervention against the Serbs" (op. cit.).

With the mass media so overtly manipulating public opinion, Karadzic was hung, drawn and quartered well before he set foot in the dock. As Trifkovic wrote, "The judgment against Karadzic at the U.S.-sponsored and largely U.S.-funded tribunal at The Hague will be built on this flawed foundation. It will be neither fair or just, and therefore it will be detrimental to what America should stand for in the world. It will also give further credence to the myth of Muslim blameless victimhood, Serb viciousness, and Western indifference, and therefore weaken our resolve in the global struggle euphemistically known as 'war on terrorism.' The former is a crime; the latter, a mistake" (ibid.).

Now, as a post-Milosevic charade plays out at The Hague with the trial of Radovan Karadzic, one thing is for certain. The foremost casualty will be the truth. The most condemned will become the Serbs.

So, what about the now deceased Croatian leader Franjo Tudjman's practice of ethnic cleansing during the Balkan wars? Was this not anything other than a resumption of similar practices carried out

under Croatia's puppet Nazi regime during World War II? Why aren't Tudjman's henchmen—those still at large—subject to a similar manhunt as that mounted for Karadzic?

What about the Muslims who enacted atrocities against Serbs in those same Balkan wars? Where's the condemnation of the U.S.- and German-backed Albanian terrorists, the KLA, for atrocities committed by them against ethnic Serbs and especially their overt ethnic cleansing of Serbian Kosovars?

Why must Karadzic alone be singled out by such as former Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, who claims he "merits a special place in history" for what he termed as his "enthusiastic advocacy of ethnic cleansing"? (*Washington Post*, July 23).

It's simple. It all fits an overarching agenda to which the greater public remains oblivious. It's revealed in one short sentence in Holbrooke's *Post* article: "Karadzic's arrest is no mere historical footnote It also *moves Serbia closer to European Union membership*" (emphasis mine throughout). Holbrooke is right on the button with that statement.

What needs to be added is that the outcome of Karadzic's trial has the potential to accelerate the coming clash between Catholic Europe and pan-Islam.

North-South Clash

Bible prophecy predicts a future clash between a great northern power and an opposing southern power, both driven by competing imperial motives, each ruled by an ideology directly opposed to the other, yet each having a common goal—global rule!

The forthcoming trial of Karadzic has the potential to greatly aggravate relations between these two powers toward a clash over territorial possession in the strategic Balkan Peninsula.

To understand this vital phase of the emerging, post-U.S.-superpower global order, we must first consider just how the case against Karadzic (and, by imputation, the Serbian nation) has been manufactured and what are the forces behind it. We can then assess how the outcome of this case holds within it the potential for hastening the coming clash between pan-Islam and the European Union.

The overarching reality of the Balkans situation is that of all the ethnic groups the Balkan Peninsula contains, the Serbs are the *largest nationality* and were the *most opposed* to the German/Vatican-instigated breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Serbia

and the Serb enclaves within Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo simply stood in the way of the EU's hegemonic goals in its southward and eastward landgrab following the reunification of Germany in 1990. The Serbs also stood in the way of pan-Islam's efforts to establish a beachhead on European soil in Bosnia from which to further its northward push.

Both EU and Muslim interests coaxed Washington to endorse and even underwrite efforts to have NATO forces fight the Serbs on their behalf—the former to aid its colonizing of the whole Balkan Peninsula, the latter to consolidate Islam's terrorist enclave on European soil.

Thus was initiated an illegal war. NATO fought as the EU's proxy against the Serbs' sovereign, independent stand against forces bent on destroying their nation—forces intent on prying Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo loose so they could be handed over to the waiting clutches of the EU empire. Meanwhile, the Islamists applauded in the background.

With the media spotlight turned off the real perpetrators of the Balkan wars, the fall guys became the military and political leaders of Serbia's embattled resistance movement. These include former Yugoslav President Milosevic, Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic, Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic, Croatian Serb rebel leader Goran Hadzic, and the late Kosovo Serb rebel leader known as Arkan, who escaped the dragnet by being gunned down in a Belgrade hotel in January 2000.

Beaten by the grim reaper in consummating its case against Slobodan Milosevic, the EU—willingly supported by the U.S. State Department—pressured the Serbian leadership into finally seizing Radovan Karadzic, found “hiding” under their noses in Belgrade, and handing him over to The Hague for trying as a war criminal. This, so the case against the Serbs could be further “legitimized” via a highly visible show trial publicized by an already rabid anti-Serb mass media.

Thus is Serbia set to be further demonized and beaten into submission, ultimately to be colonized by EU diktat, with the willing support of the brainwashed international community. In EU terms, Bosnian Muslims (a hotbed of Islamist terrorist training) will then be encircled by the EU.

So what facts support the case against the accused?

Forging the Case

That atrocities were committed by all sides in the Balkan wars is a given. Ample docu-



IRONY German soldiers patrol Kosovo as part of a NATO force keeping peace between Kosovar Serbs and their ethnic Albanian attackers, itself a result of Berlin's aggressive manipulation of the Balkan crisis.

mented evidence exists to prove that. Atrocities are simply part of the nature of war.

Yet the fact that similar atrocities, involving mass murder, mass rape and attempts at genocide, were being perpetrated in a number of other countries before, during and after those committed in the Balkan wars is also a given. Witness Rwanda, Somalia, the Congo, Sudan, China, et al.

Yet, what Srdja Trifkovic describes as a “doctrine of non-equivalence” serves the EU well in this respect.

Right now the EU is keen to get on with the job of cementing its empire. It will continue to be frustrated in this process till it has the Serbs under control, and the Muslim enclaves within the Balkans held at bay.

With a more EU-compliant leadership finally ensconced in Belgrade, it's time for Europe to hold the Serbs to ransom by building a case against Karadzic. Once again it will widely publicize the demonizing of the Serbs—and thus secure overwhelming support for gathering all that was once sovereign Serbian territory into the EU's gaping maw.

The problem with the case against the accused is that too little clearly documented, provable, factual evidence for that case actually exists. One reason for this, as political analyst Michael Parenti observed, is the greatly biased media coverage of the Balkan wars: “Grisly incidents of Croat

and Muslim atrocities against the Serbs rarely made it into the U.S. press, and when they did they were accorded only passing mention. Meanwhile Serb atrocities were played up and sometimes even fabricated John Ranz, chair of Survivors of the Buchenwald Concentration Camp, USA, asks: Where were the TV cameras when hundreds of Serbs were slaughtered by Muslims near Srebrenica? The official line, faithfully parroted in the U.S. media, is that Bosnian Serb forces committed all the atrocities at Srebrenica. ...

“The Serbs were blamed for the infamous Sarajevo market massacre. But according to the report leaked out on French TV, Western intelligence knew that it was Muslim operatives who had bombed Bosnian civilians in the marketplace in order to induce NATO involvement. Even international negotiator David Owen, who worked with Cyrus Vance, admitted in his memoir that the NATO powers knew all along that it was a Muslim bomb” (Michael Parenti Political Archive, May 2000).

Still, despite the combination of proven media bias and fabricated stories about alleged Serb atrocities, the deceit persists. American political commentator Mary Mostert has observed that “with the death of Slobodan Milosevic we still are getting cartoons and stories about the ‘200,000 people’ that Milosevic supposedly killed.



in Bosnia Croatia or Kosovo—truly hinges: “It really *does* matter how many were killed. The *foreign policy and political implications are substantial*. There is a line between oppression and mass murder. It is not a bright, shining one, but the distinction between hundreds of dead and tens of thousands is clear. The blurring of that line has serious implications not merely for NATO’s *integrity*, but for the notion of *sovereignty*. If a handful—or a few dozen—people are killed in labor unrest, does the international community have the right to intervene by force? By the very rules that NATO has set up, the magnitude of slaughter is critical” (Oct. 17, 1999).

Get the point?

If the fabricated images and statistics regarding atrocities allegedly committed by the Serbs are proven false, the very case justifying the EU/NATO/U.S. invasion of Serbia is null and void! Then those who colluded to initiate the illegal Balkan wars could well be said to be guilty of war crimes themselves! They simply will never allow that to happen!

The extent to which NATO’s integrity (and, by direct association, the German/Vatican nexus which initiated the whole process) is brought into question by the pending Karadzic case is highlighted by astute EU watcher John Laughland, who wrote in the *Brussels Journal*, “The arrest of Radovan Karadzic ... has provided yet another occasion for all the tired old propaganda about the Balkans wars to be taken out of the cupboard and given one last airing. In particular, the war is presented as one between a Serb aggressor and an innocent victim, the Bosnian Muslims, and the former is accused of practicing genocide against the latter. Even if one accepts that crimes against humanity were committed during the Balkan wars, it should be obvious that both these claims are absurd.

“[T]he Serbs were no more the aggressors in the Bosnian civil war than Abraham Lincoln was an aggressor in the American Civil War. The Yugoslav Army was in place all over Bosnia-Herzegovina because that republic was part of Yugoslavia. Bosnian Muslims (like Croats) left the army in droves and set up their own militia instead, as part of their drive for independence from Belgrade. This meant that the Yugoslav Army lost its previous strongly multiethnic character and became largely Serb. It did not mean that Serb forces entered the territory of Bosnia, or even that the Serbs attacked the hapless Bosnian Muslims” (July 23).

Case for the Defense

John Laughland outlined the case for the defendant thus: “In fact, the Bosnian Serb war effort was no more or less legitimate than the Bosnian Muslim war effort. The Muslims wanted to secede from Yugoslavia (and were egged on to do this by the Americans and the Europeans) while the Bosnian Serbs wanted to stay in Yugoslavia. It was as simple as that. ...

“In any case, once the Muslims had seized power in Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serbs sought not to conquer the whole republic but instead simply to fight for the secession of their territories from Muslim control. ... If the Muslims had the right unilaterally to secede from Yugoslavia, why should the Bosnian Serbs not have had the right unilaterally to secede from the new state of Bosnia-Herzegovina which had never before existed as a state, and to which the Bosnian Serbs had no loyalty whatever?” (ibid.).

Laughland clearly sees the propaganda ploy that will be behind the case about to be brought against Karadzic: “What is clear is that the Srebrenica massacre cannot possibly be described as genocide. Even the most ardent pro-Muslim propagandists agree that the victims of the massacre there were all men. The Bosnian Serbs claim that they were combatants (although that is certainly not an excuse for killing them) but the point is that an army bent on genocide would precisely not have singled out men for execution but would have killed women too” (ibid.).

So the Karadzic show trial will be yet another public demonization of the unfortunate Serbs. Still, the case is worth watching for another very profound reason.

Islam’s Push

The outcome is vitally important to *two competing powers* that are heading toward an *inevitable clash*—an ever southward- and eastward-extending European Union (Daniel 8:9), and the Iranian-backed northward-pushing pan-Islam incursion into Europe (Daniel 11:40). The Karadzic case has the potential to open a real can of maggots that could soon become nasty flies in the ointment of the EU’s Balkan strategy.

John Laughland demonstrated this potential for a clash between Islam and Catholic Europe over Bosnia-Herzegovina quite clearly: “The Srebrenica massacre may well have been a crime against humanity but it is impossible to see how it can be categorized as genocide.

“Unfortunately, *there is a very clear*

See **SERBIA** page 34 ►

Only—no one could find the bodies” (Renew America, March 20, 2006).

The institution charged with trying these Serb leaders for war crimes, The Hague’s International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, has, over the years, received proof from the reports of multiple international forensic teams demonstrating that claims of Serb “atrocities” were exaggerated and quite often invented.

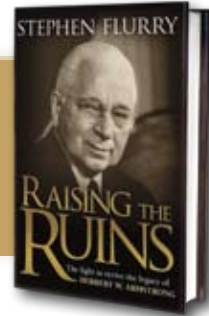
Nevertheless, anyone responsible for adjudicating the case of Radovan Karadzic will find it an impossible task to resist from allowing bias to creep into their analysis of the “facts.” Hence, judgment is bound to become impaired, justice clouded and equity destroyed amid the surrounding murk of political intrigue and media deceit. The Karadzic case is destined to become another Milosevic-type show trial, yet again underlining the oft-stated dictum that truth is the first casualty of war.

Journalistic Fabrications

So the mud still sticks to the Serbs. It simply has to be *made* to stick, otherwise the EU/NATO/U.S. State Department case against the Serbs falls apart through lack of sufficient bona fide evidence!

Stratfor, commenting on the false reports of mass murder by Serbs in the Kosovo war, spotlighted one major fact on which the case against the Serbs—albeit

In his book *Raising the Ruins*, available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the 20th chapter.



STEPHEN FLURRY

Counterclaim to the Rescue

“... Worldwide claims it is entitled to all the tithes and other contributions given to the splinter group’s church by people inspired by copies of the book that the group printed.”

— *Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 21, 2001

THE DAY AFTER THE NINTH CIRCUIT FILED ITS OPINION, we stopped distribution of *Mystery of the Ages* and the other five works of Mr. Armstrong we had printed. My father then spent a few days weighing our legal options and beseeching God. On September 28, as we had grown accustomed to during the lawsuit, he came out of seclusion prepared for an offensive strike. He reminded Dennis Leap and me about what we had seen. God inspired Judge Letts to grasp the central points of our case, my father said. God inspired Mark Helm’s oral argument at the Ninth Circuit. God inspired Judge Brunetti’s dissenting opinion at the Ninth. “Remember *what we have seen* in this case and be encouraged by it,” he said. He reminded us that Mr. Armstrong spent practically his entire life operating on the edge of disaster. “Everything,” he said, “hinges upon *faith*.”

With that in mind, he decided to resume distribution of Mr. Armstrong’s works until issuance of the official court order to cease and desist (the appellate court’s ruling did not serve as such an order). He was well aware that the WCG would probably point to this action as “proof” of our “willful intent” to break the law. But since the order requiring us to stop had not yet been issued, my father felt like it would be a lack of faith not to disseminate God’s truth. Of course, once the injunction was filed, we fully intended to comply with the order at once. But until then, it was a race against the clock to see how much literature we could distribute before we were ordered to lock it up.

Our November 2000 *Trumpet* splashed this headline across the cover: “A Modern Day Book Ban.” Inside the issue, we talked about *our* Christian duty and why we risked quite a lot in order to make *Mystery* available. We wrote, “The Worldwide Church of God has no interest in ever printing *Mystery of the Ages* in any form. Even if they did attempt such a project, perhaps just to spite us, it would be the most scathing con-

demnation of Herbert W. Armstrong and his teachings that you have ever read—much the same as *Transformed by Truth*.”

“That is why we feel it is our *duty* to make this book available to the general public—and at no charge.”

In the January 2001 issue, we ran a two-page spread advertising the 1980 version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. We urged readers, “[I]f you don’t have a copy of the larger version, please write for your copy *while you can*.” We knew the injunction would be filed any day, so we were trying to unload as many books as possible. That advertisement brought in more than 3,000 requests for the book.

The following month, we did the same thing for *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, admonishing readers, “It could be your last chance to ever get this book!” Unfortunately, that issue landed in mailboxes too late. On the evening of Jan. 29, 2001, the court-ordered injunction was finally filed. Technically, it barred dissemination of *Mystery of the Ages* only. But we chose to cease distribution of all Mr. Armstrong’s works.

Thus, we were not able to satisfy thousands of requests for *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. So we directed all those who asked for the book to instead contact the WCG. We even gave them the WCG’s address and phone number. Since the WCG now had big plans for Mr. Armstrong’s literature, we urged people to call the WCG to check on the progress of their plans for distributing Mr. Armstrong’s works.

■ THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

To this point in the case, we had to purchase ad space to tell our story to a mass audience. So when *Wall Street Journal* reporter Jess Bravin contacted us in November of 2000, we were *ecstatic*. Widely read across business, financial and legal districts worldwide, the *Journal*’s circulation was about 2 mil-

lion. A full-page ad in a publication of its stature runs at about \$175,000. So we knew that if we could get a fair story out of the deal, it could be hugely beneficial to our cause—and free.

Bravin was drawn to our case because of its uniqueness. “It was absolutely fascinating,” he said, “two churches suing each other over inspired writings.” As to the legal questions in the case, he was fascinated by the “unusual collision between copyright laws, freedom of speech and freedom of religion”—all of which, he said, are protected by the Constitution.

Our lawyers supplied him with the relevant legal briefs and opinions and we gave him a pile of Mr. Armstrong’s literature as well as *Transformed by Truth*. After that, we didn’t hear back from him for several weeks. For a while, he got sidetracked with the hotly contested U.S. presidential election of 2000. We were, nevertheless, anxious to hear back from him—and hopeful that his editors wouldn’t nix the story.

Soon after the election crisis ended, he contacted Dennis to say he was moving forward on our story. He arranged to meet with us at our headquarters facility in Oklahoma. Arriving in Edmond on Friday, Jan. 26, 2001, we guided him on a tour through our offices and facilities. That afternoon, he sat down to interview my father for more than two hours. During the interview, my father explained how he came into the Worldwide Church of God as a young man. He recounted the events surrounding his firing in 1989. In discussing the emergence of the Philadelphia Church of God after the split, he told Jess, “All we’ve ever wanted to do is continue with what Mr. Armstrong did.” My father admitted that we are not what you would call a mainstream denomination. But like Mr. Armstrong, we do profess to be followers of Jesus Christ’s message as revealed in the Bible, he said.

The next day, we invited him to attend our church services, where I happened to be giving the sermon. Having visited a WCG service the previous week, Mr. Bravin noted afterward how different the two services were. The WCG service had more singing and testimonials, whereas ours was more informative. I told him that the format for our service is exactly the way it used to be in the WCG.

That evening, we took him out for dinner and then invited him to a concert sponsored by our Philadelphia Foundation. Of course, we had no idea how we would be portrayed in his piece, but it was still exciting just to have him in town—and knowing that the court case brought it all about.

■ FRONT PAGE!

Jess called Mr. Leap late Tuesday evening, February 20, to tell us the story would appear the following day. I left for work at 5:30 the next morning and hurriedly stopped at a convenience store to get the paper. The clerk must have thought I was a bit odd, watching me rush into the store, grab a *Wall Street Journal*, and proclaim, “I can’t believe it!” There, on the far-left column of the FRONT PAGE, above the fold, was a drawing of Herbert W. Armstrong prominently displayed at the beginning of the article. For me, even without reading the article,

that was enough to make my heart race with excitement! I bought three copies and headed off to work, where I finally sat down to read the piece.

Bravin told the story of a church that disavowed the tenets of its founder after his death, even to the point of destroying his written works and preventing all others from printing them. “Through it all,” he wrote, “a splinter group in Oklahoma continued to take Mr. Armstrong at his word. Wanting to provide new converts with all of Mr. Armstrong’s insights, the group began to print *Mystery of the Ages* and give it away.”

What resulted, he explained, was “an unusual legal challenge.” He continued, “Worldwide Church hasn’t lost sales of its founder’s book because it never charged for it while publishing it, and certainly has no wish to sell it now; nor has its adversary ever sold the book. But *Worldwide claims it is entitled to all the tithes and other contributions given to the splinter group’s church by people inspired by copies of the book that the group printed.*”

Just six paragraphs into the piece, he told readers about the WCG’s determination to take tithes and offerings away from the PCG, which was exactly right. We didn’t charge for the book, so what money was there to go after for “damages,” besides the tithes and offerings of our membership?

From that point, he delved into a brief history of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry, Tkachism, and the PCG’s emergence onto the scene. Not all of this history was expressed very favorably toward Mr. Armstrong, but it clearly brought out the fact that we were following in Mr. Armstrong’s steps. And he also made note of Tkach’s “Christian duty” statement—something we never tire of seeing in print.

While some of the history could have been portrayed better, my father felt like we came out on top with respect to the legal coverage. Along those lines, my father noted, “I don’t believe it could have been better balanced.”

Our lawyers were elated by the article.

Mr. Tkach Jr. wasn’t quite as happy with Bravin’s work. According to Tkach, Bravin interviewed him and Greg Albrecht for “nine hours” and yet only quoted him twice. “Only one of the quotes was actually correct,” he said in an interview. Tkach also felt like Bravin’s statement about the WCG going after our tithes and offerings was *misleading*. “The truth of the matter,” Tkach said, “is that the Ninth Circuit Appellate Court ruled in our favor, and eventually Gerald Flurry’s group will have to pay what is known as damages for the wrong they committed.” He continued, “Normally, we might be entitled to the profits from the sale of the book. But since the book was given away and not often sold (except for a brief time in bookstores) the court may accept as the measure of those damages the amount of money Flurry received that is traceable to the book, in other words, donations from people who got the book and sent in money. Obviously, this becomes a calculation of a dollar amount, not the actual checks of the donors somehow signed over to us.”

Regarding Bravin’s comments about the WCG taking our tithes and offerings, psychologist Tkach said Bravin was speaking metaphorically, not literally. He later suggested that

we sell off some of our property to pay off the damages. Of course, there's little difference between proceeds from a property sale and tithes and offerings direct from members, because we would have never acquired the property in the first place without membership donations.

■ HARVARD LAW REVIEW

If the *Wall Street Journal* helped us get some good publicity on the outside, the *Harvard Law Review* gave us additional hope that things might turn around in court. The April 2001 issue of the well-known law journal criticized the Ninth Circuit for applying the copyright law *narrowly*. “By giving insufficient weight to the religious nature of the text,” the article stated, “the court interpreted fair use in a manner that contravenes the goals of a doctrine designed to encourage, not hinder, the free expression of ideas.” Of course, this is what our lawyers had been arguing all along. Technically, yes, WCG held the copyright to *Mystery of the Ages*. But they were using it unlawfully—to suppress the free expression of Mr. Armstrong’s ideas. “The most serious error in the court’s analysis,” the *Review* continued, “was its failure to credit sufficiently MOA’s centrality to PCG, which led it to misapply the first fair use factor. MOA is required reading for those who seek baptism in the church, and church policy mandates reading the book before [attending] services because it ‘provides the key to understanding the Bible.’ The dissent recognized this centrality. The majority, however, treated PCG’s copying and distribution of MOA as a straightforward infringement case. It failed to recognize that to prohibit PCG’s use of the book would be to suppress both the unique expression of the ideas in the book and the ability of PCG’s members to live according to their religious faith.”

If the majority erred in not recognizing this centrality, it made matters worse by giving credibility to WCG’s plans for producing an annotated version of *Mystery*.

“The court’s assumption that WCG was not seeking to keep MOA from the public (or from PCG) rested on a tenuous belief in the sincerity of WCG’s annotation plans; it then privileged those speculative plans over PCG’s immediate, religious need for the book.”

Like Brunetti, the *Review* noted that the WCG had no plans whatsoever to reproduce *Mystery of the Ages*—certainly not in the form Mr. Armstrong printed it.

“WCG withdrew MOA from circulation because its leaders believed they had a ‘Christian duty’ to avoid propagating the book’s doctrinal errors; the church’s reasons for not wanting PCG to copy MOA were clearly not limited to market concerns.”

Precisely. They had no interest in exploiting the *Mystery of the Ages* “market.” But now that they had convinced the Ninth Circuit to reverse, they were keenly interested in the donations of PCG members who were inspired by reading the book. As the case wore on, we felt that judges and juries would come to see the insincerity behind the WCG’s litigation-inspired

activities. They weren’t interested in using the copyright law to protect the free expression of ideas. Their ambition was to suppress Mr. Armstrong’s religious views and help themselves to some of our money in the process.

The *Harvard Law Review* concluded, “The court’s failure to see the case for what it was—a church’s attempt to suppress heresy by using copyright law—led it to overlook the purposes of the fair use doctrine and facilitate the monopolization of a religious idea.”

■ HANGING BY THE COUNTERCLAIM

In our appeal to the Supreme Court, we continued insisting that, their litigation ploy notwithstanding, the WCG had no intention of ever publishing *Mystery of the Ages*: “While anyone should be free to debate the validity of the creator’s ideas, no one should have the power to suppress those ideas simply because he or she disagrees with them.”

On April 2, the United States Supreme Court let the Ninth Circuit’s reversal stand, deciding not to hear our appeal. The court did not give a reason as to why the appeal would not be heard. But as hard as it is to get your case heard in Washington, it’s all the more difficult when there is still litigation pending at a lower level. In our case, the damages trial had yet to begin.

Additionally, the counterclaim we filed against the WCG for 18 other works had yet to be resolved. So we remained hopeful that the high court would reconsider the case once everything else had been finally decided.

The damages trial was set to begin in February of 2001. And by this point in the case, Judge Letts had obtained a semi-retired “senior status,” which allowed him to withdraw from his involvement in our case. Thus, to allow time for a new judge to be brought up to speed, everything was pushed back.

In a May 7 hearing, with Judge Christina Snyder now presiding over the case, our motion to add Congress’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to our counterclaim was approved. Congress passed the law to help protect religious practices from being burdened by other laws. In this case, the Copyright Act, as interpreted by the Ninth Circuit, prevented our free exercise of religion. Early on in the lawsuit, the constitutionality of RFRA had been called into question in other cases. And since Judge Letts did not consider it necessary for our case anyway, he disallowed its use for *Mystery of the Ages*. But since that time, the Supreme Court had upheld the law in certain federal cases. Unfortunately, because RFRA had been removed from our case, it was not used as a defense at the Ninth Circuit level. So this is why we wanted to reinsert it into our case. And while the new judge would not allow us to raise the RFRA defense in the damages trial for *Mystery of the Ages*, she did allow us to raise it as part of our defense in the counterclaim.

Meanwhile, the WCG pressed forward for summary judgment on the counterclaim. They argued, quite simply, that everything the Ninth Circuit ruled on the *Mystery* case should

Thus, when all hope appeared to be lost—after the Ninth Circuit reversal, after the Supreme Court’s decision to refuse our case—the countersuit came galloping in to the rescue.

be broadly applied to the other 18 works we were seeking in the countersuit. Going into the lawsuit, one could easily assume that our best chance, *by far*, was to gain fair use to print *Mystery of the Ages*, especially in light of the high praise Mr. Armstrong and Tkach Sr. both had for the book and their mutual desire for its wide distribution in 1985 and 1986. But now four years into litigation, the legal landscape had changed.

You will recall that the first time we heard about the “annotated” *Mystery of the Ages* was during Tkach Jr.’s deposition on Sept. 8, 1998. He admitted it wouldn’t be a high priority, but that Greg Albrecht would be looking into it. Albrecht testified to making a few phone calls. That was enough for two judges at the Ninth Circuit to tip the scales on the fourth fair use factor in favor of the WCG or, “at worst, neutral.” The fourth factor (“potential market”), you recall, is what the Supreme Court considers the “most important” of the four. And since the Ninth Circuit considered this the WCG’s weakest argument, the annotation sham tilted the balances in their favor—even if *barely*.

All this now presented a problem for the WCG with respect to our counterclaim because there was no evidence of any plans for annotating those other 18 works. In fact, in the very same deposition where Albrecht fumbled through all the contacts he supposedly made regarding the annotated *Mystery of the Ages*, we asked him if the WCG had planned to publish any of the other works we had listed on our counterclaim. Besides possibly re-working the Bible correspondence course, Mr. Albrecht responded, “I know of no such plans at this time.” Thus, if the Ninth Circuit forced us to accept the annotated sham as a possibility, *fine*. We didn’t believe it, but we had to live with it. But with respect to the *other* works, the man given charge of the *Mystery* annotation himself admitted there were “NO SUCH PLANS.” These facts would push the fourth fair use factor in our favor, we argued. Did they now have annotation plans for *The Incredible Human Potential*? What about *The Missing Dimension in Sex*? *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*?

■ E-PUBLISHING

Besides showing the court that the WCG had no plans to produce any of the 18 works, we also reasserted the fact that it would have been futile for the PCG to obtain permission from the WCG to print the works. We continued to point to the “Christian duty” statement, as well as Albrecht’s 1997 e-mail which said the WCG does “not allow others to publish our former teachings and doctrines.” To counter our futility argument, by the end of the summer in 2001, the WCG indicated in court filings that it would have, *all along*, objectively considered any offer to license the works of Mr. Armstrong. They went on to suggest that we should—even then—make them an offer. Furthermore, they produced board minutes saying that Tkach Jr.’s “Christian duty” statement reflected his own “personal” views, not an official church position.

On Oct. 19, 2001, the WCG’s secretary of the board of directors, Matthew Morgan, wrote my father a letter. In it, Morgan explained that once the PCG began distributing *Mystery of the Ages* in 1997, WCG suspended all considerations regarding “how it could best utilize its copyright assets” (the book was an “asset”). But since the lawsuit had now been “resolved in favor” of WCG (with the Ninth Circuit’s decision), WCG’s board had

now decided what to do. *Drum roll, please*. Believe it or not, the WCG now had “plans” for Mr. Armstrong’s other material! And it just so happened to be the exact same literature we were seeking in our counterclaim. *Mystery of the Ages* would not be available—just the ones that had *not* been resolved in court! They decided to make the 18 works available via the never-before-utilized world of “e-publishing.”

So, to win *Mystery*, they told the courts about grandiose plans to “annotate” the book. Then, to explain why these plans never materialized, they said they *had* to be put “on hold” until litigation had been resolved. After the Ninth Circuit ruling, they turned their attention to the counterclaim, telling the courts about their concrete plans, *not* for *Mystery*, but for *the 18 works!*

Here is what Morgan proposed in his letter to my father: The PCG would pay all of the WCG’s costs for publishing; we would withdraw our counterclaim; the WCG would still be able to claim damages over the *Mystery of the Ages* infringement; they would collect royalties for every document downloaded; and they reserved the right to stop publishing the books at a moment’s notice (perhaps after we withdrew our counterclaim!).

And they wonder why we wouldn’t make them an offer.

On Oct. 31, 2001, the WCG then informed us that all their communications concerning the “offer” would be presented to the court in response to our argument that it would be futile to request a license. Of course, that’s the whole reason they floated the e-publishing scheme to begin with. It was yet another litigation ploy designed to undermine our futility defense. In his letter, Allan insisted that the PCG make a “direct, immediate and unequivocal response to the WCG’s solicitation.”

The stage was set for our November collision to determine whether or not Judge Snyder would grant the WCG summary judgment on the counterclaim or if she would deny it and allow the case to go to trial. Matthew Morgan’s letter was the WCG’s last-ditch effort to persuade the judge to rule in their favor.

But she didn’t.

In her November 14 order, the judge referred to our point that there was no evidence of plans to republish the 18 works in any form. She then referred to Morgan’s letter and a subsequent WCG board resolution to “publish” the works in question. But because there were still several disputed facts along these lines, she ruled, “[T]he Court cannot find as a matter of law that summary judgment is appropriate on PCG’s fair use claim.”

The case was going to trial! What this meant was that, as the WCG pressed forward in its damages trial over our copyright “infringement” of *Mystery of the Ages*, we pressed forward with our counterclaim seeking the right to distribute these other 18 works by Mr. Armstrong.

Thus, when all hope appeared to be lost—after the Ninth Circuit reversal, after the Supreme Court’s decision to refuse our case—the countersuit came galloping in to the rescue. When my father made the decision to file the counterclaim, a mere seven weeks into the case, you will recall that it was because he wanted us to stay on the offensive. And were it not for that critical decision, our chances for victory, after the Supreme Court rejection in April 2001, would have been all but dead.

As it was, we now had life. ■

IT'S A BAD TIME TO be Anglican. Amid a British culture in which any religion except Islam is way out of style, secularism and immorality have taken over. If you're an Anglican in this post-Christian society, you've seen a corresponding decline in your church's attendance figures—despite attempts to boost your sagging numbers with such novelties as nightclub chaplains, Internet congregations, and one church built on a floating barge. You're hoping it's not a sign of desperation.

But the Anglican Church *is* desperate. And, as bad as these external pressures are, the worst danger to the Anglican Communion is internal: division.

Fractious Fellowship

Anglicanism, a pseudo middle road between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism, is not a tightly knit, rock-solid religion in the first place. Scores of organizations on several continents are affiliated or loosely affiliated with the 80-million-member Anglican "Communion," a term that means unity. It's anything but. Not including 20 or so large "Continuing Anglican" churches that have broken off from the main body throughout history to continue keeping various doctrines it has compromised on or left behind, the term "Anglican" describes dozens of assorted church entities, each quite independent and loosely bound together by a set of common beliefs and apparently inadequate "instruments of unity."

The Church of England and its affiliates have undergone centuries of splintering and myriad metamorphoses, but in recent years, the Anglican cathedral has been shaking violently, and now the cracks in the tremulous organization are yawning open into broad crevasses.



Cracks in the Anglican Cathedral

Two divisive issues are combining to make the already loosely confederated Anglican Communion even looser. Meanwhile another church waits in the wings. **BY PHILIP NICE**

A Unity Earthquake

One of the two largest cracks in the organization is over female ordinations. In 1994, liberal church leaders began ordaining women priests—a practice disapproved by conservative "traditionalists" who cite biblical verses describing a supportive role for women. Thousands of members, including about 500 priests, broke off from the communion and joined the Roman Catholic Church. Others landed elsewhere.

This summer, the spotlight was again on women's ordinations—this time as bishops—as the issue went to vote by the church's governing body on July 7.

Liberal Anglican leaders accept women priests and say they should progress to higher ranks. Conservatives disagree, and

want a compromise where they can either ban women priests and bishops from entire dioceses or give worshippers the ability to opt out of recognizing clergywomen. One failed compromise even concocted "super bishops," who would administer parishes that reject women priests. The church already has lower "flying bishops" from an earlier truce. But even adding compromises to compromises on top of compromises may not be enough to keep thousands more Anglicans from walking out.

After a tense session of fierce debate and against staunch opposition, church leaders voted in favor of women bishops. Church officials are now rushing to couch the controversy in terms meant to head off a groundswell of mass defection, but the tremors are, in many ways, just beginning. Maybe a floating Anglican church isn't such a wild idea after all.

As this deep fissure over women ordinations races across the cathedral, it is heading for an even wider gaping fracture—one that could crack the church in half all by itself: the issue of homosexual clergy.

The Big One

At the once-a-decade Lambeth Conference in 1998, Anglican leaders issued proclamations against homosexuality as a practice and frowned upon blessing same-sex unions and ordaining openly homosexual clergy. But times have changed. And the ever-morphing, ever-compromising Anglican Communion has too.

In 2004, the New Hampshire diocese elected an open homosexual as its bishop, a divorcee whose assessment of the usefulness of his marriage was that it was "inextricably tied up with having children" and who, before "marrying" his male partner earlier this year, said, "I always wanted to be a June bride" (*Times*, April 28). "I suspect that a lot of people are uncomfortable with me using the word 'bride,' a word associated with women as property, to describe a man," the bishop, Gene Robinson, said. "Is calling myself a 'bride' offensive because it relegates a 'privileged' man to

the status of a woman?”

Many members were outraged at the man's consecration, saying that the Bible condemns homosexuality.

Genesis 19 and Jude 7 describe how God felt about Sodom and Gomorrah, specifically the homosexuality there. God condemns a man lying with a man as with a woman in Leviticus 18:22-23 and 20:13. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 warn that neither “effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind ... shall inherit the kingdom of God.” Romans 1:26-27 call men burning in lust for one another “that which is against nature.” 1 Timothy 1:9-10 label “them that defile themselves with mankind” as “ungodly,” “sinners,” “unholy” and “profane.”

Robinson said this of his homosexuality: “Well, in the eyes of some in my

that all religions are equal and Jesus is not the only way to God; called for a competing council of Anglican primates; relegated the archbishop of Canterbury to an even less-authoritative role; denounced homosexual ordinations; and listed other grievances.

In one word: chaos. Robed rectors, primates, reverends, very reverends, right reverends, most reverends and all other types of reverends are scrambling under this summer's fallout, bandaging the rupturing church with delays, concessions, opt-outs and other compromises, some almost as wild as the nightclub chaplain idea.

The Mother Church

Anglicans have no central authority to sort this mess out. Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams is the closest

Catholic Church, where they feel they can find strength, authority and unity.

But there will be others—perhaps a majority—who will not do so voluntarily. The Vatican has been on its own crusade to absorb other churches back into its ranks and under the absolute authority of the pope.

The *Trumpet* wrote in May of last year, “Indeed, biblical prophecy indicates that full unity will not be achieved purely voluntarily. At a certain point, the mother church will abandon its efforts to woo her daughters back by flatteries and instead revert to the age-old method of preserving ‘Christian’ unity by exerting physical force.” At that point, the Vatican will enjoy powerful leverage over a divided Anglican Communion, an easy target for the Vatican to reassert itself over and regain its lost daughters

after centuries of independence.

To say in 2008 that the Anglicans

will ultimately join the Catholic Church may seem a premature

With chaos engulfing the Anglican Church, more and more followers are looking to Rome for firmness and strength.

church, it's a sin. And in the eyes of others in my church, it's not. And one of the great things about

the Anglican tradition and the Episcopal Church in particular is that we have always disagreed about various and sundry issues, and yet come together around the altar rail” (ibid.).

But that sentiment rings hollow in a compromised church covered with cracks. Come together over what? This bishop, of all people, should know there are far more issues splintering the Anglican affiliation than are bringing it closer together. After all, he is one of them.

Chaos

The Anglican Communion's landmark Lambeth Conference in Canterbury this July was a perfect snapshot of the church's back-and-forth wrangling and its impending structural failure. One bishop called it “chaos.”

More than one in four bishops shunned the meeting in protest. Robinson was conspicuously uninvited but went to the city anyway. He also rightly predicted the outcome. “Forecasting it will end with a typically fudged Anglican consensus, he said, ‘It will drive the press crazy. There will be no resolutions, no proclamations, no lines drawn in the sand’” (Reuters, July 16). About 330 conservative bishops and archbishops held their own meeting in Jerusalem ahead of Lambeth. In a subsequently released document, they decried the church's promotion of a “different gospel,”

thing they have to a strong leader, but he is merely considered a “moral authority” and has no actual power outside of the Diocese of Canterbury. As the Anglican Communion fractures, one of Williams's antics, submissively kissing Pope John Paul II's ring, is turning out to be a sign of things to come. With chaos engulfing the Anglican church(es), more and more followers are looking to Rome for firmness and strength. Thousands of Anglicans are fleeing their deteriorating church for Catholicism. Late last year, 400,000 Anglicans from 13 countries requested “full communion” with the Catholic Church. And just prior to the vote on women bishops, senior Anglican officials met at the Vatican to discuss closer ties with the church, a move that increased speculation that whole parishes and even entire dioceses could defect to Catholicism.

The Roman Catholic Church has a straightforward approach compared to the Anglicans' myriad negotiations, split-offs, opt-outs, votes and compromises. If the pope says do it, you do it.

So far, jury-rigging the jury-rigging has substituted for ideological and moral unity and kept the Anglican Church from imploding. But the entire organization is threatening to collapse. As its structural integrity weakens further, millions of worshipers will likely stream out of the Anglican Communion—and into the

claim. But what about making this prediction in 1961? In the October 1961 *Plain Truth*, Herbert W. Armstrong made this bold forecast: “The pope will step in as the supreme unifying authority—the only one that can finally unite the differing nations of Europe. ... Europe will go Roman Catholic! Protestantism will be absorbed into the ‘mother’ church—and totally abolished.”

But even that bold claim was not the first forecast of what is becoming today's current events. That goes back to approximately 750 B.C. and the Prophet Isaiah's words on which Mr. Armstrong based his statement. Isaiah foretold a time when a great mother church would experience a great rebellion but would ultimately bring her daughters back under her direction (Isaiah 47). Centuries later, we are seeing Bible prophecy come alive!

However, just as the Bible's forecast of this event is proving accurate, so too will its many prophecies that Jesus Christ will return soon thereafter! In fact, Catholic dominance is a sign of Jesus Christ's imminent coming. When He returns, He will put an end to false religion and false churches. There will be no confusion or politicking. There will be no compromise with His right, positive, happy, perfect way of life. Jesus Christ will show everyone the one way to right religion, peace, happiness—and unity, “that they may be one, as we are” (John 17:11). ■

political reason why it has been so categorized. The Muslim president of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Haris Silajdzic, said carefully on CNN the day Karadzic was captured that *Karadzic's trial was only the beginning of the process by which justice would be done in Bosnia*. He said that there were hundreds of thousands of Muslims who had been ethnically cleansed by 'Karadzic and Milosevic' and that their project therefore remained in force. The clear implication of what he was saying was this: If the very existence of the Bosnian Serb republic (the autonomous region within Bosnia carved out from the republic during the civil war) is found, in a court of law, to have had as its president a man, Karadzic, who is convicted of genocide in the process of creating it, then its status would be illegitimate and it should be abolished. The *Muslims continue to claim control over the whole of the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina*, while the Serbs merely want the preservation of their considerable autonomy within it.

"In other words, far from bringing peace to the Balkans, it is quite possible that a conviction of Karadzic for genocide will reopen the Dayton settlement and *egg the Muslims on to claim control over the Serb republic too*" (ibid.).

That outcome is the last thing that the European Union would want!

For almost two decades, our editor in chief has been warning of an overt geopolitical push by pan-Islam, led by the chief sponsor of international terror, Iran, against the European Union. Both the Iran-led Islamic crescent and the German-dominated European Union are hegemonic powers that are bent on global domination. Sooner or later they are going to get in each other's way as each pursues this common goal at the expense of the other.

Should The Hague war crimes trial of Radovan Karadzic result in a conviction for genocide, it just may add another powerful weapon to the Islamists' armor in their northward push against the opposing force of the European Union.

The outcome of the Karadzic trial at The Hague could well contribute to the prophesied clash of opposing civilizations—the push of the Islamic south against the Catholic north—coming much sooner rather than later! ■

Read our booklet *The Rising Beast—Germany's Conquest of the Balkans* for more insight on the Balkans, the EU and Islam.



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Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

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Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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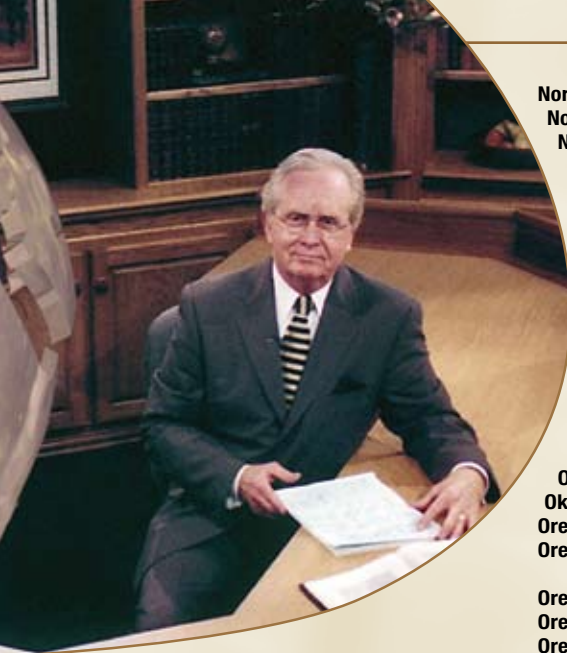
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

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North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

The 1930s All Over Again

YOUR ARTICLE ABOUT GERMAN ECONOMICS is so excellent that I need to comment on it ("The 1930s All Over Again," September). You are writing precisely what many people here are feeling in their hearts, namely that the high rate of unemployment here is caused with intention. When I saw the statistics (unemployment in Austria only 4 percent, in the Netherlands only 4 percent and in Denmark below 4 percent, but Germany's 8 percent), I thought, *Why are we Germans too dumb to give everyone a job?* You correctly conclude that all this is done with intention by our politicians, in order to make the masses unsatisfied with the democratic system. Germany is waiting for the emergence of a leader of genius! The neo-Nazis tell the Germans that our moral and economic malaise is actually imposed upon us by the Anglo-Saxons! At the same time our industry is flooded with cash and receives further tax cuts. I talked to another lawyer here who told me frankly: *What we need is another Hitler!* And this comment came from a well-educated man who works inside a federal institution that oversees the German capital market. If the American economy implodes and the dollar plunges, most European nations will rally around Germany and seek protection under the Teutonic economic umbrella. Then we Germans will be happy to provide a solution for the problems of all those nations in exchange for their submission under our economic, political and military leadership. And a man will appear who promises to deliver us from our woes—a new Charlemagne! And the Vatican will keep telling us: *Return to your roots!*

Thomas Pfefferle—GERMANY

More Bank Failures

LOOK: FOREIGNERS AREN'T GOING TO dump the dollar ("Brace for More Bank Failures," September). You can write and speak all you want there at your magazine about it, but the fact is that foreign nations are addicted to it like a bunch of heroin addicts! This country of ours wouldn't ever have printed so much of it, and continue to do so ... if they didn't know they could get away with it. It will only cost the taxpayers a mere \$28 billion to bail out Fannie and Freddie as was announced today. ...

Gregory de Feo—BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Same-Sex "Marriage"

THANKS FOR WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN in favor of traditional marriage ("Why Same-Sex Marriage Will Always Be Illegal," September). I also feel it will be positive to emphasize marriage between male and female as being in alignment with nature itself. For those who oppose the idea of "God," crossing Him is irrelevant; indeed it is a way to emphasize their very unbelief. But nature, that is something all believe in. And for Christians like myself, nature is just an extension of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Greg Howard

AGAIN AND AGAIN I AM AMAZED BY THE power of mass persuasion. Supposedly intelligent peoples can be driven to kill millions in holocausts and senseless wars, to idolize worthless leaders, and now to destroy their own culture because they became indoctrinated that homosexuality is "cool." And the same people wonder how an Adolf Hitler could ever come to power. Somebody once said that America is a country that passed from barbarism directly to decadence, bypassing civilization.

Kurt Peyfuss

EXCELLENT ARTICLE. I DEEPLY VALUED the fact that you didn't wholly focus on the homosexual issue in California (where I live by the way), but rather centered on that subject within the context of the God plan of family Your words in areas almost brought tears to my eyes as I consider the terrible pain Jesus must feel in viewing the destructiveness mankind has caused. ...

Roger Ayers

Healing Our Sick Land

PERHAPS SOMEDAY AMERICA WILL UNDERSTAND ... the principle of Leviticus 26, and that is that God does not reward wrong behavior ("Healing Our Sick Land," September).

David Nunn—UNITED STATES

Why Did God Let It Happen?

I FOUND YOUR ARTICLE "WHY DID GOD Let It Happen?" (August) of great interest, as the last part makes me question some biblical truths as I know them to be. ... It also implores us as Christians to read the Bible more. ...

Virginia Ivery—TRENTON, N.J.

BETTER TO ASK, WHY DO HUMAN BEINGS continue to live in areas known to flood or be subject to destructive forces of tsunamis or hurricanes, build cities over earthquake faults and live below volcanoes or hills subject to mud slides—or build cities in deserts? God's world does what comes naturally. Mankind arrogantly ignores nature or feels superior to it and suffers for it. Don't blame God for the ills created by man.

T.M.—NORTH CAROLINA

Self-Sufficiency

I HAVE JUST FINISHED READING YOUR article "Alien Invasion" (June-July). It is, as always, very informative and insightful. ... We have fast become a debtor nation. ... We are now totally dependent upon foreign investment to pay our bills and to function. Where does this lead us? God only knows. This is the "I, my, and me" generation. The philosophy of the day is to think only of yourself. One Christian writer said just recently the greatest sin of our time is self-sufficiency. We don't need one another. We don't need our neighbor. We don't even need God—so we think. That is what affluence will do to a man. What meaning can the beatitudes possibly have for a society that honors self-assertion, confidence and wealth? Society says happy are those that look out for number-one. Society says happy are the strong Is it any wonder that there is such a void and emptiness in the souls of men?

Harold Johnson—BIG RAPIDS, MICH.

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR website (theTrumpet.com) and for all your literature. I started listening to Herbert and Garner Ted Armstrong back in 1971, and I've been hooked ever since. I'm happy that the *Trumpet* is keeping the faith, because the *Plain Truth* today is mere pabulum. It's so whitewashed that I canceled my subscription. Keep up the good work. I've known the prophecies for several decades, and I'm still in awe that it is all coming to pass. Anyone with eyes can see that America is doomed—what with feminism and our corrupt economy and government. Thank you for keeping us informed about what lies ahead. ...

Donald Wyler

Comments?

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Lessons From the Dead Sea

A warning of what once was—and hope for a better tomorrow! **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

“CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO LIVE around here?” I asked my wife while driving next to the Dead Sea.

Her reaction was just what I expected: “Eewww!”

This is the most inhospitable place on Earth. Within its salt-laden waters—eight times the salinity of the ocean—only a few microbes survive. Besides that, there are no plants, no seaweed, no fish or any other water-dwelling creatures. There is simply NO LIFE in this massive body of water.

Beyond its shoreline, life is sparse. Leaving aside human beings who flock to the mineral-rich source for its medicinal benefits, the region surrounding the Dead Sea supports fewer living organisms than either the Sahara Desert or California’s Death Valley.

But it wasn’t always this infertile. In fact, 4,000 years ago, the entire region was teeming with exuberant life and lush, fruitful abundance!

When the great patriarch Abraham and his nephew Lot decided to spread out because of their expanding population centers, Abraham and his descendants chose Canaan as their homeland. Lot chose the Jordan Valley. And Lot, you might remember, had first pick! He actually chose the plains of Jordan. No one in his right mind, given first choice, would have picked a barren desert with an enormous salt sea as its most dominant feature.

At that time, there was no Dead Sea! As the author of Genesis notes, the ENTIRE valley was like Eden, the garden of God. Everywhere in the valley, Scripture says, its fertile soil was well watered.

But this, of course, was before God DESTROYED Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13:10). “It was of old a most happy land,” first-century historian Josephus wrote, “both for the fruits it bore and the riches of its cities, although it be now all burnt up” (Wars, IV, 8, 4).

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were known for their exceedingly wicked and perverse lifestyle. It wasn’t just their widespread acceptance of homosexuality—it was also their rampant individualism and excess. The Prophet Ezekiel described these prosperous people as being obsessed with selfishness and pride. They experimented with every abominable act imaginable. In the New Testament, the Apostle Jude said they were given to fornication and went after strange flesh.

The way God viewed it, besides Lot and his family, NOT ONE THING was worth preserving in these two cities. Notice what happened: “Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone [sulfur] and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground” (Genesis 19:24-25). God scorched the earth with fire and dumped sulfur on top of the destruction. The entire area was completely destroyed.

Even Lot’s wife, as is commonly known, turned into a salt pillar after she longingly looked back upon the extreme decadence

and wickedness she left behind. Salt, of course, is known for its long-lasting preservation quality. How symbolic! Even to this day, the surrounding environs of the Dead Sea remain as an obliterated, salt-saturated, lifeless reminder of God’s FIERY WRATH!

The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah compares our peoples to those of Sodom and Gomorrah, describing us as being “sick” from head to toe. He prophesied of our eventual ruin and desolation as a result of our universal sin and rebellion against God’s laws.

Jesus Christ described our latter-day society as being exactly like Sodom and Gomorrah—abundantly prosperous, yet exceedingly wicked. Like Isaiah, Jesus prophesied, “But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Luke 17:29-30).

The Apostle Peter, likewise, said the ashes from Sodom and Gomorrah served as a warning to the ungodly (2 Peter 2:6-7).

That is one ALL-IMPORTANT lesson the region around the Dead Sea teaches us—that UNIVERSAL SIN causes UNIVERSAL DESTRUCTION. That is the course this present evil world is on due to its rebellion against God’s law and its stubborn insistence on living according to Satan’s laws of selfishness and greed, of vanity and pride, of sexual deviance and lust, of division and strife, of wars and rumors of wars.

Yes, we are steamrolling toward the same universal destruction Sodom and Gomorrah experienced nearly four millennia ago, only this time it will be WORLDWIDE—a literal SCORCHED EARTH.

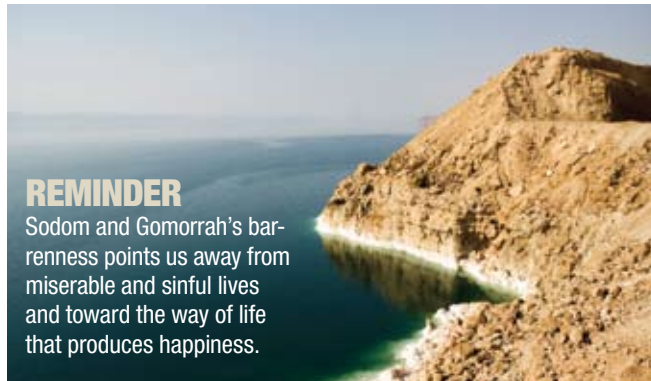
But there is another, equally important lesson wrapped up in the lifeless wonder of the Dead Sea.

The Prophet Ezekiel wrote of a coming time, now just ahead, when a river will flow out of God’s millennial headquarters in Jerusalem, heading east into the Jordan Valley. That pure river, the prophet said, will heal the contaminated waters of the Dead Sea, making them fresh and pure! Fishermen will line the shores of the once infamous sea, filling their nets with fish. Fruit trees of every kind will grow along the riverbanks, producing fruit every month (read Ezekiel 47). Yes, God will restore life and abundance to this millennia-old, uninhabitable, barren wasteland.

And how powerfully symbolic this prophecy is.

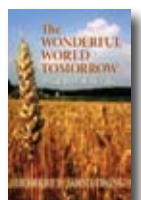
Bible prophecy informs us that we are very near to the resurrection of God’s world from out of the scorched surface of this present evil world. Very soon now, rising from the ashes of that ruinous, death-filled wasteland, will be an eternal Kingdom. A messianic King, with the help and support of His saints, will establish a 1,000-year utopian rule on Earth!

To learn more, request Herbert W. Armstrong’s inspiring booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



REMINDER

Sodom and Gomorrah’s barrenness points us away from miserable and sinful lives and toward the way of life that produces happiness.



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