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Biblical prophecy suggests a startling answer!

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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

A Mysterious Prophecy

Are the Psalms only a book of charming poetry? Psalm 83 of the Bible is an end-time prophecy of Germany allying with several moderate Arab nations. It shows that these nations are about to get control of the Middle East! What they do after that is going to be the ultimate shock to America, Britain and the Jewish nation.

PSALM 83 IS FULFILLED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER A Germany-led Europe conquers Iran and radical Islam (Daniel 11:40-43).

“Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken CRAFTY COUNSEL against thy people [Israel], and consulted against thy *hidden* [or *sheltered*] ones” (Psalm 83:1-3).

These *enemies* are conspiring against biblical Israel. (Our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains who Israel is. All of our literature is free.)

These *enemies* are also against God’s *hidden* (or *treasured*) ones. This is God’s very elect, who are always in the midst of the storm explaining what it all means. This little flock explains the significance of deadly world events. However, most people pay little attention until they become victims!

The world could understand all of these terrible end-time events if they would find this very elect and heed their Bible-based warning! That is not hard to do, since it is the only real Bible-based warning going to this world!

We see terrifying events all around the world, and they are intensifying. But all that bad news is a SIGN of the best news mankind could possibly hear: The Messiah is about to come and save us! (Matthew 24:3, 21-22).

“They have said, Come, and LET US CUT THEM OFF FROM BEING A NATION; THAT THE NAME OF ISRAEL MAY BE NO MORE IN REMEMBRANCE” (Psalm 83:4).

Israel today is comprised of 12 nations. But this end-time prophecy is directed to only three of them. The little nation called

God inspired these names to be included in the Bible so we could know who they are and how this prophecy would unfold today!

Israel is only one of those three nations; America and Britain are the other two (*The United States and Britain in Prophecy* explains).

These peoples’ enemies want to cut them off from being a nation (they are the descendants of the ancient nation of Israel). THEIR ENEMIES DON’T EVEN WANT THE WORLD TO REMEMBER THE NAME OF ISRAEL!

The leader of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has vowed to wipe the Jewish nation off the map. The enemies of Psalm 83 have what appears to be an even deeper hatred. They even want to obliterate the biblical name of Israel *forever!*

This prophecy gives us an insight into what is coming in the

very near future: the Great Tribulation and the times of the Gentiles (Matthew 24:21; Luke 21:24). God is going to punish these three nations of Israel more severely than at any time in their history, because of all their “abominations.”

Who Is In the Alliance

“For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre [Lebanon]; Assur [Assyria or Germany] also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah” (Psalm 83:5-8). Here are the modern names of these nations, as taught at Ambassador College under Herbert W. Armstrong: *Edom*—Turkey; *Ishmaelites*—Saudi Arabia; *Moab*—Jordan; *Hagarenes*—anciently dwelt in the land known as Syria today; *Gebal*—Lebanon; *Ammon*—also Jordan. (We cannot be extremely precise in this understanding, but it gives a good general idea of where these nations are today.)

Remember this: God inspired these names to be included in the Bible so we could know who they are and how this prophecy would unfold today! We are commanded to live by “every word” of God. If we can’t understand who these nations are, we can’t understand the 83rd Psalm. God expects us to understand!

Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Libya and Ethiopia are missing from this list. They will be allied with Iran when they are conquered by a German-led Europe (Daniel 11:42-43).

It appears Iraq, with its massive oil reserves, will be solidly in the Iranian camp. I have predicted this would happen since the early 1990s!

Assur was the father of Assyria, which is the ancient name of Germany. (We prove the identity of these nations in our booklets *The King of the South* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

Psalm 83 tells us the nations that will *not* be allied with Iran when Germany and Europe conquer that nation and radical Islam.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH AN ALLIANCE TO ATTACK OR TOTALLY DESTROY ISRAEL IN HISTORY. Concerning this Psalm, the *Anchor Bible* reads, “History transmits no record of the national crisis when the nations enumerated in this Psalm formed a league to wipe out Israel” *Lange’s Commentary* points out, “The 10 nations who are here enumerated as being combined against Israel, are never mentioned elsewhere as enemies allied at the same time and for the purpose of annihilating Israel.” Other commentaries make the same point.

This must be an end-time prophecy!

Most of the Muslims were allied with Germany in World War II. They knew what Hitler was doing to the Jews, and we know the way many Muslims feel toward the Jews today. Since America and Britain support the Jews, it is not difficult to envision the Muslims and Germans allying against these two nations.

THE PSALM 83 ALLIANCE



some time, France had limited Germany's effort in producing warships by stifling plans for a joint Franco-German effort to create a common European shipbuilding enterprise. The typical (and no doubt strategically motivated) French defiance over this deal led to a crisis. This spurred one of the German companies involved, ThyssenKrupp, to 'renounce civilian ship production to concentrate its dockyards solely on arms production. It is entering a "strategic partnership" with the Abu Dhabi Mar Co. from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Their deal seals the *military alliance* between Germany and the Emirates, possibly creating the opportunity for circumventing German arms exports regulations and ending efforts aimed at forging a German/French ship production ...' (German-Foreign-Policy.com, Oct. 26, 2009). As German-Foreign-Policy.com observed, this just goes to show that 'If a German-dominated "European

This means that the Germans have already turned politically toward their Nazi past (proved in our booklet *The Rising Beast*). But they are going to swing even further to the right than they did during World War II!

THIS WORLD NEEDS TO WATCH GERMANY.

The moderate Arabs today are going to share that hate-filled philosophy with Germany.

Still, God is using these nations to accomplish His plan—a big part of it being the correction of three nations of Israel.

We must not forget that Germany started World Wars I and II. It also has a history of starting many other wars. History keeps repeating itself because we never learn its lessons!

Alliance Prepared Now

Back in our July 2010 issue, we wrote this: "The Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah toured Europe in late April and early May, concentrating on *developing closer relations with Berlin and the Roman Catholic Church*."

"During his meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and German businessmen on April 28, he is reported to have discussed 'a host of bilateral relations that would cement partnership between Kuwait and Berlin' (*Kuwait Times*, April 28). A Catholic official said his trip to the Vatican would enable the emir and the pope to 'express their appreciation and friendship' and to *strengthen the 'good relations that exist between the Holy See and Kuwait*.'"

This is a powerful example of how Psalm 83 is being fulfilled even now! Such meetings are *preparing* the two sides to form the Psalm 83 alliance.

2

The April 2010 *Trumpet* magazine said this: "For

solution" cannot be accomplished, Berlin will do without "Europe" and go it alone."

Not many people notice how powerfully aggressive Germany is becoming. This example helps illustrate how Germany dominates Europe today!

Here is an even more recent statement about Germany's close relationship with another moderate Arab state: "Germany has supplied *Bahrain* with naval patrol boats dating back to the time the Middle East was destabilized by the deposing of the shah of Iran. In more recent years, German arms exports to Bahrain have been stepped up, especially arms of a type traditionally used to put down insurrection. IT IS FROM THIS STOCK OF ARMAMENTS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS DRAWN FOR DEPLOYMENT AGAINST THE SHIITE REBELS IN RECENT DAYS" (theTrumpet.com, March 21).

On February 22, German-Foreign-Policy.com reported on rumors that Rheinmetall, the German armaments giant, is bidding on a contract for the further provision to Bahrain of "combat material SPECIFICALLY DEEMED FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF REBELLIONS."

These tiny oil-rich nations discussed above are geographically attached to the southeast part of the huge land area of Saudi Arabia. We believe they are also Ishmaelites and from a biblical perspective would be considered a part of Saudi Arabia—regardless of their modern boundaries. The main issue is that Germany is building an alliance now with the moderate Arabs that is paving the way for the Psalm 83 prophecy to be fulfilled.

Saudi Arabia is also drawing closer to Germany to enhance its own security against Iran as America gets weaker and continues to withdraw from the Middle East.

The mystery of the Psalm 83 prophecy is being removed. ■

Saudi Arabia's king and Germany's chancellor share some important common interests.



ENEMIES & ALLIES

The turmoil rippling across North Africa and the Middle East is cementing an anti-Iran strategic alliance between Arabian Peninsula nations and Germany. **BY RON FRASER**

QUIETLY, MOSTLY BEHIND THE scenes, Germany is building an alliance with Arabian Peninsula nations that is destined to become very significant in Middle Eastern affairs.

Germany's penetration into North Africa, especially in Egypt and Libya, was quite significant during the latter half of the 20th century. Now, Berlin is beginning to step up its activities in the Persian Gulf states.

The motives driving Germany's Middle Eastern strategy amid that region's present unrest are threefold: 1) to preserve its access to the region's oil and gas resources; 2) to protect its investments there; and 3) to create a beachhead to stem the northward push of pan-Islamism.

Germany initially refused to support a no-fly zone over Libya in March in order to protect significant German business interests in that country from a backlash by Muammar Qadhafi. However, its subsequent withdrawal of support of NATO initiatives in the Libyan campaign is another thing entirely. That has far greater consequences, as we will see.

Germany's Interests in Libya

German elites realized that any involvement in direct aggression in Libya could destroy the partnership between Tripoli and Berlin, a partnership that has helped fulfill those three German goals. Over many years, in exchange for receiving favorable treatment from the Qadhafi regime, Germany had no qualms about supplying Libya with arms and with training in combat methods. Just in the past three years, Berlin has exported more than \$114 million worth of license-required exports to Libya, mostly communications equipment and helicopters. Interestingly, Qadhafi put these tools to aggressive use in his brutal attempts to put down the uprising in his country.

Germany needed to protect its assets in Libya so much that it supported the repressive Qadhafi regime despite its proven terrorist connections. German companies significantly increased their exports to Libya in successful competition against business rivals. In fact, German exports to Libya increased by over 20 percent in 2009 alone. Among the most significant

German interests in Libya are: BASF subsidiary Wintershall has a reported investment of \$2 billion there and is the largest foreign oil producer in Libya; DEA uses over 40,000 square kilometers of Libya for oil and gas production; and Siemens, well connected with Germany's secret service, has a major slice of the huge "Great Man-Made River" drinking water supply project, the largest of its kind in the world.

Germany's support for Qadhafi's repressive regime was strong right up to the eve of Tripoli's brutal response to the insurrection. Then, public relations with the international community demanded that Berlin be somewhat vocal in condemning Qadhafi's monstrous actions. Still, the German government dared not be seen to support any overt military action against the Qadhafi regime for fear of losing the favor it has enjoyed from this unstable dictator to its own substantial benefit. For this, Berlin earned accolades

from Qadhafi and a hint that its oil supply from Libya would remain unaffected, whereas supplies to nations participating in the NATO mission would be cut.

However, Libya is but one of a number of North African nations whose intense involvement with both Nazi and postwar Germany tracks back over many decades.

Dancing at Two Weddings

Postwar Germany's involvement with Egypt harkens back to when Cairo welcomed hundreds of Nazis who escaped Europe via the Vatican ratlines to seek safe haven from Allied pursuit. As they were in Argentina, ex-Nazis were instrumental in training Egyptian personnel in policing, intelligence gathering and military combat methods. In fact, they played a large part in the overthrow of King Farouk, enabling Gamal Abdel Nasser to come to power in Egypt in 1952.

Martin Lee, in *The Beast Reawakens*, his well-documented exposé of the postwar Nazi underground movement, points out that from the 1950s, German engineers and scientists employed by West German industries supplied Egypt, Libya and Iraq with anything from guided-missile technology to military jet engines and chemical warfare expertise. Also, numerous technicians who had worked on Hitler's V-2 rocket program ended up working for the Egyptian government on aeronautical projects. One additional motive for German elites' involvement in these projects was the prospect of future access to Middle Eastern weapons launching sites.

Documented history shows that the German arms industry has profited greatly from the

Iran is the main influence behind Shiite revolutionary movements.

trafficking of German-manufactured armaments from Casablanca to Cairo over an extended period of time.

But German postwar Mideast strategy now faces a challenge with the prospect of regime changes along the southern shores of the Mediterranean. All Germany's efforts to build influence in that region threaten to unravel as the personalities it has shored up in office fall. This threatens to throw the German-made military hardware and infrastructure in these countries into hands that may prove quite unfriendly to Germany and to Europe as a whole.

Iran is the prime supporter of Islamist terror and the main influence behind Shiite revolutionary movements in Africa and the Middle East. The key strategic question is, amid these recent uprisings, how much will

Iran be able to influence the takeover of governments in North Africa?

To some extent, Berlin's Middle East foreign policy represents what the Nazi double agent Heinz Felfe called "dancing at two weddings." For years, Germany has supplied technical expertise to both the Iranian Shiite regime—not the least for its developing nuclear capability—and opposition Sunni regimes in other Middle Eastern nations, many of which have even called on the United States to bomb Iran's nuclear facility.

But German elites now see the prospect of regime changes in North Africa and the Middle East forcing them into some fast tap dancing to ensure that their interests in this region do not fall to any power they regard as unfriendly.

The Vital Arabian Peninsula

Vital as the North Africa rim is to Germany, another piece of territory is even more crucial to its Middle East strategy, particularly if it loses influence in North Africa to Iran: the Arabian Peninsula.

In recent years, the German Navy has deployed heavily in the Mediterranean to protect its own and Europe's interests across what Winston Churchill called "the soft underbelly of Europe." Its deployments off the coast of Lebanon and off the Horn of Africa, by virtue of UN mandates, have provided particularly crucial footholds to building a future German presence from the Levant to the Gulf of Oman.

It is in this region that Germany's most crucial alliance in the Mideast will evolve in response to the rising influence of Iran.

Germany's withdrawal from NATO activities in the Mediterranean in March should not be misread as a diminution of German interest in the region. To the contrary, it denotes a willingness by Germany to now concentrate on solely *German* interests in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, quite apart from those of its EU and NATO partners. In fact, it is a historic move. As the Bundeswehr's ex-Inspector General Klaus Naumann declared, "Germany has dared to go it alone for the first time since 1949."

Any continuing presence of German naval vessels in the Mediterranean is, at the time of writing, under specific German sovereignty and not subject to direction by any international body. This fact could prove most significant. We need to watch future German Mediterranean strategy: It remains crucial for the security of German interests.

It is also significant that Germany has cleverly used the NATO campaign in Libya to extend, rather than diminish, its role in Afghanistan. The German parliament

approved the Luftwaffe and other Bundeswehr personnel adding an AWAC surveillance component to its force in Afghanistan. This action is consistent with our view that German elites do not seek to withdraw from Afghanistan; rather, in response to Iran's increasingly pushy anti-European foreign policy, they will look to consolidate and strengthen Bundeswehr presence in that country.

Look at a map of the Middle East. Iran is the main destabilizing force, and the greatest threat to German and European interests, in this region. Germany's foreign-policy advisers see the danger of Iran filling the vacuum created by inevitable withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq. They want to counter Iran's influence in the region and limit the risk that Iran will restrict access to the area's energy resources by the West.

This is the prime reason Germany is increasing its involvement, rather than reducing it, in Afghanistan. The way it can counter Iran's increasing influence in North Africa and along the west bank of the Red Sea is to surround it in a pincer movement. By retaining its current foothold in Afghanistan, the Bundeswehr is in a position in the future to upgrade its presence and resist any eastward movement of Iran into the crossroads of Eurasia. That done, it becomes obvious that the way to contain Iran is by shoring up the Arabian Peninsula, thereby creating a beachhead on the east bank of the Red Sea.

It is to this end that Germany has recently stepped up its investment in the Arabian Peninsula. German advisers are counseling a closer relationship with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's "most important regional political objective," the German Institute for International and Security Affairs has observed, is to contain Iran's ambitions to dominate, not just "the Gulf region, but also in Palestinian areas, in Lebanon and in Syria" (December 2008).

This is a sensitive issue for Germany: It does not wish to fully alienate Iran for fear of being cut off from that nation's rich pool of resources. That is why it has simultaneously maintained trade relations with Iran, especially in engineering products, some of which can be used in Iran's nuclear program. This is also a guaranteed way of keeping an eye on the nuclear program's progress, and of ensuring inside knowledge of plant layout and components for future strategic use.

Thus the German Institute for International and Security Affairs calls for a "clever linkage of a course of containment with repeated offers of cooperation" with Iran—and suggests that this "could be the basis of a common Iran strategy for

Once Qadhafi's Out, Then What?

An uprising in Libya began February 15, and Muammar Qadhafi responded with brutal force. His opponents, including troops who defected, quickly took control of the eastern part of Libya, effectively splitting the country in two. Following the success of rebels in taking several towns, Qadhafi struck back with force in early March, retaking the eastern oil city of Ras Lanuf and other towns. Qadhafi also reclaimed ground seized by rebels in the west.

On March 18, the United Nations approved a no-fly zone in the country as well as air strikes to halt Qadhafi's assault on the rebels. Despite the European and American intervention, Qadhafi vowed not to surrender.

Some analysts warned the operation by Western forces may backfire, considering that eastern Libya, where rebel forces are based, is a hotbed of anti-Americanism and jihadist sentiment. There is considerable evidence that a Western-style democracy will not eventuate should Qadhafi be forced from office. A report by West Point's Combating Terrorism Center revealed that in the past several years, more jihadists per capita have entered Iraq from Libya to fight American forces than from any other Muslim country, and that most of those fighters came from the area where the rebel forces are based. The head of al Qaeda in Afghanistan and the head of Hezbollah both support the Libyan uprising.

Al Qaeda, in fact, has officially admitted to angling to gain a foothold in Libya. The terrorist group's top-ranking Libyan member, Abu Yahya al-Libi, spoke out in early March, urging his fellow countrymen to overthrow and to kill Qadhafi and establish Islamic rule in the nation. Al-Libi, who is Osama bin Laden's head of operations in Afghanistan, said such a toppling would aid al Qaeda's efforts to harness the momentum from the waves of

unrest sweeping through the region. He said Islamic law should be instated once Libya has toppled the Qadhafi regime, and that the destruction of Western-backed regimes was "a step to reach the goal of every Muslim, which is to make the word of Allah the highest."

While notorious for wiping out opposition, Qadhafi's four decades of tyranny did include suppressing al Qaeda and other Islamist insurgents. Many fear that, should Qadhafi fall, the resulting power vacuum will result in another Afghanistan or Somalia, with al Qaeda or other radical groups running rampant. Qadhafi has in fact used this prospect as a threat against the West. "If instead of a stable government which guarantees security, these bands linked to bin Laden take control, the Africans will move in a mass towards Europe, and the Mediterranean will become a sea of chaos," he said on March 15 in an interview with the Italian newspaper *Il Giornale*.

He even went so far as to threaten to ally his forces with al Qaeda and declare a "holy war" if Western powers invaded his country.

In our April edition, editor in chief Gerald Flurry pointed to prophecies in the book of Daniel and urged readers "to continue to watch for Libya ... to make a severe and rapid turn into the radical Islamic camp." Whether it is the result of Qadhafi's rage against the West, or of his regime being replaced by Islamist leadership, the outcome will be the same: Libya will make a rapid turn toward the radical Islamic camp, and Europe may well see the Mediterranean become the "sea of chaos" that Qadhafi predicted.



Americans, Europeans and pro-Western Arab states" (ibid.).

This strategic thinking explains the flurry of activity in Washington and Berlin surrounding the Saudi raids into Bahrain during March.

Battleground in Bahrain

The tiny Gulf state of Bahrain has been of strategic interest to the West since Great Britain established a naval base there in 1935. Following Bahrain's independence in 1971, the British presence was replaced by that of the U.S. Navy. Bahrain became the base for the U.S. Fifth Fleet, charged with securing American interests in the Mideast. It is from this base that the allied war in Afghanistan is being resourced and Western efforts around the Horn of Africa coordinated.

This made the eruption of protests there in February deeply concerning. The fact that the demonstrators are mostly Shiite, protesting a minority Sunni government, makes this volatile situation ripe with opportunity for Iran to take advantage. According to *EU Observer*, one EU source stated, "What is happening in Bahrain is Sunni versus Shia, Saudi Arabia versus Iran. It's big powers facing off against each other in a small place. It's really explosive." Another EU contact noted,

"If Saudi Arabia and Iran become openly involved, it could become much more dangerous than Libya" (March 17).

The unrest in Bahrain is catalyzing an alliance of Sunni powers. Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates all decided to send security forces to Bahrain to assist in quelling the protests. The Saudi government declared it would apply all necessary force against the rebel Shiites to ensure that the Sunnis remain secure in their reign over the Shiite majority population in Bahrain.

Similar to its deals with Libya and other Mideast nations, Germany has contributed to the buildup of arms—especially submachine guns and ammunition—in support of Bahrain's ruling Sunni al-Khalifa clan. It has supplied naval patrol boats dating back to when the Mideast was destabilized by the deposing of the shah of Iran. In more recent years, it has stepped up arms exports to Bahrain, arms the government has deployed against the Shiite rebels. German-Foreign-Policy.com reported that German armaments giant Rheinmetall is rumored to be bidding on a contract to provide Bahrain more "combat material specifically deemed for the suppression of rebellions" (February 22).

This merging of interests between Gulf states and Germany is deeply significant.

Believe it or not, there are indications within biblical prophecy that we would witness just such an alliance.

Charting Its Own Path

Just as Germany is pouring resources into Arab states, some Arabian Peninsula nations are investing heavily in German industry.

Berlin's cooperation with the United Arab Emirates began not long after the Berlin Wall fell and Germany reunited. The emirate of Qatar has since bought into Volkswagen, while the Aabar Investment Society of Abu Dhabi bought into Daimler, Germany's largest automobile producer. ThyssenKrupp's UAE partner, the Abu Dhabi Mar Consortium, now owns majority shares in the Nobiskrug Shipyard, which has, till recently, specialized in producing luxury ships in Rendsburg, Germany.

More significantly, five years ago Germany signed an agreement of cooperation in the military field with the UAE. This agreement led ThyssenKrupp to renounce "civilian ship production to concentrate its dockyards solely on arms production. It is entering a 'strategic partnership' with the Abu Dhabi Mar Co. from the United Arab

Emirates (UAE). Their deal seals the *military alliance* between Germany and the Emirates, possibly creating the opportunity for circumventing German arms exports regulations and ending efforts aimed at forging a German/French ship production ...” (German-Foreign-Policy.com, Oct. 26, 2009; emphasis mine throughout).

Noting the signing of this agreement and the ThyssenKrupp deal, German-Foreign-Policy.com reported that “Abu Dhabi’s joining the German maritime shipbuilding industry signals *Berlin’s fundamental change of strategy* in its long-term efforts to help bring the German arms industry to a position of pre-dominance in Europe” (ibid.).

There is a much more significant strategy in play here than first glance would suggest. It has to do with Germany asserting its national sovereign will over and above that of the EU—particularly France—and of the NATO alliance. In relation to the ThyssenKrupp deal, German-Foreign-Policy.com observed that such action serves to demonstrate that “*If a German-dominated European solution cannot be accomplished, Berlin will do without Europe and go it alone.*”

Having snubbed the French in these Gulf state deals, Germany has now done the same not only to France, but also to the EU, NATO and the U.S. by withdrawing from its NATO mandates in the Mediterranean.

A Dramatic Change of Course

German elites are watching unfolding events across the North African rim. The significance of France leading the air strikes on Libya was historic. It is significant in that for the first time since World War II, a European power has been first to strike in a Western coalition war. It is doubly significant in that the United States, which has led all allied strikes in combat since World War II, was third in line in entering the action. Second was Britain, giving some credence to the newly formed Anglo-French defense alliance. But of even greater significance than Germany’s absence from the initial battle scene was its complete withdrawal from its NATO mandates.

Perceiving the U.S. administration had no heart for the battle, Germany seized the opportunity to make a historic move. For the first time since World War II, Germany took a stand by publicly withdrawing from a Western alliance defense initiative and placing its own actively deployed military assets under its own sovereign command! Again, as Klaus

Naumann declared, “Germany has dared to go it alone for the first time since 1949.”

The Libyan affair has catalyzed a new era in German foreign policy. Germany has clearly demonstrated that it will now bow to no one, not to France or Britain, not to any EU or NATO authority, not even to the once mighty United States. Germany has signaled that from now on, it will serve its own sovereign national interests at all costs!

As German-Foreign-Policy.com rightly pointed out, the German abstention in the UN Security Council vote on Libya shows two things: “On the one hand, it shows that Berlin is no longer prepared to make foreign-policy concessions to European rivals such as France. ... On the other hand, it has become clear that Berlin is not only prepared to go it alone at the ‘European’ level—as in the case of the invasion of Iraq in 2003—but also to go it alone at the national level. This fact takes on more significance when it is taken into account that, in Berlin, it is being repeatedly discussed whether Germany would not ‘advance faster, further and better, alone’ than in the European Union. Berlin’s Libya policy could provide the first clues” (March 22).

Either way, the things to really watch for in Germany’s future Middle East strategy will be initiatives designed to shore up security in the Levant—Syria, Lebanon and Israel—and the consolidation of an alliance with the Arabian Peninsula nations.

As you watch, remember the unbreakable prophecy for our day contained in Psalm 83, a prophecy that foresees the cementing of an alliance between Germany and the Arab states of the Levant and Arabian Peninsula and Turkey.

That alliance was prophesied by God 3,000 years ago. Inspired to look three millennia ahead, the psalmist was given a vision of the alliance that would form between the modern-day descendants of Assyria—Germany—and certain of the descendants of Ishmael, son of Abraham. These would unite against the descendants of Abraham’s grandson Jacob—people who became the nations of Israel, called in that psalm “thy people.”

And it’s that alliance that has just been accelerated by events rippling across North Africa from Tunisia to Bahrain.

There’s something unique about that prophecy. Our editor in chief was the first to expose its application to current world events of today. That was well over a decade before these recent events. Only in our publications will you find that remarkable prophecy expounded. Request our booklet *The King of the South* and prove that to yourself. ■

WORLD

The World Is

BY BRAD MACDONALD

ON MARCH 28, BARACK OBAMA went on television to inform his people and the world about America’s objective in the war on Libyan strongman Muammar Qadhafi.

One theme the president emphasized was *leadership*. “To brush aside America’s responsibility as a leader and—more profoundly—our responsibilities to our fellow human beings under such circumstances *would have been a betrayal of who we are,*” he stated (emphasis mine throughout). Mr. Obama recalled America’s historic role as a world leader and affirmed that America would uphold its leadership responsibilities in Libya.

Though the speech was articulate, it was not convincing. The attempt to cast America as a leader in Libya was a flop. Aside from the fact that it came nine days too late, it was undermined by the reality that the White House had for days, even weeks, been attempting to *unload* its leadership responsibilities in Libya.

Under U.S. leadership, it took more than three weeks to get a UN resolution to enter Libya. When the resolution finally did arrive, France and Britain led the military operations. Meanwhile, as fighter jets dropped thousands of pounds of ordnance over Libya, allied partners bickered over the scope and objective of the campaign. After the mission had been under way for more than a week, apparently under “U.S. leadership,” allied partners still hadn’t agreed on who was in charge, or even what their ultimate strategic objective was.

Why the confusion? The dissension, Charles Krauthammer noted, was “purely the result of Obama’s decision to get America into the war and then immediately relinquish American command.” Indeed, Operation Odyssey was less than 48 hours old when the president told the world he was ready to transfer America’s responsibilities to NATO—within “days, not weeks.” The remark set off intense squabbling as allied powers wrestled over who would lead in the absence of clear, decisive leadership from the world’s most militarily powerful nation!

German newspaper *Der Tagesspiegel* observed, “The indecisive, sometimes helpless dealing with the uprisings of the West in North Africa is a testament

Coming Apart—Where Is America?

LOOKING AWAY

As Libyan rebels fight to take over their country, President Obama tries to prevent the U.S. from taking a leadership role.



to the American withdrawal from world affairs.” Harvard historian Niall Ferguson said that the Libya affair exposed “a president without a strategy.” Krauthammer observed that the U.S. administration was “obsessed with pretending that we are not running the operation” and with “handing off the lead role.”

Tagesspiegel also noted that America’s relative disinterest is evident in more than just Libya. Consider Washington’s conduct in all the major crises lately—in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen and Syria. In each case, the U.S. has acted like a third-rate power. It has failed to tackle the issues with force and determination, with clarity of vision and purpose, with the confidence and vigor of a superpower. Instead, its response in virtually every case has been late, ill-informed or hastily conceived, morally or politically shallow, or downright irresponsible. And, most significantly, it has willfully passed leadership to someone else.

One of the most significant lessons from the traumatic events thus far in 2011—and a reality that has surely been seen around the world—is that the UNITED STATES NO LONGER POSSESSES THE DESIRE TO BE A GLOBAL LEADER.

Experts have given a number of reasons why. They say Washington has multiple domestic problems to deal with, that it lacks the resources to lead on every issue. But the conclusion drawn by others—that abdicating global leadership has become a FUNDAMENTAL GOAL of U.S.

foreign policy—is startling. Nevertheless, look at the evidence.

This is the “Obama conception of the U.S. role in the world,” stated White House deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes in the midst of the Libya debacle: “to work through multilateral organizations and bilateral relationships to make sure that the steps we are taking are amplified.”

The Obama foreign-policy team includes Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg and ambassador to NATO Ivo Daalder. In July 2008, these men published a report outlining an “intellectual and policy blueprint for the next administration.” Current U.S. foreign policy is aptly summarized in the report’s concluding sentence: “And such [U.S.] leadership recognizes that in a world in which power has diffused, *our interests are best protected and advanced when others step up and at times lead alongside* OR EVEN AHEAD OF US.”

President Obama said it himself in March. “This is how the international community should work,” he said: “more nations, not just the United States, bearing the responsibility and the cost of upholding peace and security.”

The problem with this approach is now on full display in the Middle East and North Africa. As Daniel Henninger wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*, “[N]o one has stepped up, no one is leading alongside and our allies are in the rear, accomplishing nothing while they wait for ... America.”

In Libya, Washington abdicated its



leadership—or, as some would put it, gave others the opportunity to step up and lead. What happened? Chaos and dissension reigned. “At a time when the world is hungry for America to lead,” wrote Krauthammer,

“America is led by a man determined that it should not.”

It is now a sad but evident reality that the UNITED STATES HAS ABANDONED ITS POST AS A WORLD LEADER.

As the world’s leading power since World War II, America has not

been above reproach. Despite its shortcomings, however, over the past 200 years it has given mankind some terrific benefits and, for a long while, strong, stable and—compared to most others—charitable leadership.

There is a reason for this. The central reason for America’s wealth and global preponderance is that it has been the recipient of a promise God made to Abraham 3,000 years ago. You can study that promise in Genesis 12. It is a promise of spectacular and unprecedented wealth, power and leadership being bestowed upon Abraham’s descendants, and specifically the United States of America.

Now, however, because of America’s sins, God has *removed* the strong leaders from this nation and broken the pride of its power (e.g. Isaiah 3:1-4; Leviticus 26:19). The distressing evidence of the fulfillment of this powerful prophecy resounds loudly in these recent events!

God’s promise to Abraham—one of the most far-reaching and important God has ever made—is a theme in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. If you haven’t already studied this book, request it now. Truly, nothing explains America’s calamitous, yet God-ordained, fall from the heights of global power and affluence like this groundbreaking work. ■

What You Need to Know About

The Royal Wedding

Only a select few have received a prized invitation.
But do any of them know why the heir's throne even exists?

BY BRAD MACDONALD

FEW THINGS ON EARTH ARREST global attention like a royal wedding. When the Prince of Wales married Diana Spencer in 1981, *more than 750 million people* tuned in to watch the event on television. At the time, it was the most popular event ever broadcast. On April 29, that record will be smashed when Prince William, the firstborn son of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, weds Kate Middleton at the revered Westminster Abbey.

Thirty years ago, while watching the grandeur of Prince Charles's wedding, Herbert Armstrong was moved to write a lengthy article about the royal family for the *Plain Truth*. He recalled Britain's unique ability to host such a "glorious and colorful extravaganza." The wedding, he marveled, with its quintessentially British pomp and pageantry, its high-class guest list, and a bride who was "bright, cheerful and happy" was a "spectacle unparalleled."

The same "spectacle unparalleled" promises to unfold on April 29. But it will hold a thrilling dimension that most people simply will not recognize. The same was true 30 years ago, which is why Mr. Armstrong wrote his article. Beyond the material brilliance, he wrote, "[T]HERE IS STILL FAR GREATER SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS ELABORATE WEDDING." The "throne of England," he emphasized, is "IMPORTANT in the eyes of GOD!" (October/November 1981).

The marriage of a British

sovereign should remind all of us of one of the most THRILLING TRUTHS IN THE BIBLE!

A Biblical Dynasty Continues

The history of Britain's royal family is truly remarkable. "I do not know whether the present generation of royal family know and believe it," wrote Mr. Armstrong in 1981, "but I've been informed that the royal family of two or three generations ago did know that the BRITISH SOVEREIGN IS IN FACT A CONTINUATION OF THE DYNASTY OF KING DAVID OF ANCIENT ISRAEL."

And if you think the truth about the *history* of the English throne is weighty, then consider its *future*. In his article, Mr. Armstrong invoked the prophecy in Luke 1:32-33, which says that at His Second Coming, "the Lord God shall give unto [Jesus Christ] THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID." As heirs of David's royal dynasty, Mr. Armstrong explained, England's royal family actually inhabits the very throne that Jesus Christ will inherit at His Second Coming.

To Herbert Armstrong, the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana was a glorious reminder of God's presence behind England's royal house. Thirty years later, the wedding of Prince William radiates with this same STUNNING TRUTH!

These days, most people would probably chuckle at the notion that the Queen of England, and her son and grandson,

are direct descendants of King David and his forefathers Jacob, Isaac and Abraham. But Mr. Armstrong *was* RIGHT, and his teaching is vindicated by history. In fact, not long ago it was widely understood that England's royal traditions had their origins back in ancient Israel.

On June 28, 1837, the day of Queen Victoria's coronation, the *London Sun* ran an article on the history of the ceremony that occurred. It focused on the "stone of destiny," which historically has *always* featured in the coronation of English kings and queens. "Between the seat and this board is enclosed a stone, commonly called Jacob's, or the fatal marble, stone," the article explained.

Notice what this *mainstream newspaper* wrote next: "History relates that it is the stone whereon *the patriarch Jacob laid his head in the plains of Luz.*"

You can read the history of Jacob's pillar stone in Genesis 28. But here's a British newspaper, less than 150 years ago, informing its readers about how *Jacob's pillar stone* left Israel, and was "conveyed into Ireland by way of Spain about 700 years before Christ. From there it was taken into Scotland by King Fergus, about 370 years later; and in the year 350 B.C., it was placed in the abbey of Scone" (The stone was eventually transferred under England's authority, and remains so today, even though it resides in Scotland.)

Think on that. While Mr. Armstrong



explained the history of England's royal household in unmatched depth and scriptural detail, he was not alone in his teaching that the origins of this royal dynasty lay in ancient Israel. As recently as 1837, *English newspapers* were recalling the history of Britain's royal family and the stone of destiny and their origins in the land of ancient Israel!

Could you imagine a mainstream British newspaper today running an article connecting the British royal family to the patriarch Jacob? When was the last time you read an objective story from the media shedding light on the fascinating origins and traditions of the royal family? This is one of the most interesting and important topics in English history, yet the media is woefully silent.

This is why Mr. Armstrong considered the wedding of Prince Charles so significant, and why the *Trumpet* considers the wedding of Prince William to be important: Royal weddings give the world an opportunity to explore the stirring truth about Britain's royal family!

"Kings Shall Come Out of Thee"

The history of Britain's royal family begins with the patriarch Abraham, upon whom God bestowed a history-altering promise in Genesis 12. In Genesis 17, God explained His promise to Abraham in more detail, telling him specifically that "*kings shall come out of thee.*" Believe it or

not, Queen Elizabeth is a descendant of Abraham—and living fulfillment of God's promise to this patriarch!

About a thousand years after God made His original promise to Abraham, He made the same promise to King David, a descendant of Abraham. Read the account in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 and note the *aboluteness* of this promise: "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, *I will set up thy seed after thee ... and I will establish his kingdom.* He shall build an house for my name, and I will *stablish the throne* of his kingdom *for ever. ... And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.*"

God promised King David that He would establish his royal dynasty—and that it would continue FOREVER!

To say the dynasty of King David hasn't continued to this day is to call God a liar.

But where is that royal dynasty today? And if it is indeed in Britain, how did the throne and Jacob's pillar stone end up there? Who took them to England? When did this journey take place? This is why Mr. Armstrong was thrilled by the 1981 wedding of Prince Charles: It prodded people to discover the answers to these questions.

To help his readers answer these questions and capture the full significance of Prince Charles's elaborate wedding, Mr. Armstrong reprinted many passages from his book *The United States and Britain in*

Prophecy. Filled with scriptural proof and historical fact, this book provides a thorough and convincing exploration of the origins of the British royal family and its connection to the throne of David.

For example, Mr. Armstrong explained how the Prophet Jeremiah was commissioned with the responsibility of relocating the royal dynasty (including Jacob's pillar stone) to the British Isles. "Besides the royal family," he wrote, "Jeremiah brought with them some remarkable things, including a harp, an ark, and a wonderful stone called 'lia-fail,' or 'stone of destiny.'" The story of Jeremiah explains how Jacob's pillar stone ended up in Britain.

In light of the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton, we'd like to echo Mr. Armstrong's sentiment: Today, *more than ever*, "the throne of England is IMPORTANT in the eyes of GOD!" Just as there was with the marriage of his father and mother, there is still far greater significance to [the] elaborate wedding" of Prince William.

If you'd like to understand the significance of this, one of the most grand and glorious weddings in recent history, request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Six million people have already requested this book. Isn't it time you did too? This wedding will likely be one of the most popular events in modern times. *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* is the program guide that explains the remarkable history and significance of this splendid occasion. ■

Read the PROOF

Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves that the British royal family is the dynasty of King David of Israel! Meticulously researched, using secular history along with biblical history and prophecy, this astounding free book will open your eyes.

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY





WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

Horizonless destruction in Natori and across Japan has altered the future of the world's third-largest economy.

Will Japan Ever Be the Same?

Biblical prophecy suggests a startling answer!

BY ROBERT MORLEY

ONE DAY IT WAS BRIGHT AND SUNNY. THE NEXT, the earth shook and a massive wall of water washed away whole cities. Now a power plant is fighting to prevent nuclear meltdown, millions are struggling to put their lives back together, one of the world's greatest economies has been thrust into the risk zone, and tens of thousands of people are missing and dead.

Sadly, this is Japan. Earthquakes are its history, and—in a sense—a prophecy of its future.

“The natural history of the country [is] embedded in the social history and to some extent the political history of Japan,” says Kerry Smith, professor of history at Brown University. “[Earthquakes] are markers not just of disaster ... but also of political change ... and economic change as well.”

Massive shocks and crises often lead to big changes—and in the wake of the devastating March 11 magnitude-9.0 earthquake right off Japan's coast that caused a killer tsunami, we can already see such big changes developing.

While the quake's aftershocks have died down, the geopolitical and economic ramifications could continue for some time. And when we view these events in light of biblical prophecy, the full extent of their potential significance begins to come into view.

A Region Pulls Together

Consider this change brought about by the disaster: For the first time since World War II, Japan's military was deployed domestically to maintain order and help with rescues. This was a big event for a nation with a pacifist constitution. Japan's self-defense forces are quickly shedding their postwar stigma.

Relationship changes are occurring with Japan's neighbors, too.

When China's Sichuan province was devastated by an earthquake in 2008, it was a historic event. Japan immediately offered and dispatched a rescue team. Japanese corporations like Honda and Panasonic donated millions to relief funds. Tokyo even sent a naval vessel to China—also for the first time since World War II—to help. And China *accepted* Japan's aid.

Now, with Japan struggling to recover from a similarly dire disaster, *for the first time* China has returned the gesture. And Japan has gratefully accepted. Officials in Tokyo and Beijing have put aside disagreements over historic disputes and come together in a common cause. Even Chinese newspapers stopped criticizing Japan and shifted to exploring what China could learn from Japan's response.

"If Asia is going to increase regional cooperation, the leaders of Japan and China must have a decent working relationship," wrote Bloomberg's William Pesek. "Last week's earthquake offers a chance for a fresh start" (March 13).

The earthquake may prove to be a significant turning point in regional cooperation.

Russia is the only country that Japan has not officially made peace with following World War II. Yet after the quake struck, it was as if those international tensions were all but forgotten.

Due to the widespread infrastructure damage, and the uncertainty surrounding its nuclear industry, Japan is being forced to build further economic and political bridges to energy-laden Russia. Russia's surge of goodwill and generosity—which included increased electrical transmission as well as coal and liquid natural gas deliveries—is

sure to aid in ending their historical disputes. It is also likely to help pull energy-poor Japan into more of an Asia-first orientation.

South Korea stepped up as well, offering both financial aid and rescue teams. Russia and South Korea are some of the largest contributors of earthquake aid.

Old war memories are being forgotten. New alliances are being forged.

More Aftershocks

On the flip side, Japan's relationship with America could be adversely affected.

In its immediate aftermath, the earthquake recalled some bitter history between the two countries. March 10 happened to be the anniversary of the great firebombing of Tokyo by American aircraft in the closing days of World War II—where 100,000 people burned to death in the inferno that reduced the city to rubble. Amid the March 11 earthquake destruction, some unfavorable comparisons were made.

Far more importantly, however, Japan's economic relationship with America is likely to suffer. Japan is America's second-most important lender. It holds over \$800 billion worth of U.S. government debt. Now, instead of being a reliable source of money for America, it will most likely be forced to sell its U.S. debt to fund its own reconstruction. If this happens to any significant degree, the U.S. dollar will experience its own mammoth earthquake.

Conversely, in the wake of this catastrophe it is easy to envision a scenario in which Japan would embrace a closer relationship with China—even if a subservient one.

A Diminished Role

Estimates suggest that infrastructure damage alone will cost Japan a sum approaching *one third of a trillion dollars*. But even this gargantuan figure does not include the economic loss due to power outages, lost jobs and lost exports.

Once the shock of the disaster subsides and reconstruction begins in earnest, Japan will desperately need foreign investment. The most obvious provider would be China, which would love to gain access to Japan's large middle-class consumer



market. The integration of the Japanese and Chinese markets would benefit both countries. China needs a developed export market to diversify away from its reliance on overly indebted American consumers—and Japan wants to rebuild and get its thrifty citizens spending money and its economy growing again.

The mammoth task of working to reconstruct what the violent waters washed away is certain to occupy Japan for some time to come. At least 27,000 people are missing or confirmed dead. Factories have shut down, ports are damaged, and hundreds of thousands are displaced. Stories chronicle desperate, shame-faced Japanese scrounging for food. *Please don't take my picture*, says one in a quiet, embarrassed tone. *My house was washed away, and the cash machines do not work*. How severely will these problems affect the nation's tax revenues? Despite Japan's massive horde of U.S. treasuries, the government is already broke. It owes domestic lenders even more.

The Japanese economy has taken a tremendous battering from which it will not easily recover.

It could well be that, considering all these factors, and placing them in contrast to the region's other major trend—the dramatic rise of China—Japan will not be quite the same again.

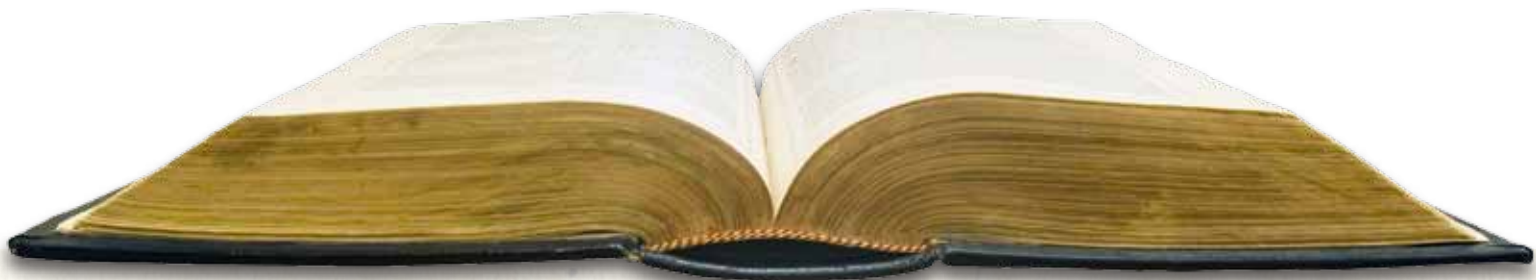
This event looks like it will notably accelerate the emergence of a new Asian order.

China is now the undisputed economic power in East Asia. Japan, once its chief rival and geopolitical counterbalance, is severely weakened. Going forward, Japan will need to adopt a much more friendly and conciliatory posture toward its Asian neighbor. That means the influence of America, Japan's close ally, will shrink within the region. The Sendai earthquake may hasten the rapid decline of America's importance to Japan.

The repercussions of this event are reverberating far beyond Japan. As ferocious as that 9.0 temblor was, the changes it precipitated represent a much bigger geopolitical earthquake shaking Asia and the world.

As is prophesied in the Bible, a giant Asian alliance—hostile to America—is forming. Russia, China and Japan are destined to unite as America, and its influence in Asia, falls. The tectonic fury unleashed on March 11 appears to have lurched the prophecy significantly forward.





The True History Behind the King James Bible

WHAT WOULD YOU DO? Imagine looking out a window and seeing two shotgun-toting uniformed policemen walking toward your home. Anticipating the knock, you cautiously open the front door. Besides a shotgun, one of the intense patrolmen is holding unfolded papers. He shows you an officially signed and stamped document and explains that they hold a warrant to search for and seize all copies of the Bible. “Why?” you ask. The men hostilely state, “The Bible is a seditious book, it is illegal to own copies, and you will be committing a crime if you read it!”

Sound far-fetched? History shows us otherwise.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the printing of the book commonly known in America as the King James Bible. In the United Kingdom, this English-language translation is known as the Authorized Version—a more descriptive title embedded with centuries of history, full of intrigue, intertwined with scenes of book burnings, bloody violence and sadistic martyrdom.

How well do you know the history of what led to the making of the King James Bible? Only a few know the real history. Believe us, the history leading up to the publication of the King James Bible is worth knowing—lest history repeat itself!

Christ Emphasized Scripture Reading

To get the full impact of this history, we must go back to the first century.

Jesus Christ had been born into a world wracked by religious confusion. Malachi, one of the final prophets to Israel, laid the blame for that religious mess at the feet of a corrupt priesthood guilty of leading the reinstated Jewish nation away from God and His revealed way of life (Malachi 2:8). The Jewish religion had become a mishmash of man-made

There was
one single goal:
Give everyone
the opportunity
to become a
Bible student!

BY DENNIS LEAP

traditions mixed with Greek philosophy and paganism.

Malachi also prophesied that Christ would come with a commission to deliver a message: the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Malachi 3:1). Jesus Christ was not commissioned to fix the Jews’ religion—and the religious elite did not want their religion fixed. In fact, the religious leadership and the majority of the people hated Jesus’s message. When Jesus taught publicly, the Pharisees and Sadducees often openly challenged and debated with Him.

To answer their false charges and expose their phony doctrines, Christ always pointed to the Scriptures. The four Gospels list at least 12 references where Christ answered a challenge by asking, *Have you not read the Scripture?* (Matthew 12:3, 5; 19:4; 21:16, 42; 22:31; Mark 2:25; 12:10, 26; Luke 4:16; 6:3; John 5:39). Christ taught only those truths laid out in the Scriptures.

Though historical records of the fledgling New Testament Church are scanty, we know from the Bible that Christ’s established tradition—personal Scripture reading and study—was maintained by Church leadership. How was that possible? The majority of the earliest Christians would not have had personal copies of the Scriptures since each copy had to be written out by hand, making it very expensive to own.

Yet, this did not present a problem for God’s dedicated people. The earliest Christian converts were Jews and still had open access to the temple and synagogues, which maintained Scripture libraries. The Bible records that Peter and Paul went to the temple even after the Church was established in Jerusalem. Luke gives us the perfect example of this scenario in Acts 17:10-11: The Bereans heard Paul preach in their local synagogue, and then they searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Church Ravaged by Persecution

In a private meeting with the disciples on the Mount of Olives, Jesus Christ revealed the time order of key world events leading to His Second Coming and the establishment of the Kingdom of God. This incredible prophecy covering 2,000 years is located in Matthew 24. Corollary accounts are found in Daniel and Revelation. Christ gravely warned that His little flock (Luke 12:32) would suffer vicious attack and undergo violent persecution from false ministers claiming to know and preach for Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:4). These evil men would deceive many members by supplanting Christ's message with a false message about Him (verse 5).

Paul refers to his war against these false ministers in the first century in 2 Corinthians 11:2-4, 13-15 and Galatians 1:6-9.

Now, here is a truth that few understand. This persecution begun in the first century will grow into raging intensity just before Christ's return. This is critical understanding. We must be warned.

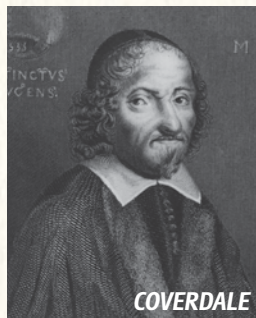
Here is how it all began. While the earliest persecution of God's Church came from the Jews, the most deadly came from the ranks of Simon Magus's church. Luke records this evil man's first attempt to gain high office in God's Church in Acts 8. Even though his attempt was spurned and thwarted by Peter, historians Justin Martyr, Irenaeus and Eusebius record that in A.D. 45, Simon successfully laid the foundation for a competing church organization in Rome. He called his mix of Babylonian pagan customs and selected distorted Christian teachings "Christian" and set out to destroy the organization that denied him an apostleship. Simon's ultimate goal was to dominate all religion and government, giving his church world rule. However, Simon's church—along with Christ's little flock—suffered slaughter at the hands of Roman emperors for nearly three centuries.

Then, a surprising historic event freed Simon's church from fear of death. After his victory at Milvian Bridge, Constantine the Great converted to Simon's church—by this time called the Universal, or Catholic, Church—and legalized it throughout the realm with the Edict of Milan in 313. This was a marriage of convenience. Constantine needed a means to unite all the squabbling peoples of Europe. He saw Simon's brand of Christianity as the means.

When Constantine stopped all government-sponsored persecution of the Universal Church, he created a beast that would grow to incredible strength and power that at times would rival even the most powerful caesar.

Having new life and vigor breathed into it, the Catholic Church—described as a *Babylonian queen* in Isaiah 47 and the *mother of harlots* in Revelation 17—palmed itself off as the promised Kingdom of God. Seeking to spiritually legitimize its existence, it made its purported gospel about the person of Christ appear as the

History of the English Bibles



Coverdale Bible (1535)

When English bishops dragged their feet on Henry VIII's project to produce an official English translation, Miles Coverdale, friend and associate of William Tyndale, worked to produce a Bible stripped of anti-papal commentary. His translation was not considered to be the same high caliber as Tyndale's, but his English was considered sweet and lyrical. Henry VIII allowed this translation to be used but did not officially sanction it.

truth. As a matter of policy in order to establish its own authority over the people and to conceal the truth of its origin, the Universal Church cast the Bible aside, stating it was "not sufficient for doctrine." This spiritually adulterous church became the persecutor, demanding that all religious groups bow to its government.

The true Church of God refused to submit to this false religious authority, and stepped alone onto the blood-stained stage of martyrdom.

The history of the Universal Church's Satan-inspired war to snuff out true Christians is discussed in Revelation 2:8-29 and 12:6, 13, 17. Other details are given in Daniel 7:23-25. Revelation 12:6 discusses the continual attempt at the genocide of God's Church for 1,260 years beginning with the Council of Nicaea in 325 and ending with the waning of Catholic dominance in England in A.D. 1585. Verse 13 discusses Satan's personal attempt to crush God's Church in the 20th century. And verse 17 refers to a coming future martyrdom of God's people by Simon's church.

Copies of Scripture Outlawed

It is important to note that the founding documents leading to the making of the King James Bible were written during the 1,260 years. This was a time of great social upheaval. The war over the Bible was a major part of the unrest. As Revelation 12:6 tells us, God's people, branded as Judaizing heretics by the church centered in Rome, had to *flee* or constantly remain on the move in order to survive martyrdom. Beginning with their escape from the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, they followed the trail of their ancient relatives—the lost tribes of Israel—by moving north and west of Jerusalem into the safety of European wilderness.

The Catholic chronicles of the infamous inquisitions that brought death to multiple thousands in Europe give us their epithetic names and locations. God's people were called *Albigenses*, *Bogomils*, *Cathars*, *Lollards*, *Paulicians* and *Waldenses*, to name a few. Knowing these names, we can trace the movements of God's people through Europe into England and finally to the American colonies. It is beyond the scope of this article to trace and discuss all of their locations. However, in the early decades of the 1300s, two true ministers of God moved the work of the Church into England. What happened at that time set fire to a movement that energetically set out to make copies of the Bible available to every Englishman in his own tongue.

Just prior to that time though, in about A.D. 1170, a wealthy French merchant named Peter Waldo converted to the true Church of God. After seeing a close friend die suddenly, he reflected on his own life. Realizing that his wealth actually kept him separated from God, he invested a considerable sum of money to translate the Bible into his native tongue and then gave the rest of his fortune to the needy. As a merchant, he had some contact with the

people of God. He was aware of their doctrines. He made a diligent search of the Scriptures to learn the truth about life and death. Amazed at what he read, he recognized the tiny group of people he had come in contact with was the true Church. He joined company with them and was baptized.

Using his secular education and good business sense, Waldo helped organize the little Church plagued by persecution. He became the leading minister and preached the original gospel message as given by Jesus Christ. For the first time in centuries, many began to hear and learn the clear and simple doctrines of the Bible. As membership grew, the money and workers became available to make and distribute copies of the Bible, as well as other doctrinal tracts, produced by hand. In time, armed with the proper knowledge, large numbers of people in southern France joined ranks with the Church of God.

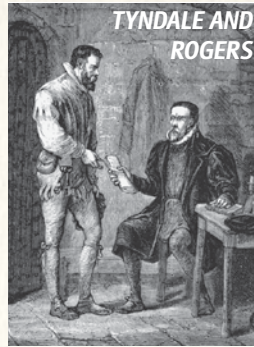
In 1178, an angry pope summoned Waldo to Rome. Waldo brought with him a copy of the Bible that had been translated into Provençal, the local language of southern France. He humbly made the case for the common people's need for Scripture that they could read in their own language. A decision as to what to do about Waldo's movement—referred to in Catholic history as the *Poor Men of Lyons* and later known as the *Waldenses*—was delayed until the Third Lateran Council of 1179. At that time, Waldo's representatives were castigated for not only preaching without permission, but for translating the parts of the Bible that the Catholic Church deemed as heretical! The war between the churches was still on!

God's ministers did not stop preaching or distributing copies of the Bible. In fact, they declared that the Bible alone was the "sole rule of life and faith." They fully rejected all doctrine not supported by the Bible.

Pope Innocent III, the father of Catholic inquisitions, came down hard on them. In 1209, he instituted the Albigensian Crusade. In 1211, more than 80 of Peter Waldo's followers were burned as heretics in Strasbourg. The Bible and handwritten doctrinal tracts were burned in huge bonfires along with them. Yet the true Church courageously continued its work.

Innocent III would not be crossed without returning retaliation. He organized the Fourth Lateran Council, in part, to go after Waldo's growing influence. Derek Wilson, in his book *The People's Bible*, states that in 1215, the Fourth Lateran Council declared: "The secret mysteries of the faith ought not to be explained to all men in all places For such is the depth of divine Scripture that, not only the simple and illiterate, but even the prudent and learned are not fully sufficient to try to understand it." This was a direct reference to Peter Waldo and the Church of God. The pope wanted no Bible reading outside the priesthood.

Wielding incredible power across nations, the church declared that Bible reading by laymen was a



Matthew Bible (1537)

After his arrest for heresy, Tyndale assigned the task of completing his work on the Old Testament to John Rogers. Yet after Tyndale's execution, Rogers, recognizing the success of Coverdale's translation, set out to produce a competing Bible with Tyndale's commentary left intact. Fearing arrest and execution, he published the Bible under the pseudonym Thomas Matthew.



The Great Bible (1539)

To stop the controversy over the two competing Bible translations, Thomas Cromwell, adviser to Henry VIII and avid reformer, conscripted Miles Coverdale to revise Rogers's work. Cromwell firmly believed that Henry's church needed an officially authorized English Bible. The Matthew Bible was the best translation to date; all it needed was consistency in translation minus Tyndale's radical commentary.

crime punishable by death. It was also made illegal to translate any passage of the Bible into the vernacular. Owning even a small portion of Scripture brought the white-hot brand of heresy. Trapped in the purge of inquisition, many men, women and children died in the flames while tethered to a stake.

It is interesting to note that Catholic England was the only European country to actually ban Bible translation.

Wycliffe and the Lollards

To escape extinction, the tiny church fled into hiding in the Piedmont Valley of northwest Italy. And, as prophesied in Revelation 12:6, within 100 years of the onset of the Albigensian Crusade, Catholic dominance of medieval England and Europe began to ebb. Midway through the 14th century, dissatisfaction with the oppressive high taxation of the church stirred within the hearts of the English nobility. The development of English education created institutions such as Oxford and Cambridge. Well-educated men were injected into the worn-out, centuries-old Catholic feudal society. University-trained theologians became expert linguists in Greek and Hebrew as well as Latin. Knowledge of the Bible grew rapidly since the study of the Scriptures became part of university curriculum. It was not at all surprising, then, that scholars uncovered that Catholic doctrine did not square with the Bible.

Leading academics, like John Wycliffe, began to publicly attack the corruption of the Catholic clergy. Besides being a priest, Wycliffe was well educated in math, natural science and ecclesiastical law. Yet his life's passion was knowing the Bible. He made it the focus of his graduate work. By 1377, Wycliffe's stirring lectures and sermons had become enormously popular with the nobles and common people. He was gifted with a brilliant and enquiring mind and a willingness to clearly debate what he was learning from Scripture. As a result, he became the Catholic elite's number-one enemy in England. His knowledge of Scripture and his popularity put him in constant danger of execution.

Yet, Wycliffe was spared in 1378. The Catholic Church slit its own throat with the Great Schism. As three popes vied for power, the church's credibility was destroyed, and men began to look elsewhere for leadership. John Wycliffe willingly stepped into the spotlight. He clearly and constantly showed that the Catholic Church was in conflict with Christianity's foundational document, the Bible. Wycliffe skillfully set out to remove the papacy's chain on Scripture by making it available to all the people of England—in their own language.

In 1380, Wycliffe and a group of scholars began to translate the Latin Bible into English. In

addition, garnered with the full protection of the English nobility and Parliament, Wycliffe published many tracts that exposed the unbiblical teachings of the Catholic Church and the clergy's corrupt practices. Wycliffe wrote, "[A]ll Christians, and lay lords in particular, ought to know holy writ and to defend it." He proclaimed the right to make the Bible available for everyone.

Rome, however, found a way to slow down Wycliffe's effort. It accused him of starting the 1381 Peasant's Revolt. It said that Wycliffe's open challenge of spiritual authority was the reason for the breakdown of law and order. His enemies called for his execution, yet they could not touch him because of the nobles.

Wycliffe left Oxford, but did not stop his work. He and his associates worked to make copies of the English Bible. During the last few years of his life, he was able to get the Bible into the hands of preachers who could spread the Scriptures to the common people.

Who were these preachers?

Though historians often state that Wycliffe founded the movement called the Lollards, the Lollards had existed long before Wycliffe. Walter and Raymond Lollard, brothers and true ministers of Jesus Christ, had moved to England from Germany around 1315. Coming from Waldensian strongholds that had been heavily persecuted in central Europe, Walter was a leading minister in the Church of God. We are not sure if Walter's surname was Lollard or if it was branded on him as an epithet by his enemies. In the Netherlands, the Waldenses were called *Lollards*, a name taken from the Flemish word *lollen*, or *lullen*, meaning to speak softly or mumble. It was a practice of the true Church of God to memorize sections of the Bible since it had become a crime to own a copy.

Working tirelessly together for years, these brothers preached the unshackled Word of God throughout much of England. The fruit of their preaching was tremendous—England was on fire for God's truth. Just as Jesus Christ had done centuries earlier, they advocated proof of their preaching by personal Bible study. Throughout the island, personal copies of the Scriptures were in demand. The growing Church of God, because of the efforts of Wycliffe and his band of sympathetic scholars, was able to widely distribute the English-language transcripts of the Bible. Eventually Wycliffe, his associates and the Church of God were declared heretics. Tragically, many of them were martyred. History must never forget what they accomplished.

It is interesting to note that Wycliffe himself escaped martyrdom when he died of a stroke in 1384. Yet, in 1428, in a weird and absurd ceremony, Wycliffe's bones were exhumed and burned by the Catholic clergy, and his ashes were tossed into a nearby stream—in an effort to stop the movement for vernacular Bibles. That ridiculous effort failed.

The Geneva Bible (1560)

When the very Catholic Mary I assumed the throne from her younger brother, surprisingly she did not officially outlaw the Great Bible. However, the English Catholic clergy essentially did by removing it from churches and having it burned. Fleeing Protestant exiles found safe haven in John Calvin's Geneva. William Whittingham, John Calvin, Theodore Beza (the most knowledgeable Greek and Hebrew scholar at that time) and Miles Coverdale all contributed to the project. It became the Elizabethan bestseller. Its most important contribution to the advancement of the English Bible was its division of the text into verses.



The Bishops' Bible (1568)

Elizabeth I was anti-Catholic but a cautious reformer. She slowly worked within church in England to replace its radical Catholic and Puritan clergy with moderates. Archbishop Matthew Parker, fearing a Puritan takeover of the church, sought to ward that off by replacing the Geneva Bible with his own version. He set out to correct the Great Bible's flaws and make it the most accurate of all the vernacular Bibles. Parker's translation was technically accurate but unbearable to read. It lacked the Geneva Bible's beauty and fluidity. Church authorities required every Anglican bishop to buy a copy, giving the translation its name.

The 1500s Revolution

By the 1500s, the Renaissance had swept across Europe. The dark mental oppression of the Catholic clergy was broken by the light of education in art, literature, math and science. The invention of the printing press in 1450 made the production and distribution of educational materials readily available for a public eager to gather them up.

The first book published by printing press inventor Johann Gutenberg was a Latin-language Bible. The Bible was the hottest-selling item in Europe at this time. Making it forbidden had made it even more popular!

Early in the 16th century, Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536), a Dutch scholar, became an international celebrity. A founding father of the Renaissance, he is best known for his 1508 book *In Praise of Folly*, a satire on society. He did not spare the practices of the church and clergy. Having a rich knowledge of Greek, Erasmus grew to prominence lecturing at Cambridge. One of his most important works was an updated Latin version of the New Testament called *Novum Instrumentum* (1516). He studied the best early Greek texts he could find in order to make a Latin text that was more accurate than the Vulgate. Though his project was considered sacrilege to Catholic authorities—who would dare tamper with the Vulgate?—his goal was to direct scholars to the Bible in order to cleanse the Catholic Church of error. He greatly disturbed Catholic authorities by editing out of his translation the Vulgate's proof of the trinity (1 John 5:7-8), which was not found in the earliest Greek texts. Erasmus's New Testament had its greatest impact at Cambridge, at that time considered the intellectual home of the English Reformation.

Then, in 1517, Martin Luther, a member of the theology faculty at Wittenberg University, began to speak out against papal indulgences. He invited scholars across Europe to join him in the study of what the Bible had to say about church corruption. For Luther, the Bible was a rival to the authority of the pope. Rome called for him to recant. He refused and widely circulated numerous books explaining his beliefs throughout Europe and England. His writings found special residence at Cambridge. Martin Luther produced a German-language Pentateuch in 1523 and a German-language New Testament in 1529.

When Luther's books were banned at Cambridge, revolutionary-thinking students such as William Tyndale, a priest, theologian and gifted linguist, fled the university. Sympathetic to Luther's views, Tyndale intended to translate the Bible into English from fresh sources following in the tradition of Erasmus. When denied approval by English Catholic Church authorities, he found financial support for his translation project through well-known Lollard Humphrey Monmouth, a wealthy cloth merchant, who provided him with

food and shelter.

Word spread rapidly through academic circles that Tyndale had begun his translation. Tyndale was a linguistic genius. He was proficient in eight languages. Although he used Erasmus's Greek New Testament as a foundation, his translation was thoroughly original. His intensive labor produced an English translation that was so astoundingly clear that common people could easily read and understand it. He had a true gift for transmitting the original meaning from one language to another. Much of his New Testament translation still appears as originally written in today's King James Bible.

To complete his work, Tyndale had to go into hiding. His life was in constant danger. To get his Bible printed, he had to stay one step ahead of authorities working to stop him. In 1526, Tyndale's New Testament was finally printed in Worms, Germany. Smuggled into England, the beautiful text, once in the hands of the people, became a sensation. Encouraged by such glowing success, Tyndale produced corrected versions of his New Testament and began working on the Old Testament.

Authorities could not short-circuit the demand for Tyndale's work. They resorted to buying copies simply to burn them. The battle over the Bible became very bloody. Many, including Tyndale, who was betrayed by a friend, lost their lives fighting for the right to have the Bible in their native tongue. Tyndale was never able to finish the Old Testament. The calculated ecclesiastical destruction of Tyndale's first translation of the New Testament was so thorough that only three copies survive. One is housed in the British National Library.

From Henry VIII to James VI

Eventually the Bible war in England became tangled with Henry VIII's battle to divorce his first wife. The severing of the English church from Rome had little to do with the Protestant Reformation fomenting in Europe. Henry wanted out of his marriage so he could produce a legal heir to the throne. If it meant that he become the head of the English church, so be it.

After winning his fight with Rome, the proud king soon realized that he faced an incredible dilemma. The nation was bitterly divided between Catholics and Protestants. He recognized that even the newly established English church was splintering into religious factions. By 1530, it had become clear that the English clergy could not prevent the spread of Tyndale's translations and Luther's tracts. Henry's leading counselors urged him to produce a new official Bible to reunite the nation.

Henry laid the task at the feet of the English bishops. Yet because of deep disagreement with the project, the bishops delayed to start work on a new translation. By 1535 nothing had been done. So began a history of back-and-forth wrangling over the Bible within the English church. Multiple

versions of the English Bible were produced by different feuding factions. Several translations incorporated glosses espousing the doctrinal viewpoints of the translators. So ensued a new kind of war, not one of Bible translation but one of Bible interpretation.

By the time James I (James VI of Scotland) came to the throne, two bloodstained centuries of war over Bible translation had taken place. As James ascended the throne, essentially that war was over. People were free to own and read the Scriptures. Now came the need to strip the English Bible of all interpretation. He especially wanted to get rid of the very popular translation known as the Geneva Bible. Full of Calvinist teaching, it stood contrary to his belief in absolute monarchy.

At the surprising suggestion of Puritan leaders (dye-in-the-wool Calvinists), James personally convened the Hampton Court Conference on Jan. 1, 1604, to officially start the massive translation project. He set strict translation guidelines to ensure translator objectivity and that only the purest translation of the Scriptures was brought into English.

The Bible was divided among six teams of scholars; two each were set up at Westminster, Oxford and Cambridge. Not only did they use the best Hebrew and Greek texts, they took advantage of every available version to compare the variant readings. The basic text was completed in four years. Then the translation was subjected to two additional years of further checking. Then, to ensure the very best translation, in 1610 another team, two men from each of the original six teams, completed a final check.

After nine months of grueling proof, the authorized Bible was printed in 1611. Its contribution to Western society is without question. It has molded and shaped our thinking.

Many have died to give us the right to own, read and study this incredible book. Do we highly value that right? If we don't, we could easily lose it. There is a coming, prophesied clash in religion (see Revelation 12:17 and 13:8). The Bible is certain to figure prominently in that war.

Considering that dark future, and after having 400 years of history with this book, we must ask ourselves a vital question: Do we see this as the revealed, sacred Word of a living God, or as a mere cultural icon—the work of men's hands? If we see it as a cultural icon only, then it will soon take a place alongside the pretty things stacked on museum shelves, taken from other no-longer-existent nations that have been lost to history. Britain and America became great nations as this book grew to become the bestseller of all time. If we forget this book, could history forget us?

If, on the other hand, we see this remarkable translation of the Bible as God's own words, then we will take it off our bookshelves, open it and search for the solutions to the problems that are about to overwhelm us.

God help us come to the right answer. ■



Authorized Version (1611)

In the early 1600s, with bloody religious wars raging in continental Europe, England continued to flourish. James I assumed the throne from Elizabeth and set out to strengthen the importance of the throne and unify the church. His tool was an official English translation. With the support of 47 translators, he produced a translation that could be read aloud in a religious service and remembered by the people. The Authorized Version owes a great debt to the Geneva Bible and William Tyndale. This translation is still a mighty fortress that protects true Bible instruction and doctrine.



Nicolas Sarkozy is speaking out against Islam, but apparently not enough. Polls show his popularity trailing a more outspoken party.



1 | GERMANY 2 | FRANCE

Anti-Islam: Still growing

ANTI-ISLAMIC RHETORIC HAS BEEN getting tougher in recent months across Europe, especially in Germany. This is a profound trend to track because of its potential to erupt into yet another repetition of history: a religion-driven conflict between Catholic Europe and Muslims.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan sparked anger on February 27 by suggesting that Turks resist assimilation and learn Turkish, not German, as their first language. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle's terse rejoinder was decidedly anti-multiculturalist: "Children growing up in Germany must learn German first."

On March 4, new German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich told journalists: "That Islam is part of Germany is a fact that cannot be proven by history." The next day he continued, "Successful integration requires two things: knowledge of the social reality in Germany—where about 4 million Muslims live—and a clear awareness of the Western Christian origin of our culture."

Chancellor Angela Merkel's sister party, the Christian Social Union, will resist immigration "until the last bullet" in order to protect Germany's welfare system, CSU Chairman Horst Seehofer said on March 9. Opposition politician Ulrich Kaspari took such offense to the remark that

he reported Seehofer to the police for inciting hatred, accusing him of borrowing the phrase from the Nazis.

Seehofer also spoke out against Erdogan's earlier comments, saying, "A country that disregards the human rights of women as much as Turkey does, that on its own territory renders life difficult for Christians, from such a prime minister we do not need lessons about how to deal with religious minorities in our countries."

Seehofer also called for new laws to force immigrants to learn German and better integrate into German culture.

He did not have to wait long. The German parliament passed a law on March 17 mandating that foreigners complete an integration course—including a language test—before they get permanent residency. It also determined that forcing someone into marriage—a practice not uncommon among more extreme Muslims—will be punishable by up to five years in prison.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble also joined in the immigrant bashing, saying in an interview published by the *Guardian* March 18 that Germany took on too many immigrants from Turkey during the 1960s.

Last year, German Banker Thilo Sarrazin stirred the controversy by publishing a bestselling book claiming that Muslims and their failure to assimilate was the cause of many of the nation's problems. Since then, Chancellor Merkel has

declared that multiculturalism doesn't work, and Germany has grown far more astringent in how it talks about immigrants and even its own national identity.

The same trend can be seen in France. Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front, is the most popular candidate for France's 2012 presidential election race, an Internet poll found on March 6. Twenty-three percent would support Le Pen, according to the poll conducted by the Harris Institute and published by *Le Parisien*. French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Socialist Party leader Martine Aubry each would receive 21 percent of the vote.

Anti-Islamism is a major reason for the National Front's success, and Sarkozy wants to make it a core issue for his party too. Even before the poll was published, Sarkozy announced that he planned to



LE PEN

hold a public debate on the role of Islam in French society. But Le Pen's popularity shows that many in France want more.

In December, Le Pen said Muslims worshipping openly in the street represent an "occupation of territory." Polls suggest Le Pen's approach should resonate with voters. Forty-two percent say they see Islam as an internal threat.

A January poll conducted by IFOP found that two thirds of French and Germans believe that the integration of Muslims into their society has been a failure.

Almost perfectly timed to heighten these fears, French Muslims asked if they could use France's empty Catholic churches for their Friday prayers. Islamic group Banlieues Respect made the request so they would not have to pray in the street. Naturally, the Catholics were not happy about the proposal.

Biblical prophecy is clear: Another Catholic-Muslim crusade is coming, deadlier than any before. Many underestimate Europe's ability to confront this issue, but the signs are growing that it will in fact stand up forcibly to the growing tide of Islam.

NUMBERS

329 Millions of people in the eurozone

9.4 Trillions of euros available in the money supply

12.4
3.2 Interest rates paid by governments of Greece and Germany, respectively, to borrow money on a 10-year bond in the open market

3 | ITALY Crucifixes in public schools? Absolutely.



It is acceptable to display crucifixes in Italian public school classrooms, the European Court of Human Rights decided on March 18. The case divided Europe's Catholic-leaning countries from the more secular ones, and the reversal of the original decision has given Rome cause to celebrate. "The popular sentiment in Europe has won today," said Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini. The France-based court said its ruling applies only to Italian public schools and doesn't require other countries to allow crucifixes in their schools. But the verdict will affect any of the 47 Council of Europe member countries if citizens in these nations use the decision as an argument in national courts, or if governments use the ruling to justify altering their legislation on religious symbols. The Vatican embraced the ruling, saying it illustrates that crucifixes are not a tool of indoctrination but rather "an expression of the cultural and religious identity of traditionally Christian countries." The ruling is a sign that Europe is kicking against multiculturalism and becoming ripe for a Catholic revitalization.

GERMANY

Out of office, still in favor

German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg resigned on March 1 after admitting to incorrectly sourcing parts of his doctoral thesis. The



subsequent outpouring of support for him,

however, shows that his political career may not be over. "Guttenberg is venerated as a martyr," quipped Welt Online. *Bild-Zeitung* devoted its whole front page and three pages inside to Guttenberg in its March 1 edition. Over half a million people "liked" the "We Want Guttenberg Back" Facebook page. Guttenberg is still a man to watch.

Attacking the City of London

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTED BY AN OVERWHELMING majority on March 8 to impose a financial transaction tax—a so-called Tobin Tax—on every single trade conducted by European banks. When implemented, the effect of this tax on the UK will be massively disproportionate, given that around 80 percent of all European hedge fund transactions take place in London. One estimate calculated that under this proposal, without burden-sharing arrangements, of the annual €200 billion the tax will direct into EU coffers, *the UK would send up to €180 billion!*

During the debate on the tax, Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party, told the Parliament, "The biggest foreign exchange market in the world and the biggest financial sector in the world is in London. ... I would say that *there is a PLOT afoot to stop the Anglo-Saxons going on doing all of their business.* ... If we continue down this route, *Britain will lose its biggest single industry!*"

In an interview with this magazine last December, the president of the Campaign for an Independent Britain, Lord Stoddart of Swindon, said the tipping point for Britain's relationship with the EU will come only when the *business community* has finally had enough. Will this latest attack on London's financial center provide that trigger?

Bible prophecy speaks of a "raiser of taxes" hailing from a great northern power, in fact the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire (Daniel 11:20). We have consistently drawn attention to the EU being the fulfillment of that prophecy. The imposition of this latest tax impost is consistent with yet another aspect of the great prophecies of Daniel and Revelation relating to this beastly power. Bible prophecy also foretells that there is a time coming soon when no man will be able to buy or sell without the EU's permission (Revelation 13:16-17). We have warned of this time for over 70 years. This vote by the European Parliament appears to have brought that day one step closer.



4 | PORTUGAL Save the eurozone

Eurozone nations were forced to surrender more of their sovereignty when their leaders met in Brussels in March. They were negotiating over German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy's proposed "pact for competitiveness" plan to save the euro from further crisis. The leaders agreed to closely harmonize their budgetary, tax and social policies to prevent further euro crises, though the details on how to do so weren't agreed on, and the pact provides no means for its enforcement. Eurozone nations also agreed to expand the temporary euro rescue fund for countries facing economic crisis and agreed to the foundation of the permanent Euro Stability Mechanism, which in 2013 will replace the European Financial Stability Fund in bailing out eurozone nations. The fact that the pact is watered down will give Germany another chance to enforce greater demands on the rest of the eurozone, as it won't completely solve the euro crisis. The pact is just one more step toward a German-led pan-European government.



SÓCRATES

Highlighting the fact that the euro is headed for more trouble, Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates resigned on March 23 after parliament rejected his austerity package. "The defeat is likely to trigger a bailout similar to the rescue packages Greece and the Republic of Ireland had to accept last year," the BBC reported. Unless another coalition is agreed, Portugal faces another election and more uncertainty. Moody's cut the country's debt rating on March 15 and the nation was forced to pay higher rates on a debt auction the next day. Moody's also downgraded Greek debt to junk status on March 7, meaning that it deems lending to Greece more risky than lending to Egypt, and just as risky as lending to Angola or Mongolia. Spain too suffered as Moody's cut its credit rating to Aa2 on March 10.

JOHN MACDOUGALL/APPH/GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCK; JEAN-CHRISTOPHE VERHAEGEN/APPH/GETTY IMAGES

1 | TUNISIA

After a break, Islamists return

Tunisia continues to seethe. Its new prime minister, Mohamed Ghannouchi, was targeted by protesters for being too close to the former government, and he resigned on February 27. A new commission, charged with reforming the government and transitioning the country to a democracy, was created February 18. Its first meeting, on March 17, turned into a session of accusations and insults.

An Islamist group that had been outlawed by Tunisia's ousted regime, Ennahda, was legalized by the nation's interim authorities on March 1. Ennahda was founded in 1981 by Tunisia's Rached Ghannouchi. In 1989, after an Islamist-backed coalition won 17 percent of the vote, Tunisia's recently toppled Zine El Abidine Ben Ali banned the Islamist movement.

In the following years, around 30,000 activists and sympathizers were arrested and many, including Ghannouchi, went into exile. On January 30, two weeks after Ben Ali's regime was toppled, Ghannouchi returned to his homeland after 22 years and was welcomed by hundreds of thousands of Tunisians. Only one month after Ghannouchi's triumphant return, Tunisia's interim government granted Ennahda legitimacy, and the outfit is now poised to join the government.



RACHED GHANNOUCHI

4 | ETHIOPIA 5 | SOMALIA Wars and rumors of wars

Heavy fighting has been raging on the borders of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. As the Iranian-backed al-Shabaab terrorist militia tries to overthrow Somalia's weak transitional government, Ethiopian troops have crossed the Somali border to fight against the Islamic extremists. A leading al-Shabaab official made a call at a gathering on March 3 urging Muslims in both Kenya and Ethiopia to rise up against their governments. Anti-Christian violence has erupted in Ethiopia; over 4,000 Christians were displaced as a result of Muslim attacks that began the day before the al-Shabaab official issued his directive. Fifty-nine churches and at least 28 homes have been burned. What is now basically a Somali civil war could soon escalate into an interstate war between an Islamist-controlled Somalia and Ethiopia. Iran's support of the al-Shabaab terrorist militia is part of its plan to have a strong presence at the southern entrance to the Red Sea in order to control the flow of oil into the Mediterranean Sea.



Yemenis demand the ouster of President Saleh.

2 | EGYPT

A huge Brotherhood victory

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood announced on February 21 the formation of its Freedom and Justice Party, which will participate in future elections. Meanwhile, hundreds of Islamists threw stones at Mohamed ElBaradei on March 19 as the secular contender for the Egyptian presidency attempted to vote in a referendum on constitutional amendments. The referendum concerned a package of constitutional changes intended to accelerate Egypt's upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections; ElBaradei was an outspoken opponent of the planned amendments, saying that, after years of repression, Egypt's burgeoning political parties should be given ample time to organize and prepare for upcoming elections. The well-organized Muslim Brotherhood, on the other hand, was the country's primary advocate of the proposed changes, and stood to gain the most from them. The referendum's results overwhelmingly favored the rapid election process, with 77.2 percent of Egyptians voting for the amendments. This was a massive victory for the Muslim Brotherhood.

3 | YEMEN

Another anti-terror ally to fall?

In Yemen, another long-standing Middle Eastern government—a key American ally in the fight against al Qaeda—looks ready to fall. As revolutionary forces have swept the region in recent months, pressure on Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government intensified, with thousands marching to demand his resignation. Sheikh Abdul Majid al-Zindani, a controversial cleric with alleged ties to al Qaeda, joined the crowds, leading them in prayer and telling them to stick to their demands. Violence increased until, on March 18, it exploded in what some called the "Friday massacre." Snipers opened fire on antigovernment protesters, killing about 50 unarmed people and wounding over 200. This show of force inspired high-level defections among Saleh's ruling party, and a number of military leaders switched their allegiance to back the revolution, including three of the country's five military zone commanders. Saleh was virtually Yemen's only restraint against both al Qaeda and the Shiite revolt. When he is gone, both of these movements are almost certain to expand, even flourish. And evidence shows that both have been aided, encouraged and underwritten by Iran.



AL-ZINDANI

"If the Yemeni government collapses, it could be a tremendous setback for counterterrorism strategy."

MARK KIRK
ILLINOIS REPUBLICAN SENATOR





**6 | AFGHANISTAN 7 | BANGLADESH
8 | THE MALDIVES 9 | SRI LANKA
10 | PAKISTAN 11 | NEPAL 12 | BHUTAN**
Cooperating in South Asia

Beijing is prepared to bolster its cooperation and exchanges with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu said on March 1. SAARC includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Since 2005, when China became a SAARC observer, it has labored to increase its cooperation with the bloc. These warming ties provide evidence of a congealing Asian power, which the *Trumpet* has long prophesied.



Yuan to get rid of your dollars?

Beijing aims to permit all exporters and importers to conduct their cross-border business in China's yuan currency by the end of this year, the nation's central bank announced March 2. The move will help China achieve its goal of increasing the international role of its currency, and is another indication that the end of U.S. dollar domination in international transactions gets nearer all the time.

13 | INDIA 14 | RUSSIA
Asia weighs in on Libya

Beijing called on all parties to bring an immediate halt to attacks on Libya, and demanded respect of the nation's sovereignty, in a statement by China's Foreign Ministry on March 22. Chinese policymakers said they are "against excessive use of military force and the exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis and even greater casualties among civilians." India's minister of finance also spoke out against the West's interference, saying that no foreign nation should meddle with Libya's internal affairs.

Meanwhile, on March 21, the West's military involvement in Libya prompted a rare public clash between Russia's two leading men, as President Dmitry Medvedev criticized Prime Minister Vladimir Putin for calling the measures "reminiscent of a medieval call for a crusade." Medvedev said it was "unacceptable to use phrases that in effect lead to conflict between civilizations, such as 'crusades.'" It is becoming more obvious that the end of Moscow's diarchy is approaching, and Putin will likely soon take up the official reigns of Russian leadership once again.



MEDVEDEV AND PUTIN

15 | CHINA

The prize: Latin America's oil

CHINA IS POSITIONING ITSELF TO SUPPLY ITS EVER GROWING oil thirst with Latin American oil—at the expense of the United States.

The Chinese this year have secured an oil supply of nearly 600,000 barrels per day from Latin America and are set to purchase far more in the near future. According to the *Energy Tribune*, the Chinese secured deals throughout Latin America in 2010 worth at least \$65 billion in stakes of projects that could eventually produce over 1.3 million barrels of crude oil a day.

Most of China's Latin American oil investments have been with Venezuela—a country that currently supplies the U.S. with 10 percent of its oil imports.

The anti-American Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez has never been happy at the fact that he has to sell his oil to the U.S. in order to keep his country's economy afloat. He would love to redirect oil exports toward China if the opportunity arose.

The Chinese are planning a Venezuelan oil refinery with a 200,000-barrel-per-day capacity and have rented a 5 million-barrel storage facility in the Caribbean.

China must now secure an economical way to ship this oil to its own shores.

Venezuela has no Pacific coastline, and a trans-oceanic oil barge is too large to fit through the Panama Canal. These two facts make it hard to inexpensively ship Venezuelan crude to China.

The president of Colombia, however, announced in early February that the Chinese plan to build a 138-mile-long railway across his country. The completion of this railroad could transform Latin American oil politics overnight, making China a prime recipient of this oil.

America is walking blindly into a situation where 10 percent of its oil imports could be redirected to Asia due to a lack of influence over the Panama Canal and Colombia's railways.



An oil refinery in the city of Moron, Venezuela

The Internet's most dominant language?

The statistics are in: The Chinese language is positioned to surpass English as the most prevalent language on the World Wide Web. In 2010, China added 36 million Internet users, bringing the total number of Chinese people online to 450 million, according to China's State Council Information Office. That's over a third of China's population, and 140 million more people than even live in the U.S. And the number is still climbing. English is still more widely spoken than Chinese globally, and the bulk of web pages are currently published in the English language, but with Internet use in China increasing so rapidly, Chinese will most likely become the most prevalent language on the Internet within five years.



Nigerian forces under Chief of Defense Staff Oluseyi Olusegun Petinrin are getting tutored by one of the best in the business: G-TAG.



3 | SOUTH AFRICA
Defend yourself? How dare you.

A leading South African university has severed all ties with Israel's Ben-Gurion University as part of a growing campaign to isolate Israel for its defensive attacks on Gaza. The Congress of South African Trade Unions praised the University of Johannesburg for being the first to sever such ties. The 25-year relationship between the two universities officially ended on April 1. A close relationship once existed between Israel and South Africa, but this relationship is swiftly coming to an end.

1 | NIGERIA Giving Germany a foothold

THE NIGERIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY has pledged its determination to renew military ties with Germany. According to a Nigerian news article published February 20, Defense Minister Prince Adetokunbo Kayode confirmed his determination to renew his country's partnership with the German Technical Adviser Group (G-TAG).

G-TAG is an elite group of German soldiers working to train Nigerian military personnel in various technical fields. It has successfully installed a workshop in Nigeria's Mogadishu Barrack, where military officers are given mechanical and electrical course work designed to enhance their operational efficiency in peacekeeping,

law enforcement and national defense.

Foreign affairs analysts rank Nigeria as one of Africa's three most geopolitically important nations. As Egypt's fate determines the stability of Northern Africa, and South Africa's fate determines the stability of sub-Saharan Africa, so Nigeria's fate determines the stability of the oil-rich nations surrounding the Gulf of Guinea.

This fact is not lost on Germany's political leaders—who have taken great pains to develop bilateral relations with Nigeria through arms exports and military training programs. Expect German military involvement on the African continent to increase in the months to come.



4 | ZIMBABWE
Want nukes? Look no further.

During an official visit to Tehran in March, the foreign minister of Zimbabwe pledged his country's willingness to sell uranium to Iran. "Zimbabwe holds rich resources, but the problem we face is lack of budget, finance and required technical equipment to take the very rich resources out and use them," Simbarashe Mumbengegwi told the Iranian ISNA news agency on March 3. An intelligence report released in February claimed Iran was endeavoring to expand its covert global search for uranium to Zimbabwe. It looks like Zimbabwe is willing to oblige in return for Iranian money and technical assistance.

2 | MERCOSUR 'Restrictive and anti-American'

EU trade with Latin America set a new record in 2010. A report published in early March by the *Latin Business Chronicle* revealed that trade between the two regions jumped a full 31 percent last year to reach \$236.9 billion. Meanwhile, a WikiLeaks reveals that the U.S. now considers the Latin American Mercosur trade bloc an "anti-American" organization. "Mercosur gradually has transformed from an imperfect customs union to a more restrictive and anti-American organization," stated a cable summarizing the conclusions of a meeting of U.S. ambassadors in 2007. Expect the relationship between the U.S. and its Latin American neighbors to grow colder as regional leaders embrace trade partners in Europe. As the *Plain Truth* magazine predicted in July 1965, "Flowing across the Atlantic to feed the hungry furnaces of the Ruhr and the other industrial complexes of Europe will come the rich mineral wealth of Latin America."



Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo

"If we can work together on uranium mining, it will improve the economic situation of both countries."

SIMBARASHE MUMBENGEGWI
ZIMBABWE'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER

Aboard the Titanic, arguing over the bar tab

A special index designed by the U.S. Labor Department reveals that the cost of living for Americans hit a record high in February. America's attempts to print its way out of recession have only driven up both inflation and unemployment. Meanwhile, the U.S. government this year racked up its largest February deficit in history: \$223 billion. Republicans are pushing to cut \$50 billion from the yearly budget, while Democrats say they can accept no more than \$6 billion. Just February's deficit was more than four times larger than the most "extreme" proposed yearly cuts.

Britons: At least let us vote on it!

Over 20,000 people in Britain have signed an initiative calling for a referendum on whether their country should remain in the European Union. Signers of the People's Pledge promise to vote only for a candidate "who publicly promises to support a binding referendum on our EU membership and to vote for it in the House of Commons." A survey conducted by Angus Reid Public Opinion suggests that such a referendum would pull Britain out of Europe. Forty-eight percent of Britons would vote to leave the EU, versus only 27 percent to stay in.



"Over half of our laws are determined by the European Union. And yet we have no mechanism for holding those decision-makers to account."

ZAC GOLDSMITH
TORY MP

From nursery to gutter

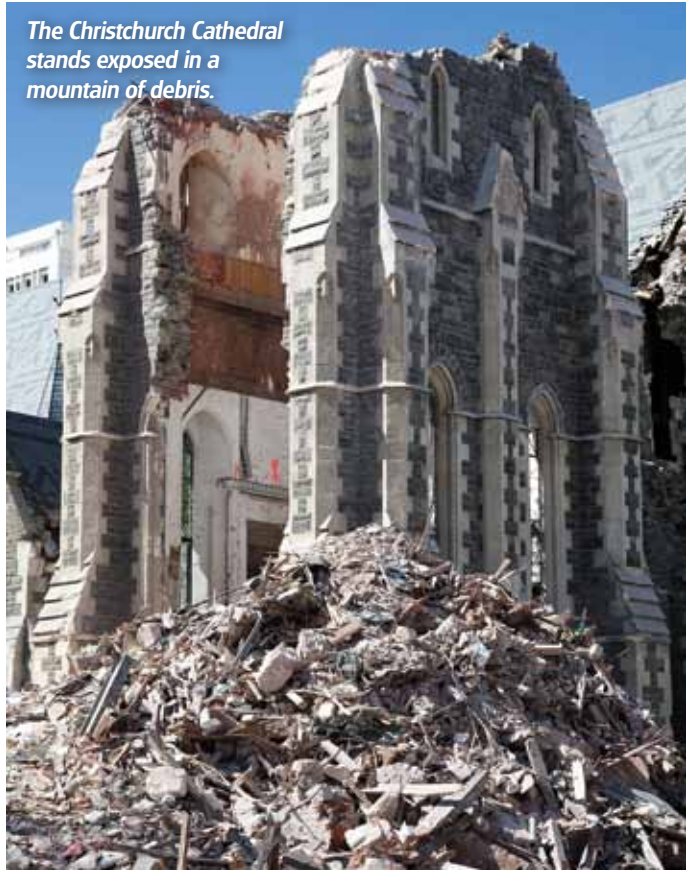
Britain's schools are giving 5-year-old children perverse sexual material as part of their sexual education, the Christian Institute exposed on March 9. Books recommended by county councils for children as young as 5 contain explicit descriptions and cartoon pictures of sexual acts. One book recommended by a council for those over age 7 calls homosexual-natural and normal.

The Reformation in reverse

Around 600 Anglicans began the process of converting to Catholicism on March 9 (Ash Wednesday). "When they become Catholic at Easter, then they can receive holy communion in the Catholic Church," a spokesman for the Catholic bishops' conference explained. "There is a gap of few weeks where they prepare." These new converts, which include around 20 priests, will join the Ordinariate set up for them by the pope. This group is set to swell beyond 600, with many planning on joining in a second wave of converts. The Ordinariate's leader, Keith Newton, wants to actively expand the branch by seeking to convert new members. This is a small part of a movement that will eventually see the Church of England engulfed entirely by Rome.



The Christchurch Cathedral stands exposed in a mountain of debris.



The other city-killing quake

IT'S EASY TO FORGET IN THE WAKE OF THE HORRIFIC QUAKE that struck Japan on March 11, but just 17 days earlier, a temblor leveled parts of the second-largest city in New Zealand.

"It is just a scene of utter devastation," said Prime Minister John Key after viewing the aftermath of the 6.3-magnitude earthquake that hit Christchurch on February 22. At least 166 people were killed and hundreds of buildings destroyed. "We may well be witnessing New Zealand's darkest day."

Located just 3 miles from city center at a depth of only 2.5 miles, the quake wrought extreme damage. It was the second quake in five months, but the previous 7.1 magnitude quake caused less damage because it was located much deeper.

Christchurch's central business district is expected to remain cordoned off for several months. Just assessing the damage to homes is expected to take four months. The cost of rebuilding the city has been put at as high as US\$14.8 billion.

It is not pure circumstance that New Zealand has been subject to great catastrophe over recent months. God declares of the Anglo-Saxon nations that we are like sheep that have gone astray (Isaiah 53:6). Out of an overwhelming love for these people, the Eternal God simply reproves them by increasing the punishment on them for breaking His law. Much of that punishment comes in the form of so-called natural catastrophes. God will continue to bring such penalties on His people to draw their attention to the reality that they are out of step with His will. And He will do this till repentance occurs and they turn to Him for help.

In all this, the great mercy of an all-wise, all-loving God is summed up in His plea to His people: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" (Ezekiel 33:11).

Help Yourself to Radiant Health

How exercise profits the Christian life! **BY WAYNE TURGEON**

DO YOU HAVE VIBRANT, RADIANT health? Perhaps you are handicapped or sick, or have some other physical ailment that prevents you from truly enjoying life. Maybe you are young, enjoying the blessing of youthful vitality and dynamism. Or are you feeling lethargic, tired and physically uninspired?

Whatever your current health, you need to understand deeply the importance of a key law of health: exercise.

The Need for Exercise

Sometimes 1 Timothy 4:8 is quoted as an argument against exercise: “For bodily exercise profiteth little” The correct rendering of this verse, however, is, “For bodily exercise profits *for a little time*.” The Apostle Paul acknowledged that exercise indeed profits, but compared to godliness, its benefits are temporary.

That is a wonderfully positive statement about both godliness *and exercise*! Certainly bodily exercise indeed profits for a little time: the time we are physical human beings!

The Apostle John wrote in 3 John 2, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” Exercise is an important component of having such robust health.

The two basic types of exercise are anaerobic and aerobic. Generally, anaerobic activities—like weight lifting—build muscles. One of the benefits of weight-bearing exercise is the fact that it strengthens bones, something women who tend to lose a lot of calcium (resulting in osteoporosis) should be mindful of. Aerobic activities (which require continuous deep breathing) strengthen the cardiovascular system—the heart, lungs and liver. Typical aerobic exercises would be jogging and brisk walking. Some exercise programs combine

these two types, doing strength-related activity with rapidity and intensity to encourage heavy breathing.

Aerobic exercise is particularly important to your health. Consider how hard it is for you to repeatedly open and close your hand. By repeatedly clenching, opening, clenching, and opening our fist, we can simulate the repetitive action of our heart. However, our heart doesn’t tire anywhere near as easily as our hand does. Our heart contracts and dilates at an average rate of 72 times a minute, 100,000 times a day, and close to 40 million times a year! No wonder King David said, “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ...” (Psalm 139:14).

The heart, the most important life-sustaining organ, needs aerobic exercise to operate at peak performance. *Adult Physical Fitness* notes, “Muscles are meant to be used. When they are not used, or not used enough, they deteriorate.” Indeed, inaction demands a penalty. Eventually, if we don’t exercise, our heart becomes smaller and less efficient, pumping less blood; meanwhile, the bloodstream slows, delivers less oxygen to tissues, and eliminates less waste.

Of course, as we get older, it takes more effort to exercise. Children and other responsibilities can easily crowd it out. But consider the many benefits exercise can bring, and ask yourself whether it doesn’t deserve a higher priority in your life. Exercise can turn fat into fitness, fatigue into vitality, and worry about health into abundant, joy-filled living! Almost immediately, tired blood will be revived: The volume of our blood will increase, and blood flow will improve by about eight to ten times. Fatty substances in our blood (cholesterol and triglycerides) will be reduced, lessening danger of arterial blockage. Plus, our organs will convert food and oxygen into energy more rapidly. Exercise will also firm up muscles, improve

posture, contribute to a better physical appearance, reduce minor aches and pains, headaches and stiffness, and help to make joints more flexible. In many cases, exercise helps to combat many chronic problems, such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, emphysema, and other physical ailments. Exercise will also increase the efficient use of energy in physical and mental tasks.

For these reasons and so many more, exercise is vital to our ongoing wellbeing. As the YMCA says, it may not add years to your life, but it may add life to your years.

Which Kinds?

What exercises are most beneficial for us, and how should we do them? Before we answer this question, consider the following. If you have any questions about whether you should exercise, it may be wise to get a physical check-up to determine how much and what type of exercise would be suitable for you—especially if you’re handicapped or ill. The Gospel writer Luke was a physician and would have been well-versed on the natural, physical laws of God that govern the human body (Colossians 4:14).

In starting any type of exercise program, use wisdom. Remember to start gradually; to begin with a warm-up period and end with a cool-off period; to stretch and relax—two often overlooked but vital components to building flexibility.

You may need to work up to this kind of pace, but it is ideal to exercise daily or at least several times a week. A good rule of thumb is 20 to 30 minutes of exercise three times a week.

What kind of exercise is beneficial? Anything is better than nothing. If all you can do is walk briskly, that is fantastic. If you can add more, or strive for more, then consider doing so as long as you don’t place your health at risk by going to extremes.

Generally, there are three types of



exercises to keep in mind: warm-up, conditioning and circulatory exercises.

Warm-up exercises stretch and limber up muscles while also speeding up the action of the heart and lungs. They also prepare the body for greater exertion and reduce the possibility of unnecessary strain. Bends and stretches, knee lifts, arm circles, head and shoulder curls and ankle stretches are just a few of these exercises. These need not be done for too long.

Toe touches, sprinting, sitting stretches, push-ups and sit-ups are *conditioning exercises*. Conditioning exercises produce contractions of the large muscle groups for relatively longer periods than the warm-up exercises. Both the warm-up and conditioning exercises are generally considered anaerobic.

Finally, *circulatory exercises* stimulate and strengthen the circulatory (blood flow) and respiratory (breathing) systems. Walking, jumping rope, jog-walking, jogging and running all qualify. Cycling and swimming are also good choices.

Alternatively, if you have not been doing any exercises and would rather ease into the habit, consider modifying your daily activities. For instance, instead of parking your car closest to the door at work or the grocery store, park it farther away and walk that distance. Try taking the stairs at work rather than the elevator, or hand deliver a number of messages around the office rather than communicating only by e-mail and phone. Consider doing a little gardening around your home, or pick weeds out of your lawn. Each can add a little more

exercise to your daily routine.

Once in an exercise mind-frame, consider using a variety of exercises and activities to avoid getting bored and losing motivation. The biggest challenge you will face is maintaining the ambition to continue an exercise program! A *majority* of people who start an exercise program quit within 6 to 12 months. However, the Apostle Paul encouraged us all to “not be weary in well doing” (Galatians 6:9). Some simple steps you can take to sustain motivation include: 1) set reasonable goals; 2) go for variety; 3) track your progress (this could include measuring anything from your body weight or your waistline to your time running a 5K); 4) seek support (exercise with a friend); 5) devise a back-up plan for when conditions don’t work out for your primary exercise.

Most of all, though, God’s perspective on health and the importance He places on exercise should be our biggest motivator! Here are some reasons why God wants us, if we can, to be physically fit.

• **To be more effective for God.** Without our health, it is difficult to do much else. *Good health* is the third law Herbert W. Armstrong outlined in his booklet *The Seven Laws of Success* (request your free copy). “If the bellows we call lungs do not keep inhaling and exhaling the oxygen-containing air, man won’t live to achieve any goal,” he wrote.

• **To set the right example.** The

two most powerful ways our children learn are by association and by imitation. Too many parents teach very impressionable children to “Do as I say, not as I do.” What kind of example do we set?

• **To be more effective for God.** If we have our health, we can serve God more fully. Early on, Mr. Armstrong knew he couldn’t serve God as successfully without effervescent health. He made it part of his education to study the factors that led to good health, and he followed them. He didn’t believe in retirement, and he did his most productive work in the last decade of his life before dying in his 94th year.

• **To follow Christ.** 1 Peter 2:21 states, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.” By obeying the health laws He set in motion, Christ set a wonderful example that we are commanded to follow. He was an energetic, dynamic leader and would not have held up as well as He did under the extreme punishment at the end of His life had He not observed every physical health law.

As much as possible, God wants us all to be healthy and physically fit! Again, God inspired the Apostle John to write, “Beloved, I wish *above all things* that thou mayest prosper and be in health.”

The unhappy results of breaking this law of radiant health are all around us. Buck the trend, keep this vital law, and reap the benefits today!



For more information on how to have good health, request our free booklet ***The Seven Laws of Success***.



FAMILY OF VICTIMS
Funeral attendees in Jerusalem contemplate the coffins of a father, a mother, an 11-year-old, a 3-year-old and a 3-month-old—all stabbed to death in cold blood.

'This Circle of Horror and River of Tears'

An escalation in violence sends a chilling message to Israel. **BY JOEL HILLIKER AND STEPHEN FLURRY**

WHAT KIND OF SICK MIND WOULD brutally murder women, children and infants in their own home with a knife? And what kind of sick people would celebrate it?

These are questions Israel and the world need to be asking after the March 11 murder of five members of a Jewish family living in the Israeli town of Itamar.

Against the backdrop of a region in turmoil, with protests and revolutions toppling one government after another, in March Israel was thrust into the middle of the maelstrom. The Itamar massacre, bad as it was, actually served as an ominous warning of more to come. Soon after, Hamas resumed launching rockets at southern Israel. Then, on March 23, a bomb exploded at a Jerusalem bus stop, killing a British woman and injuring more than

30 others—the first time in nearly seven years that the city was hit by a bomb.

Added together, these attacks represent a deliberate escalation of violence against Israel.

And looming larger than ever before, behind the scenes, is *the Islamic Republic of Iran*. From the very beginning of the region-wide turmoil that started in December, Iran has been covertly working to first destabilize, and then dominate, the entire Middle East.

With this in mind, what a *perfect* time this is for it to provoke another conflict with the Jewish state.

Nightmare in Itamar

The facts of the Itamar murders are appalling and nauseating. That Friday evening, just after the Sabbath began, terrorists jumped an Israeli security fence to enter the

West Bank town. They broke into a home there, apparently chosen at random, and found Udi Fogel, age 36, sleeping in bed holding his 3-month-old daughter, Hadas.

They slit both of their throats.

When Udi's wife, Ruth, emerged from the bathroom, they stabbed her to death.

They then moved through the house and found a bedroom with two of the Fogels' sons: Yoav, age 11, was reading in bed and Elad, age 3, was sleeping. They slashed Yoav's throat and stabbed Elad twice through the heart.

Apparently the terrorists didn't see two more Fogel boys—Roi, 6 years old, sleeping on the living room couch, and Yishai, just 2 years old, asleep in another bedroom. They fled the house without harming them.

The Fogels' 12-year-old daughter, Tamara, was at a youth event with some friends. When she came home two hours later, she

found the door locked. She woke up Roi by calling through the living room window. When he let her in and she went to the bedrooms, she saw the blood-soaked horror and ran from the house screaming.

The incident stunned the entire nation. At the Fogels' funeral just two days later, the cemetery in Jerusalem was filled with thousands of Jewish mourners.

In his heartfelt address, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau spoke to Tamar directly: "In one cruel hour, you have become a little mother. You are now the mother of little Roi and Yishai, and you are only 12 years old."

He also addressed a nation stricken with grief. "We've made it 63 years, we've declared a state and won independence and founded a glorious army," Lau said, "and still this circle of horror and river of tears is flowing, and we stand helpless with a feeling that is impossible to put into words."

This tragedy received scant attention amid coverage of the tsunami that hit Japan the very same day, along with a dizzying torrent of other earthshaking news. But it uniquely highlighted the savagery of the Middle East conflict and the insurmountable odds stacked against the Jewish state.

More disturbingly, when one looks at the biblical prophecies of what awaits Israel in the time ahead, the Itamar murders are, sadly, *only a foretaste of what is coming upon the whole nation.*

"We stand helpless" is about to prove to be a sickening understatement.

Celebrating and Seeking Death

Who would commit such an incomprehensibly barbaric act?

The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claimed responsibility. This is the terrorist wing of Fatah. (Some members of the group later retracted this claim.)

Fatah is the political party of Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas is chairman of the Palestinian Authority and supposed partner in the "peace process" with Israel.

Abbas responded to the butchery by denying that the PA incites violence against Israel.

This claim is ridiculous, undermined by mounds of proof. The very day of the Fogels' funeral, Fatah officials named a town square in Ramallah after a woman terrorist who led a 1978 attack that killed 37 Israelis. Just two months before, Abbas himself awarded \$2,000 to the family of a terrorist who tried to kill Israeli soldiers. He said in December, "We have frankly said, and always will say, if there is an independent Palestinian state with

Jerusalem as its capital, we won't agree to the presence of one Israeli in it."

Meanwhile, the other major force in Palestinian politics, Hamas, celebrated the Fogels' murders by handing out candy and sweets on the streets of Gaza. One resident described the slayings as "a natural response to the harm settlers inflict on the Palestinian residents in the West Bank." Murdering children and infants—to these Palestinians, this is a "natural response" to housing construction.

Hamas spoke on its website about the homicides—but what it posted in English differed markedly from what it posted in Arabic. Its terse English statement denied any connection to the attack, and even suggested that Palestinians may not have carried it out. In Arabic, however, the message was more eloquent, openly praising the "Palestinian mujahid" ("holy" warrior) for being "able to break into the usurper (settlement) of 'Itamar' south of Nablus in the occupied (West) Bank" and stab "five Zionist usurpers." Zionist usurpers, that is, like 3-year-old Elad and 3-month-old Hadas.

Al Mutarjim, who translated this Arabic-language statement into English, noted that the post received dozens of comments, all of which *applauded* the murders. A sample: "Allah is great, to Allah be the praise. The separate factions of the resistance should change their tactics, and rely more heavily on individual operations, which cannot be detected and thwarted by the lackeys of the authorities, rather than forming cells. They should devise new methods for combat by knife, strangulation, breaking necks, poison, and every method which is not known by your enemy."

Another read: "Allah is great, and to Allah be the praise. May you prosper, o mujahid. May Allah preserve you, and remove the eyes of the Jews and their agents far from you."

These are the people that Israel is apparently meant to appease by engaging them in the "peace process" and offering concessions to their leaders. People who glory in the massacre of Jewish babies.

Circle of horror, indeed.

Israel's Wound

These events are only the latest bits on a mountain of macabre evidence showing the utter folly of the Jews ever trying to negotiate their way to a peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians—a people saturated in hatred and hostility toward their

very being. The idea that peace will come if only Israel stops building, or retreats from more land, or allows more Arabs to move into the country, has no grounds. The overwhelming evidence shows that the Palestinians simply do not want and will not accept a peace deal with the Jews.

The Jews' realization of the impossibility of negotiating a two-state solution with the Arabs has been washing over them in stages in recent years. While caving in to pressure yet again and again, the recognition that the peace process has in fact *wounded* the nation—sapped Israel's strength, depleted Israel's land, and exhausted Israel's will to fight and survive—is dawning.

This realization was specifically prophesied in your Bible. The prophecy is recorded in Hosea 5:13: "When ... Judah [the biblical name for today's Jewish State of Israel] saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and [Judah] sent to [Assyrian] king Jareb ..." Longtime *Trumpet* readers know that Gerald Flurry has pointed to Judah's "wound" being the peace process ever since the Oslo talks in 1993.

Hosea's prophecy reveals a moment when Israel sees its deadly wound—it recognizes the folly of the paradoxical "peace" process—and acts in desperation. That moment is getting closer. As we explain in our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, this will result in a devastating outcome for the Jewish state.

The Jews would do well to heed. In the prophetic picture, the Itamar massacre once again serves as an ominous warning of worse to come.

On to Jerusalem

The escalating tensions between the Palestinians and Jews have already been compared to the run-up to Operation Cast Lead two years ago. Israel responded to the rocket attacks in March by firing missiles at launching pads in Gaza.

"No country would be prepared to absorb protracted missile fire on its cities and civilians, and of course the State of Israel is not prepared to," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu explained. "It could be that this matter will entail exchanges of blows, and it may take a certain period of time, but we are very determined to strike at the terrorist elements and deny them the means of attacking our citizens."

Outside of the commonly known support Iran provides Hamas and several

See **TEARS** page 36 ►



For the most up-to-date news on events impacting Israel, visit trmpt.co/Israel

Christians Have Lost Their POWER!

Probably you, too, are spiritually powerless! Here is the shocking truth! Read why your prayers are not directly—miraculously—answered! **BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG**

Reprinted from the Good News, February 1983

THE CHANCES ARE THAT EVEN YOU, if you believe you are a Christian, are today on *mighty dangerous ground!*

You'd better STOP—and *check up!*

Open your Bible! Take a look at the *real Christians* back in the days of Peter, John and Paul—AND COMPARE! Take a look at the POWER in the original true Church—in the lives of *those* Christians. See how *your* life stacks up!

... But Are You Sure?

You *think* you are under God's GRACE? Safe and secure for all eternity?

Well, *listen!* "Let him that thinketh he standeth *take heed* lest he FALL!" So warns God's Word (1 Corinthians 10:12). It's time to realize you are going to be finally *judged* by the very WORD OF GOD. You need to see to *what standard* you must measure up.

Jesus told His disciples just before He ascended to heaven that they should receive POWER when they were converted. "[Y]e shall receive POWER, after that the Holy [Spirit] is come upon you," He said (Acts 1:8).

Do *you* have that same POWER today? Did you ever study closely to see *what that power IS?* Have you ever been concerned about *HOW you may receive it?*

Have you ever checked to see *WHETHER you need it?* It's time you did, for without it YOU ARE NOT TRULY CHRIST'S!

What We Do See

Of course many of you professing Christians see that you must accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior to be saved.

You may even see that you must *repent* of transgressing God's law—His spiritual law, as summarized in the Ten Commandments—because *sin is* the transgression of the law.

Perhaps you've gone far enough to realize *WHY* you were born—you've learned God's great PURPOSE being worked out here below.

You may *see* that today ALL NATIONS are spiritually *drunk* on the false pagan doctrines of the modern spiritual "Babylon"—that all nations are *deceived*—that the TRUTH has been turned upside down.

You may *see* that even the churches are deceived, and have turned away from the truth and embraced fables.

You may *realize* that *grace* has been turned into *license!*

You may even have progressed so far as to comprehend that God is *molding* our lives until we shall be literally BORN of Him—His character created within us—this *mortal* becoming *immortal*—this human becoming *divine* in the very Kingdom of God.

But haven't you overlooked, or *failed to "see,"* the POWER of the Holy Spirit of God within you?

You may have come to see how evil and paganized this world has become, and to be *disgusted* with its ways.

You may *recognize* that you must forsake YOUR WAY, and turn to and *live*

God's WAY! Yes, you may fully understand that Isaiah said: "Seek ye the [ETERNAL] while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked *for-sake HIS WAY,* and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS ..." (Isaiah 55:6-7).

But have you *overlooked* or neglected verse 1: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the WATERS ..." ? Thirsty for *what?* WHAT "waters"? Why, the very "waters" Jesus spoke of: "If any man thirst," He said, "let him come unto me, and *drink.* He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [innermost being] shall *flow RIVERS of living water.* (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should *receive:* for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:37-39).

Have you ever fully realized that the Holy Spirit is something that was not born in you?

We hear a lot today about tapping your own inner hidden resources—the dormant powers *within* your mind. Modern religions are springing up calling that sleeping, dormant, latent *part* of your mind "God"!

But the Holy Spirit is something you have *not had*—something you must RECEIVE from GOD! Something infinitely greater and more POWERFUL than any powers *within* you—something from the great God who *created YOU*—who created the entire vast universe and all that exists!

It is the essence—the very *life*—the NATURE of God. But it also is something from God, which He *gives* you from

We hear a lot today about tapping your own inner hidden resources—the dormant powers within your mind. But the Holy Spirit is something you have not had—something you must receive from God!

Himself, which is actually a *part* of Himself—and which IMPARTS POWER!

Do you know *what* that power *is*? Has *that* POWER come into you, so that you can *wield* it?

You, as a professing Christian, may have come to realize, to see, to comprehend, many of these things—to have accepted them—but is this POWER actually being manifested in *your* life? Are you *sure* you know *WHAT* that power *is*?

What Is This Strange Power?

First, let me tell you what this power is NOT.

It is *not* an emotion physically worked up through the senses. It is *not* something that *you* can generate, or work up, yourself.

It is *not* a “loosened tongue” that suddenly becomes glib and loud and forward in “spiritual”-sounding phrases. It is *not* a *bragging* tongue.

It is *not* falling over backward “*under* the power.” It is *not* being *robbed* of all power, as some people who have accepted the counterfeit *emotional* religion are, while “*under* the power.”

It is *not* something that makes people shout, shriek, jerk, laugh insanely and uncontrollably, or go through ridiculous and childish antics in a meeting where the preacher *generates* a fake, false “power” and a counterfeit spirit by constantly calling for loud emotional responses of “Hallelujah!” “Praise the Lord!” “Amen!” etc., in response to his oft-repeated: “All who believe it say ‘AMEN!’” etc.

To know what it truly is, look into your Bible!

Jesus is our example, and we find this POWER first of all in His life. It was nothing physically inherent within Him. He said: “I can of *mine own self* do NOTHING” (John 5:30). But, He said, “the Father that *dwelleth in me*, he doeth the works” (John 14:10). The Father dwelt IN Jesus by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit imparted POWER. What was that power?

The inspired Peter, bringing salvation to the Gentiles for the first time, explained: “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy [Spirit] and with POWER: who went about *doing good, and healing* all that were oppressed of the devil; for *God was with him*” (Acts 10:38).

Notice, that POWER *in* Jesus did none of those things that are done today by the very ones who most loudly profess to have the power of the Holy Spirit. He used that power, going about quietly, unobtrusively, not shouting, bragging, falling helpless “under the power,” or any of those “wild-fire” things—but DOING!

Yes, His was a life of DOING—but doing *what*? Doing GOOD! Serving, helping OTHER PEOPLE! There was *divine* power—with it He performed MIRACLES—He HEALED all that were sick—He cast out demons, and had discernment to *know* when a person was demon-possessed.

His was the POWER of the Creator GOD! The *very same* POWER that produced all creation—when “He spake”! God is a *miracle-working God*! With that POWER, which came from the Father, and was *in* Jesus, He stilled the storm, He turned water into wine, He fed 5,000 with only five loaves and two fishes!

The Power of the True Church!

Now notice that POWER in the original Church, before the apostasy set in, and before the degeneracy of our day.

Soon after being filled with that power from God, Peter and John went up together into the temple at Jerusalem, at the 3 p.m. hour of prayer. They entered through the gate called “Beautiful.” At the gate a beggar, crippled from birth, asked for money.

“Look on us,” said Peter. “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk”!

Grasping the beggar’s right hand in perfect faith, Peter lifted him sharply to his feet. The beggar was healed instantly. He *leaped* up, and then walked with Peter and John into the temple, leaping as he went, shouting out praises to God (Acts 3:1-8).

Jesus, powerless of His own *human self*, was filled with the divine POWER of the Creator. The very supernatural power of God did the WORK OF GOD through His human BODY. Jesus said, “The works that I do in the Father’s name, they bear witness of me” (John 10:25). And again, “If I do *not* the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do ... believe the works: *that ye may know*, and believe, that the Father

is in me, and I in him” (John 10:37-38).

Today that *same Spirit*—that SAME SUPERNATURAL POWER—utilizes the *collective body* of the true Church of God as God’s human instrumentality, through which God accomplishes His work here on Earth. In that way the true CHURCH is also the BODY OF CHRIST (1 Corinthians 12:27).

And Jesus said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do *shall he do also*; and greater works than these shall he do ...” (John 14:12).

That same POWER of God was in Peter and John. It did the WORK OF GOD in proclaiming Christ’s gospel.

God’s Power in Action!

The miraculous healing of the beggar aroused the antagonism of the priests and Sadducees until they seized Peter and John and threw them into prison for the night. The next day, these religious leaders threatened them, commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Then these *true* Christians went immediately to their own group of believers. And here is a point I want you to get. They were human. They had none of this power inherent within themselves. They, themselves, were not the *source* of this dynamic power. It had come from God.

And the important point is this: WE DO NOT RECEIVE ENOUGH OF THIS DIVINE POWER ALL AT ONCE TO LAST FOREVER.

Remember, Jesus said this power of God SHALL FLOW OUT from our innermost being! (John 7:38). This POWER of God is active—dynamic! It is not static. You cannot get a supply of God’s Spirit, and then bottle it up within you. This power comes into you from God *daily*! It *circulates* from God into YOU and then on out *from* you in love, in faith, in joy, in patience—even in performing miracles.

You might have been imbued with this power yesterday and depleted of it today!

A Refilling of Power

The threatenings of these chief priests and elders, after a night in prison, apparently left Peter and John a little depleted of faith and the confident POWER of God. Yes, they were human!

The same power of God's Spirit that worked in the human body of Jesus worked in the collective body of God's Church in the days of the original apostles. That same power works in the collective Body of Christ—His Church—today!

They went to their brethren in Christ. When they reported what had happened, all their brethren were shaken. They, too, being human, must have felt a sudden sense of spiritual inadequacy—a lack of power!

But they sensed and knew their *NEED*. They knew the *SOURCE* of constant *refilling* of this *POWER OF GOD* within them! They didn't delay! They went immediately to the *SOURCE* of their divine power!

"And when they had heard that, *they lifted up their voice to GOD with one accord*, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is. ... And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" (Acts 4:24, 29-30).

Yes, suddenly this company realized their own human inadequacy—realized their need of renewed *POWER FROM GOD*. They didn't run from their difficulty! They didn't cower and tremble in fear. They didn't give up their great commission. They went directly to the *SOURCE* of their power.

They yielded themselves into God's hands, as His servants, anew. They urgently, intently, cried to God to *FILL THEM* with His power—to give them boldness, faith, power of speech. They asked God fervently and believingly to heal and perform miracles.

Was there any God listening? Was there any response? Listen!

"And when they had prayed, the *PLACE WAS SHAKEN* where they were assembled together; and they were all *FILLED* with the Holy [Spirit], and they spake the word of God with boldness. ... And with *GREAT POWER* gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus ..." (Acts 4:31, 33).

We Need It Today

Do you, today, have the *SAME POWER* the original Christians had? They were just as

human as *YOU*! The *real* question, then, is this: *Do you* yield yourself as fully—surrender your will as unconditionally to God—pray as often, as earnestly and intently, as they? If you *do* you will be filled with as much of the divine *POWER* as they—for God is no respecter of persons!

This same *POWER OF GOD* operated actively, continually, in those early original Christians. They actually *did* do greater works than Jesus—until even the shadow of Peter passing over the sick healed them! *THEY DID THE VERY WORK OF GOD!*

The work of God, which God *started* in the individual body of disciples, now becoming the *BODY OF CHRIST*—the true *CHURCH* of God!

The same *POWER* of God's Spirit that worked in the human body of Jesus worked in the collective body of God's Church in the days of the original apostles. That same power works in the collective *BODY OF CHRIST*—His Church—today!

The great commission is this: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel ..." (Mark 16:15). Not some *other* gospel, as Paul prophesied would be preached (2 Corinthians 11). That true first-century Church, empowered by God, carried on this true *WORK OF GOD!*

Then the great apostasy set in. The apostate *false church* (Revelation 17:1-5) rose up in A.D. 33, two years after Christ started His *true* Church. It *professed* to be Christian, taking on Christ's name.

This professing Christian church turned away its ear from the *TRUTH* and turned to *FABLES* (2 Timothy 4:4). Pagans flocked in, embracing what they called "Christianity" wholesale—bringing in with them their pagan beliefs and practices! The ancient Babylonian "mysteries" came to be labeled, falsely, "Christianity"! *THE WHOLE WORLD, TODAY, IS DECEIVED!* (Revelation 17:1-2; 12:9).

But there continued, also, God's *true* Church, pictured in Revelation 12—persecuted by Satan and his great false church of Revelation 17. No longer was this persecuted Church able to proclaim the true gospel to all nations—to the whole world—in great power.

But Jesus had said, prophetically, that

just before the *END* of this world—*right NOW*—"This gospel of the *KINGDOM* shall be preached *in all the world* for a witness unto *ALL NATIONS*; and *then* shall the end come"! (Matthew 24:14).

Today *that* prophecy is being fulfilled, right before your eyes this very second! Today God is opening *gigantic DOORS*—the doors of radio, television and the printing press. Doors of *MASS COMMUNICATIONS*. The original, true gospel of Jesus Christ—the *same* gospel He brought from God and taught—is broadcast into *EVERY CONTINENT* around the world! It is hitting this world with terrific *IMPACT*—with tremendous *POWER!*

This very *WORK OF GOD* for our day is foretold in the prophecy of Revelation 3:7-13. But there is revealed that we, today, are a people of but *little* strength—*little power!* (verse 8)—within ourselves—though we have faithfully *KEPT GOD'S WORD!* The impact of this *WORK OF GOD* today is going out only through the *power of God!* Are you having *your part* in this very *WORK OF GOD?*

But—*let's face it!*—*WE DO NOT HAVE WITHIN OURSELVES, AS GOD'S INSTRUMENTS FOR HIS WORK TODAY, ANYWHERE NEAR THE POWER OF GOD THAT ACTIVATED THAT ORIGINAL FIRST-CENTURY CHURCH!*

For that very reason, the living Christ says (verse 8), He has opened to us the *gigantic* door of *MASS COMMUNICATION!* The magnified power of the microphone and the printing press. Yet that is only physical, mechanical power! The *REAL POWER* that makes God's work *vital* and *alive* is the Holy Spirit of God!

We need to present our *bodies* a living sacrifice to *GOD!* (Romans 12:1). We need to receive a greater *TRANSFORMING*—and to be *LESS CONFORMED* to this present evil world! We need to *REPENT!* We need to more earnestly *SEEK GOD!* We need to put on the *WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD*, as we are admonished in Ephesians 6:10-18! Perhaps some of us need to *FAST* and *PRAY*—as Jesus did!

Have *YOU* enough of the *POWER OF GOD* flowing dynamically into, and out from you? *YOU* need to seek a much closer contact with your *GOD!*



The Self-Righteousness of Job

How could a man so right have been so wrong?

JOB WAS THE MOST RIGHTEOUS MAN OF HIS DAY—PERFECT AND upright, the Bible says—famous and well liked for his many good deeds (Job 1:1). He used his great power and wealth to help the disadvantaged—the poor, the fatherless and the widows. He even used his great influence to destroy pagan forms of worship.

The problem was, Job *knew* he was righteous—and this made him horribly SELF-righteous. This sin is the most difficult sin there is to see. Though Job was “perfect and upright” in how he observed the strict letter of God’s law, he was neglecting the *spirit* of the law. He was full of vanity and pride.

Because of this, God allowed him to endure a horrendous period of trial and test so he could clearly see himself in relation to God! God told Satan he could destroy all of Job’s wealth—even his children—but couldn’t touch Job himself (verses 6-12). God actually USED Satan to chasten Job for his self-righteousness.

A second time, Job’s children were feasting, and God allowed Satan to strike them dead (verse 13). On the surface, Job maintained a right attitude and knew exactly what to say (verses 20-22), but this only added to his deep-seated problem.

God then allowed Satan to lash out at Job *personally*, striking him with sore boils from head to toe (Job 2). While Job’s sin still didn’t show itself outwardly, on the inside Job just couldn’t understand why he, *of all people*, would be tried and tested with such severity.

During Job’s trial, his three friends Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar came to console him (verse 11). The next 30 chapters of the story recite the dialogue that followed between Job and his three

friends. None of these counselors, however, provided God’s solution to Job’s problem, which is why God eventually corrected *them*. They could only accuse Job of being guilty of some obvious, visible sin, even though they

When Job’s friends began to blame Job, he tried to maintain his own righteousness instead of God’s. That was at the core of Job’s problem!

themselves didn’t know what it was. When Job demanded they show him where he had erred, they couldn’t point out one mistake he had made (Job 6:24).

Even when suffering through the worst trial of his life, Job remained impressed with his righteousness. And not just him: Those who knew him best were also awed by his uprightness and many special talents and abilities (Job 29:8-10).

None of the counsel helped because Job was righteous in his *own* eyes (Job 32:1).

At this point, Elihu entered the scene. He was angry with Job for putting himself above God and with the three counselors because they only criticized Job without getting to the cause of the

problem (Job 32:2-3). By maintaining his innocence even as God was correcting him, Job showed that he thought he was greater than God. So God inspired Elihu to give Job proper perspective (Job 33:8-12).

Job was striving against God, Elihu said (verse 13), like potter’s clay talking back to the potter. Job’s big problem was not some secret sin he was hiding, but the fact that he gave credit to *himself* and not to God for all of his righteous deeds! Job actually held his own righteousness in higher esteem than God’s (Job 35:1-2).

In Job 36 and 37, Elihu magnified the great God. Job may have known and even applied the strict *letter* of God’s law, but he fell far short of knowing the magnificent wonder of the Creator. While the other three friends had spoken of God’s right to bring punishment upon sinners, Elihu spoke of God’s superabundant love and mercy—and His willingness to *give* salvation to those who turn to Him in repentance.

Finally, God addressed Job. A brilliant architect, Job may have built great pyramids, but God built the UNIVERSE (Job 38:3-4). Job made the mistake of comparing himself with other men, and he ended up getting a big head. We must compare our works to the works of God—not men (2 Corinthians 10:12).

God said, *I don’t care if you’ve built 50 million structures and given 50 million dollars to the poor*. Next to my works, that is just filthy rags (Job 38:5-7; Isaiah 64:6). Job thought he knew so much. But how much knowledge did he really have?

“[B]y the time God finished, Job’s estimation of *himself* was exactly *nil*,” Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in an article titled “Why Must Men Suffer?” “Job was able to maintain his case against Satan—against his friends. But now he could not answer GOD! Job’s trouble was not what he had *done*, but what he *was*—SELF-RIGHTEOUS! The *self* in Job had never died!” (*Plain Truth*, October 1957).

In chapter 42, Job humbly admitted for the first time that he simply DID NOT KNOW. While Job had said similar things before, he didn’t really believe it from the heart (verses 2-3). He had been deceived by his own vanity.

Just like so many in this world, Job had a false image of God (verses 4-5). At last he repented of his wrong attitude and finally saw himself clearly and in comparison to God (compare verse 6 to Job 13:1).

When Job’s friends began to blame Job, he tried to maintain his own righteousness instead of God’s. That was at the core of Job’s problem! The lesson of Job proves it is possible to be right, technically speaking, yet horribly wrong.

Satan wants you to get to the point where you don’t really see yourself for what you are. We all must fight this satanic mindset and turn to God in repentance like Job, whose name means *repentant*.

Everything changed for the better—and dramatically so—once Job finally turned to God in humble repentance (James 5:11). In the end, after Job got his mind off himself and onto others, God blessed him with twice as much as he had before!



INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ

Is God Trying to Save the World?

The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

AMONG PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD, IT IS commonly believed that God is desperately trying to save the world *now*. That He is struggling with Satan to save all mankind now, while the devil is feverishly trying to keep as many as he can “lost” forever.

If God and Satan are in a titanic battle for human lives, and if God is as all-powerful as the Bible reveals, then why are two thirds of the people in the world non-Christian? And why have billions already died without ever having had a chance to be saved?

Many people have grieved over dead loved ones who had never “professed Christ”—perhaps over one who was a terrible sinner; perhaps over one who lived a “good” life but never became an active church member. Still others grieve because they are not sure whether some loved one died “saved.”

The teaching that a person is either saved or lost comes from the assumption that God is trying to save the world now—that the mission of the Church is to save mankind now—that this is the “*only* day of salvation.”

If you believe any of these things, can you prove them from the Bible? Let’s examine what Scripture reveals. It may be very different than what you think!

Jesus Hid the Truth About Salvation

Shocking as it may sound, God DOES NOT INTEND for everyone to understand His truth at this time! If He did, they *would* understand!

But at the same time, God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). *Everyone* will ultimately be called and given an opportunity to receive salvation! God is absolutely fair!

Let’s understand the truth about God’s plan for the salvation of mankind!

1. Who is the god of this world? 2 Corinthians 4:4. Has he blinded people to God’s truth? Same verse. Has he indeed deceived the whole world? Revelation 12:9.

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, God closed off the tree of life (Genesis 3:22-24) from the world as a whole. This marked the foundation of this present world, still held captive and ruled invisibly by Satan the devil. At that point, God decreed that Christ, the “Lamb of God” (John 1:36), should come and be sacrificed to redeem mankind from the rule of Satan the kidnapper (Revelation 13:8).

But contrary to what many have been taught, Christ did not come to Earth the first time to try to save everyone. He did deliver His Father’s message—the gospel of the Kingdom of God. But Jesus did not

try to get everyone to *believe* this wonderful message! Notice the proof.

2. Did Jesus speak to the multitudes in parables to make His meaning clearer, or to *hide* it so the public would not understand? Matthew 13:10-15; Mark 4:11-12. Did He speak to the general public only in parables? Matthew 13:34. Was this because it was *not the time* for most to be forgiven their sins and converted? Mark 4:12.

3. Did Christ explain His parables only to His disciples? Mark 4:1-2, 10-11; Matthew 13:10-11, 16.

COMMENT: Christ worked with only a few purposely called and chosen disciples, or students. They were the ones whom He really wanted to understand the truth about salvation. We will see *why*, later.

4. Can one come to Christ *only* if God the Father specifically selects and calls him? John 6:44, 65.

COMMENT: Some will ask: “What about one who really wants salvation—wants to believe in Christ—is willing to truly repent and come out of this world and be led by God’s Spirit in a true commandment-keeping Christian life? Do you mean this individual cannot come to Christ unless God *calls* him?”

Answer: That’s what Scripture says. Such a person *is being called by God*, otherwise he or she would have no such desire. However, most who *think* they are in that category have followed a false gospel, a false teaching, and are yet *deceived*. They have a false idea of what salvation is, a false concept of repentance and a false idea of what God’s way is.

5. Did God tell us in advance in Scripture that He would call only a few into His Church, and that His Church would remain small, even persecuted? Luke 12:32; Matthew 10:16-17; 7:13-14; John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12.

COMMENT: From Christ’s human ministry until His return to Earth, God has called only a small minority of people. God’s Church through the centuries has continued to be small. *Why* God has called only a few will become apparent by the end of this study.

Most Neither Lost Nor Saved

But first, the question remains: If God only calls a relative *few* today, what happens to the rest of humanity?

1. Have all sinned and therefore earned the penalty for sin—eternal death? Romans 3:23; 6:23. But did Christ, the Creator of all mankind, give His sinless life to pay that penalty in our stead? Romans 5:8-10. Can salvation come *only* through Christ? Acts 4:10-12; 1 Timothy 2:5.

COMMENT: No one can have the death penalty he has incurred paid except through Jesus Christ. But

neither can anyone receive the benefit of Christ's payment unless he has an *opportunity* to accept it. Millions have lived and died without ever having so much as *heard* the name of Christ. *Thus, they are not "saved"—and cannot be given eternal life!* How tragically unfair that reality would be if they were forever *condemned!*

2. What does 2 Corinthians 6:2 have to say about a "day" of salvation? How does Isaiah 49:8, from which 2 Corinthians 6:2 is quoted, correctly state it?

COMMENT: A better translation of the Greek of 2 Corinthians 6:2 (as is the Hebrew in Isaiah 49:8) is "now is a day of salvation."

This age is indeed "the" day of salvation for the few God is *now calling*. Those called now are being judged now (1 Peter 4:17). But all others will have their "day" of salvation *later!*

3. Does God want to eventually call and save everyone? 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4. Is everyone saved at the same time, or is there a definite time order, or sequence? 1 Corinthians 15:22-24.

COMMENT: Even as all men die, the same *all* will be made alive. But each will be called in his own time. Most, today, are still blinded (Romans 11:25; Revelation 12:9). They are not saved, but neither are they lost forever. Their time for salvation is later.

Why a Select Few Are Called Today

When least expected by a world blinded by the devil, Jesus Christ will come in supreme supernatural power and glory as King of kings.

1. When Christ returns, will those who were called in this lifetime rise first in time order—before others? 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16.

2. Will these who are raised first reign with Christ? Revelation 20:4-5.

COMMENT: The first part of verse 5 is actually a parenthetical comment. The verse should read: "(But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.) This is the first resurrection." That last sentence, "This is the first resurrection," refers back to verse 4, to the spiritual resurrection of those called in this lifetime, which occurs at Christ's return, just before the 1,000-year period begins (also verse 6).

3. Will those in the first resurrection be *priests* with God? Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6. What is the function of a priest? Malachi 2:7 (first part).

Just as ancient Israel's priests taught God's way, those called today will also be *teachers* of God's way of life, helping to bring the knowledge of the way to salvation to the rest of the world after Christ returns. This is *why* God has called a few *out* of Satan's world and into His Church now! They are not called for special favors, but to be *trained* and *prepared* for special responsibilities—to help *teach* the rest of mankind.

The process of learning God's way and coming to salvation will be easier after Christ's return, because Satan will be bound (Revelation 20:1-2). His corrupting influence will no longer be present.

As the world becomes reeducated, people will



SAVED OR LOST?

You are surrounded by nearly 7 billion people with different beliefs and concepts of God. Does the true God have a plan that includes all of them?

begin to experience the blessings that result from obeying God's law of love. They will look back at thousands of years of strife under Satan's rule and compare it to peaceful, joyful life under God's rule.

4. Will the nations on Earth, which have in general never heard about the true God and His way of life that leads to salvation, learn God's ways and walk in His paths? Micah 4:2; Isaiah 66:18-23; 11:10.

All who live during the 1,000 years after Christ returns (Revelation 20:4) will have their opportunity to participate in the salvation process. They will then be able to grow spiritually toward spiritual birth into the God Family.

But what about those who have already died without having understood God's truth?

All Who Ever Lived to Be Called

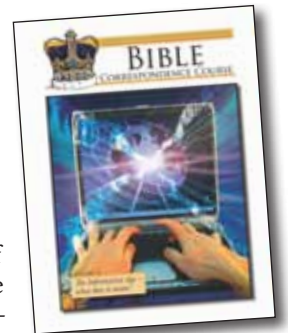
1. Recall that those called today will be part of the *first* resurrection. It follows, then, that there will be a *second* resurrection. When will this occur? Revelation 20:5, first part.

COMMENT: Everyone who has ever lived and died without knowing God's truth will be resurrected after the 1,000 years of Christ's rule on Earth! They will be raised to *physical* life (read Ezekiel 37) and given their chance to learn God's way of life and the way to salvation! This will be their "day" of salvation!

Most of our loved ones who have died "unsaved" in all probability are not lost. They most likely were not called during this age, but their call is coming later.

Your Bible shows that the *vast majority* of those who have ever lived will finally be born into God's Family at the end of their coming period of judgment. God's master plan of salvation for mankind will then be complete.

How wonderful and reassuring is the truth of our all-wise, loving and merciful Creator God!



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 50,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

T You can read previous articles in this series online at trmpt.co/BibleIQ

New understanding

Thank you with all my heart for your sobering but exciting, detailed but clear, new revelation about Iran's military strategy as miraculously shown to you by the God of Israel with regard to what's happening in Libya and that which we should expect to happen in Ethiopia ("Libya and Ethiopia Reveal Iran's Military Strategy," April). I hope we can all keep praying that God will account us worthy to escape when the time comes. I think God will, if He finds us doing His work when He comes, as you are in this powerful article and elsewhere. The Lord continue to guide, inspire and enable you. Thank you so much.

Clive Young—DOVER, UK

You have wrong king of the south

You must be blind ("Prophecy Comes Alive in Egypt!" April). Qaradawi and the Muslim Brotherhood hate Iran and they will most likely form the king of the south as they are south of Jerusalem. We shall see.

Hans Lubenow—CANADA

Muslim threat to Europe

I totally agree with your political analysis ("Europe Must Reclaim the Mediterranean," April). Unfortunately, in Italy, at present, we have a political moribund prime minister who spends more time chasing after underaged prostitutes and passing laws in parliament to protect himself than working for the interests of our country.

Having said that, the only new political force who's not afraid to offend the Islamic feelings lies in the Northern League. It states and sees clearly that Islam poses a threat to Europe and to Italy (and therefore to the north of Italy). Sometimes, it's been accused (by the opposition parties) of being racist. Yet, amid some folkloristic behavior lies the truth. Our prayers as Christians in Italy should be focused on a new arise of more new born (political) leaders, on a stronger fight against the secular cancer of my country (the Mafia!) and last but not least, a fight against radical Islam which is trying to take advantage of our democratic windows of opportunities. As Europeans we should reclaim a better applied fairer principle of reciprocity. Unfortunately, this is the Achilles heel



of our democratic Western governments: We allow freedom of speech to religious/political entities which prove themselves to be violent and anti-democratic.

Francesco Falcone—ITALY

A lie is a lie is a lie

What an excellent article ("To Lie or Not to Lie," April). You brought out

some eye-opening ways in which people lie and don't think anything of it. It is so common today: *What is wrong with a little white lie?* A lie is a lie no matter what you call it. I think almost everyone has lied at some time in their life. I know I have and am not proud of it either. I was amazed at how early a child learns to lie. Thank you again for a much-needed reminder of what God thinks of it.

Toby Lynn Johnson—COLORADO

America selling off its assets

I guess we might as well forget our \$700 billion it cost us to bail out Wall Street, right? ("The Real Reason Germany Wants to Buy the NYSE," April). I doubt the Assyrians will pay it back.

Zorro Zarro—N. M.

A world of horrors

Very well-titled article ("A Chilling Peek at Our Abortion Culture," April). It is a world of horrors and I am trying as hard as I can right now to hold myself together thinking about how bad this scenario truly is. Thank you for being strong enough to write it. I truly don't have anything to say except for that my heart longs for this world to change.

Candice—ARIZONA

This sickens me to my stomach. How I'd carnally love nothing more than to educate this man on the preciousness of life. Not to mention these women who feel they have the right to just destroy it. And there are so many others out there who would give so much to be able to have a child of their own! There is such a great deal of selfishness in this sickening world.

E.M.—AUSTRALIA

I hope you can do a report on Texas's new legislation that will require women who want an abortion to first view a video or live ultrasound of her baby. I believe this will be a good educational way of alerting at least some women of what a wonderful life they have inside (and what a tragic

thing they could be doing). I pray this legislation passes and spreads to other states as the word gets out through wonderful media organizations such as yourself.

TEXAS

The Bible as history

When I graduated from high school back in 1958, I found a copy of Keller's *The Bible as History* in a book store while on our Washington D.C. class trip ("Using the Bible as Her Guide," April). I bought it to take home as a present to my father, who read the Bible to me as a child. I still have that copy of the book. It is so refreshing to hear of Eilat Mazar's understanding that Israel's past is indeed told in the pages of the Bible and that the discoveries found during her digs will always reflect what is written in its pages. This will indeed give her insight and a place of true renown in the world of archeology. I look forward to hearing about her future discoveries!

H.S. Barkei—UNITED STATES

Wonderful and eye-opening

Thank you for this wonderful and eye-opening magazine. It helped me a lot to have a deeper understanding about the meaning of life. Since I was a child, I've always asked myself what I am; why I am here in this world with all the pain and suffering. I can't find an answer to those questions. (Sometimes I wish I was not born in this world.) I've tried to read self-help books and other books just to find an answer. Yes, it helps, but I can feel that there's something missing; it's not enough. Still, I was confused and it seems that my life has no direction. Thank God, I was able to find this magazine on the Internet and was able to read the books *The Incredible Human Potential* and *Mystery of the Ages*. I didn't expect that these kinds of books existed in this world, and it leads me to a deeper understanding about the Bible which is the Word of God and the existence of the true God. I would love to give tithes/donations to this work. Do you accept tithes/donations from non-members? *Cher*—PHILIPPINES

Yes. They are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and many other nations.

My grandson asked you to send me a subscription and told me I "will love it." He was correct. I sure didn't realize others "see" what I see. Thank you so much! It arrived yesterday and I finished it already. Bless you! My grandson is in prison and I go to share what you share in your magazine.

Dannie McKinney—
FOLSOM, CALIF.

Glamorizing Gomorrah

MTV's *Skins* and our corrosive youth culture

MTV SAYS ITS NEW TEEN DRAMA *SKINS* “ADDRESSES real-world issues confronting teens in a frank way.” The “real-world issue” addressed in its pilot episode? A group of teenagers aiding their quirky, 16-year-old friend in his quest to lose his virginity with the assistance of prescription virility drugs.

The series chronicles a group of nine teenagers and their escapades with wild parties, drug use, underage sex, masturbation, homosexuality, voyeurism, grand theft auto, borderline date rape, etc. The fact that many of the *Skins* actors who are taking their clothes off are under 18 years old—which has media watchdogs decrying the exploitation of these underage actors—is only one of many reasons this show is such a corrosive, destructive force. Yet sadly, there is an audience for it.

MTV assigned *Skins* a TV-MA rating, and says “the show is specifically designed to be viewed by adults.” If that is true, then its depictions of underage actors engaging in sexual behavior is, by definition, encouraging pedophilia. In truth, though, the show is for teenagers. Among the impressive 3.3 million viewers its first episode drew, 1.2 million were younger than 18.

Bryan Elsley, creator of the show's original British version, came up with the idea in 2005 when his 19-year-old son Jamie complained that nothing on TV was worth watching. Jamie dismissed all his father's ideas for TV shows as “middle-class [expletive],” and suggested that his father create a show about teenagers as they really are. Elsley took his son's advice, and the father-son duo went to work, relying largely on teenagers and those barely out of their teenage years to write the scripts.

For the U.S. version, Elsley employs 30 teenagers as consultants, and frequently solicits feedback from the *Skins* cult following. Even the show's musical selections are made by a teenager. “We don't make this up,” says Eleanor Zichy, a 15-year-old member of the *Skins* cast. “Sure, some of the experiences are exaggerated—it's television. But all the material comes from real teenagers.” Does that sound like a series “designed to be viewed by adults”?

One especially destructive aspect of *Skins* is that, in this surreal teenage dream world, there are no consequences for bad decisions. *Skins* omits the hangovers, the pregnancies, the arrests and the venereal disease. Teenagers teach younger children to roll blunts. Adolescents are molested by a drug dealer but shrug it off cavalierly. A character almost lethally overdoses and, as she is being rushed to the hospital in a stolen SUV, wakes up laughing, in perfect health, ready to return to her drug abuse. When the stolen vehicle careens into a river and sinks, the teenagers all float to the surface smiling. This consequence-free, adolescent fantasy life is a dangerous lie, certain to encourage more teens to try to make it their own reality.

Even worse, it idealizes dangerously twisted concepts of marriage and family, warping viewers' ability to even properly understand and appreciate these glorious, God-given institutions!

Skins' British version is far bolder than its U.S. counterpart in depictions of sex, abortion, self-mutilation and drug use, and has aired there for five seasons with *virtually no controversy*. Fans of the British show have been astonished at the protest in the U.S., and seem proud the UK didn't get into such an uproar; many lambasted Americans for their prudery. Meanwhile, the



UK has the fourth-highest teenage pregnancy rate in the world; one third of British girls have inflicted harm on themselves; one quarter of teenagers describe themselves as depressed, and three of four adults in the UK are afraid of British teenagers.

This show is perhaps the clearest example ever of a trend that educator Herbert W. Armstrong highlighted as far back as 1964: “Who determines what is ‘popular music’ today? The ‘teens.’ ... Adolescents determine dancing trends, motion-picture themes, radio formats, and even advertisements and most fields of entertainment!” He spoke strongly against the abdication of responsible adult leadership, and the resultant destructive, sexually charged infusion of immature influence into mainstream culture. As true as Mr. Armstrong's words rang back in 1964, they have become strikingly more accurate since.

Isaiah 3:12 prophesies that the children of the modern nations of Israel (especially the United States and Britain) would become “oppressors.” In verse 4, Isaiah warns that God will “give children to be their princes,” and that “babes shall rule over them.” The pervasive attitude young people have toward their elders in Western society is one of flagrant disrespect. *Skins* started with a seed of disrespect by Jamie Elsley toward his father, and the show has blossomed to become a wellspring of parent-resentment and disregard for adult authority.

When Isaiah prophesied that “babes shall rule over them,” he was also condemning the *childish manner* in which *adults* are ruling. Think of the immaturity that would lead 45-year-old Bryan Elsley to create *Skins*, and the myopic mentality of the executives, producers, editors, advertisers and others who brought it to life. *Let's create a show for our teenagers that glamorizes Gomorrah*, these leaders have said. Rather than preparing adolescents to become adults, adults are behaving like adolescents.

American and British family life has been devastated by a radical revolution. *Skins*—and its audience of adults eager to watch raunchy teenagers misbehaving, and teens whose parents are too negligent to protect them from such poisonous material—proves that. But your home and family do not have to be counted among its victims. Moses recorded, in Deuteronomy 11:18-19, that parents must diligently teach children the biblical truths that lead to happy lives. This passage emphasizes that such instruction must be the foundation of a happy home, and that the teaching must be ongoing. This requires self-discipline on parents' part—increasingly a rarity in modern society. Responsible, concerned parents *must* make a concerted effort to combat the corrosive influences of a toxic world in the lives of our families. ■



For more information, request a free copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

other terrorist groups, including some in the West Bank, no publicly available evidence directly links Tehran to the Itamar murders, the Gaza rocket assault, or the Jerusalem bus bombing. Nevertheless, if these provocations had been specifically calculated to bait Israel into retaliating against the Palestinians, they couldn't have been any more effective in doing so. And the fact is, no one stands to benefit more from Israel's response than Iran.

As Stratfor reported on March 23, Israeli retaliation could endanger the Israel-Egypt peace treaty, especially if Israel lashes out at Hamas in Gaza. "When looking at the unrest overall in the region, the one key ingredient that was missing was Israel. Israel is often the single unifying call for many on the Arab streets, and that is certainly something that a lot of Palestinian factions will be paying attention to right now," Stratfor wrote. "Watch for groups like Hamas, Hezbollah and others in the region to escalate attacks in an effort to provoke a military confrontation with Israeli forces, create a crisis for Egypt through the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, and threaten Israel on multiple fronts. This is something that could well play to the Iranian agenda and escalate the regional unrest overall."

For over a decade and a half, the *Trumpet's* editor in chief has warned us to watch for signs of Iran trying to seize Jerusalem. "The most precious jewel of Iran's plan is to conquer Jerusalem," he wrote in February 1995. "This would then galvanize the Islamic world behind Iran!"

Zechariah 14:2 prophesies that half of Jerusalem is going to fall. As our booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* explains, Zechariah is speaking of an impending, *partial* conquest of the Holy City by *Islamic warriors*—one that will *precede* a total conquest of the city by a European force.

As Iran works behind the scenes today to destabilize and dominate Middle Eastern nations in turmoil, realize this is all part of its plan to dismantle the obstacles to its taking Jerusalem.

However, remember also that in the final analysis, after the biblical nation of Judah has been punished, there will come a time when, as Isaiah prophesies, "the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off" (Isaiah 11:13). The Jews' circle of horror will be broken. Their river of tears will at last run dry—when Jerusalem truly becomes a city of peace upon Christ's return. ■

TELEVISION LOG

THE KEY OF DAVID

All times are a.m. local time unless otherwise noted.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite Galaxy 3
Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET

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

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

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

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00
ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH
5:00, Fri

Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun
Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT
8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT
8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun
Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri
Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KSWT-
DT 9:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT
8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun
Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun
Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT
9:30, Sun

Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun
El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun

Eureka KJUV-DT 9:30, Sun
Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri

Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun
Palm Springs KESQ/KCWO-DT
9:30, Sun

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun
Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun
San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun
Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

Denver KWGN 10:00, Sun
Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30,
Sun

Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun
Connecticut, Hartford WHPX
6:00, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun
Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT
9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP
6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri
Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun
Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

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

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

West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri
Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun

Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun
Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun
Macon WBMM 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSB/WGCW-LP
9:30, Sun

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

Kauai Ho'ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue
**Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/
Akaku**

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon
Idaho, Idaho Falls KPFI/KBEO
10:30, Sun

Pocatello KPFI 10:30, Sun
Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP
10:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT
8:30, Sun

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

Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun
Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPIA-DT 21.2
9:30, Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri
Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun
Cedar Rapids KPRX 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri
Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun

Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun
Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun
Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO
8:30, Sun

Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA
8:30, Sun

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

Lafayette KLWB 8:30, Sun
Lake Charles WBLC 8:30, Sun

New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

Presque Isle WBPO 9:30, Sun
Maryland, Hagerstown WJAL
12:00 pm, Sun

Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun
Massachusetts, Boston WBXP
6:00, Fri; WZMY 8:00, Sun

Holyoke WBQT 9:30, Sun
Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun

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

Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri
Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun
Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-
DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30, Sun

Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun
Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri

Rochester-Austin KTTT-DC
8:30, Sun

Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/
KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30,
Sun

Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun

Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun
Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun

Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun
Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun

Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun
Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

West Point WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT
8:30, Sun

Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun
Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun
Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri

Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30,
Sun

St. Joseph WBJO 8:30, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30,
Sun

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

Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun
Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun

Helena KMFT-DT 10:30, Sun
Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun

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

Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun
North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun

Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT
9:30, Sun

New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri

Binghamton WBXI 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXI 6:00, Fri; WUTV
10:00, Sun

Elmira WBE 9:30, Sun
New York City WPNX 6:00, Fri;
WLNY 10:00, Sun

Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WBU 9:30, Sun

Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY
8:30, Sun

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Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WBW 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun
Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun
Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00, Sun
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBF-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWWB/WWWB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWWB/WWWB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBIK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri

Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Arlito KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun
Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman-Ada KTEB-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVAR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVAR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPXR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun
Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCQV 7:00, Sun; KVOS 8:30, Sun
Spokane KGXP 6:00, Fri
Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WBPB 9:30, Sun

Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOV/WYOV 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOV-DT/WYOV-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30, Sun
Cheyenne KCHW 10:30, Sun
Riverton 10:30, Sun

EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST

Pan-European satellite Astra 1L (free to air) 19.2°E transponder 26 11.597V 220000 (DVB); Astra 1KR 19.2°E transponder 50 10.729V (analogue) 11 am Central European Time, Sun
Belgium TV Vlaanderen channel 62 11:00 am, Sun
Germany KDG channel 840 11:00 am, Sun; TalkTalk TV channel 510 11:00 am, Sun
Ireland Sky channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; UPC channel 204; 10:00 am, Sun
Italy Sky Italia channel 518 11:00 am, Sun; Tiscali TV channel 518 11:00 am, Sun
Mediterranean Eurobird 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time
Middle East Eurobird 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun
Netherlands Ziggo channel 505 11:00 am, Sun
Poland Cyfra+ channel 105 11:00 am, Sun
Portugal ZonTV/Cabo channel 210 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun
Romania UPC channel 146 12:00 am, Sun
Spain Hispastat 1.092V 11:00 am, Sun
Switzerland Nakoo channel 63; Cablecom channel 151 11:00 am, Sun
United Kingdom Sky: Channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; Freestat channel 210 10:00 am, Sun; Virgin Media channel 613 10:00 am, Sun

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 Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30, Sun; CHEK 9:00 Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Maritime Provinces CHF 7:30, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WYNY 10:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

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El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

CARIBBEAN

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Aruba WGN 8:00, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00, Sun

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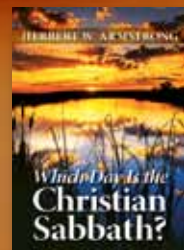
Does it matter *when* we worship God?



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