



A State of Crisis

THE TRUTH BEHIND IRAN'S ELECTIONS



The Jackson Phenomenon

SEPTEMBER 2009

THE PHILADELPHIA

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# TRUMPET



# THE WAR ON FAMILY

AND HOW TO WIN IT

ADULTERY  
 SAME-SEX MARRIAGE  
 DIVORCE  
 REMARRIAGE  
 SEX  
 ROLE  
 INFUSION  
 HOMOSEXUALITY  
 FEMINISM  
 PORN  
 DEADBEAT FATHERS  
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# Honoring the Father

**F**AMILY IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN LIFE! Herbert W. Armstrong once wrote, “The very foundation of any stable civilization is a solid FAMILY STRUCTURE. ... Nothing in this material world is as important as a happy home life with father, mother and well-taught, happy children—a close-knit FAMILY” (*Good News*, February 1979).

So often, you see that great men and women come from *strong families*. They had the support of a dedicated father and mother in a happy marriage.

Theodore Roosevelt attributed a great part of his success and leadership to what he learned from his father. “My father was the best man I ever knew,” he said. Wayne Gretzky, perhaps the greatest hockey player ever, had a terrific relationship with his father. So did the famous runner Sebastian Coe. Football greats Dan Marino and Joe Montana said their fathers taught them how to be leaders. I find such examples inspiring.

David Hartman was a common-looking man, not your typical handsome television personality. But he became very successful in that field, hosting the top-rated program *Good Morning America* for over a decade. He too had a strong relationship with his father. “My father always told me, *David, you’re unique!*” he said. “*And you have something unique to give!*” He believed his father and achieved a lot in his life.

The best family example in history, however, is that of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle John, in writing his Gospel, showed how Jesus *repeatedly* and *consistently* honored His Father. John wrote, “No man hath seen God at any time; the *only begotten Son*, which is *in the bosom of the Father*, HE HATH DECLARED HIM” (John 1:18). Notice what that verse says!

Jesus Christ was the only being ever begotten by God as a human being in the womb of a woman. This shows a special *family* relationship. There was the *Father* and the *Son* in the *God Family!*

**Throughout Scripture there is instruction to fathers that they must lead their families in love. God wants fathers involved and engaged, actively loving their wives, loving their children.**

The truth is, from the very beginning, God *created* physical family in order to teach people about Himself, and to draw people to Himself! God created marriage between husband and wife, and sex as a means of reproduction, so that children would grow up in a family. All of these physical realities point to *spiritual* truths! THE PHYSICAL FAMILY IS AN EXACT TYPE OF THE GOD FAMILY! You can read an inspiring and very complete scriptural explanation of these truths in Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*. We would be happy to send you a copy for free.

John 1:18 also says Jesus was “in the bosom of the Father,” which means He had a wonderfully intimate, loving relationship with His Father. He loved, honored and respected His Father. He

repeatedly gave His Father credit for His success.

Then, this verse tells us that Christ actually devoted His earthly ministry to *declaring His Father!* Jesus Christ *revealed* the existence of God the Father to this world. Before that time, people didn’t even know God in the terms of *family*.

Let me tell you an awe-inspiring, marvelous truth that you can prove from your Bible. It is very beautiful, and so plain that I wonder how *so many people*—even those who profess to believe the Bible—can fail so completely to understand it!

The Apostle John absolutely *filled* his Gospel with statements showing how CHRIST HONORED HIS FATHER! “[M]y Father is *greater than I*,” Christ said (John 14:28; see also John 5:19). “[T]he Father hath not left me alone; for *I do ALWAYS* those things that *please him*,” He said (John 8:29). “I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but *the will of HIM THAT SENT ME*” (John 6:38; see also John 4:34). Jesus *repeatedly* referred to “the Father WHICH HAS SENT ME” (John 5:23, 30, 36, 37; 6:44, 57; 8:16, 18; 12:49; 20:21).

This is astonishing! Why did He keep repeating these statements? There is an *INSPIRING REASON!*

Christ was the *Son of God*, who had shared in the majestic glory of God for a prior eternity. But He came to Earth to *declare His Father*. Over and over, He said, *My Father sent me. Don’t make your religion revolve around me. I’m not the central figure! The FATHER sent me! HE’s in charge! HE’s the Head of the Family!*

Never in the history of the universe has anybody honored his father more than Christ honored His. What wonderful humility and character He had in declaring His Father, and constantly directing our attention to the Father!

Christ’s magnificent example shows God’s *family government!*

Throughout Scripture there is instruction to fathers that they must lead their families in love. God wants fathers involved and engaged, actively loving their wives, loving their children. Teaching and educating their children. Providing for them. Disciplining them, defending them.

God the Father sets the *ultimate example* in fulfilling that role! And He inspired tremendous love and devotion in His Son, Jesus Christ.

This example shows how strong family is meant to work! God wants physical fathers to fulfill the *same* function that *He Himself* fulfills toward His children. Such a father can lead his whole family to be strong and stable. This gives those children tremendous advantages in life. They know *love*. They have a strong foundation for stable relationships. They have gained proper confidence, learned the value of self-discipline and hard work, and received countless other invaluable lessons. And most of all, they grow up much better prepared to have a strong relationship with *God the Father*.



**GERALD FLURRY**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



**WE ARE AT WAR.** The very foundation of stability and strength in the United States and Britain, *the traditional family*, is being formidably attacked from every direction.

Just look at the carnage. Fewer people are marrying. Those who do marry are more prone to split up. Roles within marriage and family are reversed. Adultery is increasingly common. *Same-sex* “marriage” is being written into law. Clearly, marriage is on the ropes.

Four in 10 American children are born to unwed parents. Children are likelier than ever to grow up without one of their biological parents. They live in households where rebellion and disrespect are tolerated, even encouraged. Fornication is nearly universal. Pornography has gone mainstream. Unwed pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases are at all-time highs. A million American babies are aborted every year. Family is in full retreat.

Yes, there is a war raging in households across America and throughout the once-mighty United Kingdom. After decades of surrendering ground to a violent and fanatical enemy, what once was a solid family structure is now struggling for survival.

If you don't rigorously engage the fight, *you and your family* will be among its casualties. You have already suffered from it more than you probably realize.

To successfully resist this dangerous trend, you need to see it clearly—and recognize the unseen force motivating it! Who is behind this war, and why? You must also understand just *why* it is so deadly.

Can it be stopped? You need specific strategies for combating it.

#### FAMILIES UPSIDE-DOWN

In his book *Democracy in America*, published in the 1800s, Alexis de Tocqueville

heaped praise on the 19th-century American family. “There is certainly no country in the world where the tie of marriage is more respected than in America,” Tocqueville wrote, “or where conjugal happiness is more highly or worthily appreciated.”

Today, society-wide immorality, upside-down families and no-fault divorce laws have turned the marriage institution into an almost laughably inconsequential arrangement. Sixty-two percent of Americans view divorce as a “morally acceptable” way to escape an inconvenient union.

We've not only accepted the plague of divorce. Many now see it as the *morally right* thing to do in most circumstances.

Those marriages that remain intact often suffer from other curses, like sexual dissatisfaction, financial woes and role confusion.

Tocqueville lauded the 19th-century American family for accentuating the “diverse” roles men and women undertook in marriage. “They have carefully separated the functions of man and of woman so that the great work of society may be better performed,” he said. The roles of husband and wife, he explained, perfectly complemented one another. “You will never find American women,” Tocqueville wrote, “in charge of the external relations of the family, managing a business or interfering in politics; but they are also never obliged to undertake rough laborer's work or any task requiring hard physical exertion. No family is so poor that it makes an exception to this rule.”

Of course, the way marriage and family was arranged back then was much closer to the way God designed it from the very beginning. In Genesis 2, God organized mankind's first family by making the man first and then creating the woman out of his rib. In verse 18, He called the woman a “help meet,” meaning *opposite* or *counterpart*.

According to Tocqueville, Americans understood that while men and women were made to fulfill different roles within the family hierarchy, each role was *equal in importance*.

Today, these unique roles have been reversed. Men have forsaken their responsibilities in the home as the family's primary leader, provider, protector and educator. A growing number of wives (and children) simply miss out on the positive impact an involved father has on the family.

Making matters worse, a deafening chorus of politicians, activists, psychologists and entertainers maintain that husbands and fathers are unnecessary for the

overall health and well-being of society.

Wives, meanwhile, have largely abandoned their most important duties at home—being a supportive helpmeet and loving mother. In 1950, for example, one in four married women between the ages of 25 and 44 were employed outside the home. Today, *three in four* are. While the hours that men and single women work are roughly the same as they were 50 years ago, married women's hours working outside the home have tripled. Caring for children while Dad is at work is no longer the primary responsibility for most mothers.

As a consequence, children are largely left to themselves—growing up without proper, godly direction or a clear code of ethics upon which they can build *their* future families.

#### TARGETING CHILDREN

Without a strong parental influence at home, children have become easy targets for evil forces—particularly regarding sex. Most Americans and Britons have now accepted premarital sex as inevitable for teens, which is why the primary focus for government-sponsored sex education is on teaching young people to be “safe” once they become sexually active. This approach, of course, encourages sexual activity among teens, which in turn increases the frequency of illegitimate births, sexually transmitted diseases and abortion.

In July, the level of sexual depravity reached a new low in Britain when the National Health Service produced a sex education pamphlet for schoolchildren. According to the *Daily Mail*, the publication *complained* that when it comes to sex, sociologists pay too much attention to “safe sex” and “loving relationships” and not enough to the subject of sensual pleasure. Teenagers, says the pamphlet's author, have as much right to a good sex life as do adults.

Britain, it should be noted, has the highest teen pregnancy rate in Europe and second highest in the developed world, trailing only the United States. Of the 40,000 British girls who will be impregnated this year, half will opt for abortion (article, page 37).

#### THE HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA

Sociologists aren't the only ones working overtime to undermine the traditional family in Britain—political leaders are too. This past summer, British Conservative Party leader David Cameron issued an apology on behalf of his party for legislation passed in 1988 banning the promotion of homosexuality in schools. Known

as “Section 28,” the law was introduced by then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and was repealed by Tony Blair in 2003. For 15 years, the bill banned local councils from using taxpayer money to fund anything that showed homosexual relationships as normal, and made promoting “the teaching ... of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship” illegal in schools.

Conservative MP Dame Jill Knight, one of the main supporters of Section 28 back in the '80s, spoke in 1999 about why the law had been introduced: “Parents certainly came to me and told me what was going on. They gave me some of the books with which little children as young as 5 and 6 were being taught. There was *The Playbook for Kids About Sex* in which brightly colored pictures of little stick men showed all about homosexuality and how it was done.”

Britain’s leading “conservative” politician has now apologized for his nation having ever banned such perversity.

Not to be outdone, the Labor Party is also working diligently to woo homosexual voters. Prime Minister Gordon Brown recently hosted leading homosexual advocates at his house on Downing Street. “I’m very proud of all that this government has achieved on LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] rights these last 12 years—often in the face of fierce opposition,” Mr. Brown said.

In America, President Barack Obama also played host to a large gathering of ho-

are still fellow citizens, perhaps neighbors or even family members and loved ones, *who still hold fast to worn arguments and old attitudes*; who fail to see your families like their families; and who would deny you the rights that most Americans take for granted” (emphasis ours throughout).

He thinks we *still* have a long way to go. But just imagine what defenders of more traditional family values from generations ago would think about where we are today!

According to the *New York Times*, the first time homosexual leaders were even invited to the White House was in 1977. And in that instance, President Carter skipped the meeting and sent a mid-level aide instead.

What a difference 30 years makes. Today, Britain’s National *Health Service*, of all institutions, encourages teenagers to enjoy promiscuous sex. The leading “conservative” in Britain is apologizing for a 1988 law that prevented homosexual propaganda from being poured into the super-absorbent minds of *5-year-olds*. The White House is hosting celebrations for homosexuals, bisexuals and transgenders. And we have a U.S. president who sees it as his duty to *change the minds* of Americans who still have “old attitudes” about homosexuality.

Truly, the most basic building block of a strong and stable civilization—the traditional family structure—is suffering attack from every direction. And sadly, as traditional family life crumbles, movies,

continued, “there is a widespread and AGGRESSIVE conspiracy to destroy the institution of marriage” (*Plain Truth*, July 1976).

As alarmist as that might have seemed in 1976, who can deny it today?

“This is a war which is being vigorously and fanatically waged,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “Every subtle method is being employed to capture the minds of those of pre-marriage age.” Clearly, those minds were captured. Now they are 33 years older and, trapped in their own ignorance and error, have raised another generation even more deceived about marriage and family.

Most people have followed blindly along with the trend. But even among those who recognize it as a destructive drift that should be resisted, *few* understand just why it is happening and what is so wrong with it!

WHY such a vicious assault on marriage and family? Why is the downward trend so rapid?

There is an unseen *spiritual* reason!

True, as Mr. Armstrong said, the breakdown of traditional marriage and family relationships was *prophesied*. In fact, it was a *sign* the biblical prophets gave of the *LAST DAYS*—the days right before Jesus Christ’s Second Coming.

Everything about our modern-day dysfunctional society is exactly as the Prophet Isaiah said it would be: with women ruling the homes, children oppressing society and behaving arrogantly against their elders, and people parading the most heinous of their sins with pride (Isaiah 3:12, 5, 9). The Apostle Paul prophesied of our epidemic selfishness, preoccupation with material things, disobedient children, loss of natural familial affection (such as is manifest in the appalling abortion rate), and other rampant problems (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Christ Himself foretold that just before His return to this Earth in power and glory, our sophisticated, ultra-modern, anti-God society would revert back to the way it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:28-30).

Compelling evidence that we are indeed living in the very last days!

Civilization, as Mr. Armstrong wrote in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, is on the way down and out—except that God prophesied to intervene with a mighty hand to save us from utter destruction!

But the question yet remains: *Why* is mankind following this destructive course? Who is *behind it*? How did God know this is the road we would travel? And how can we *resist* this trend and *win* this war in our own homes?

## AS TRADITIONAL FAMILY LIFE CRUMBLES, MOVIES, TELEVISION AND POPULAR SONGS GLORIFY THE DYSFUNCTION

mossexuals at the White House on June 29. He had proclaimed June as “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month” to commemorate the 40-year anniversary of the LGBT rights movement in America. This struggle, Obama told more than 250 homosexuals at the White House reception, is “incredibly difficult.”

“There are *unjust laws to overturn* and *unfair practices to stop*,” he continued. “And though we’ve made progress, there

television and popular songs glorify the dysfunction.

### SIGN OF THE TIMES

Herbert W. Armstrong recognized this war on the institution of family decades ago—and accurately predicted where it would lead. The threat, he wrote in 1976, was twofold. First, there is the prophesied breakdown of traditional marriage and family relationships. Added to that, he

The answers have everything to do with WHY God created marriage and family in the first place.

## GOD CREATED MAN

Did you realize that marriage and family are institutions unique to human beings among all of God's creation?

That's right. No other animal on Earth—in fact, not even any of the angelic beings that God created—was meant to enjoy the blessings of family life! Marriage and family relationships are utterly unique to us. Do you know WHY?

In the first chapter of the Bible, you see God adorning the Earth with all manner of plant and animal life, creating conditions ideal for human beings. It then informs us, "And God said, LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS .... So GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, in the image of God created he him; MALE AND FEMALE created he them" (Genesis 1:26-27). There is much to note in these pivotal verses.

First, who is this "us"? Scripture shows that there were in fact *two Beings* here, members of the *one Godhead* (see, for example, John 1:1, 14). These two later became a *Family*—when the Most High God begat Jesus Christ in the womb of the virgin Mary. At that point they became *Father and Son*.

What does it mean that mankind was created after God's *likeness*, in God's *image*? It means that we *look like God*, and that we are meant to be fashioned after His very own perfect character. That is because He has implanted within us an incredible potential far greater than that given to anything else He has created!

Finally, why did God create male and female? Clearly, He made the conscious decision to divide us into these TWO GROUPS. In His design, family *begins* with the joining of a man and woman—though science is working to eliminate this inevitability. Sex is not an accident of evolution, nor an arbitrary ornament on creation, but a *conscious, deliberate choice with design and intent* made by a super-intelligent Creator!

The relentless drive over the past half century in particular to equalize the sexes has completely obscured and destroyed the very deep and important reasons for God's creative implementation of sex differences. Homosexuality, in effect, treats this essential component of creation as if it were mere decoration—even a mistake on God's part. But are you willing to consider the reasoning, the logic, in His decision? This God who reveals Himself in the

Bible claims that His thoughts are *higher* than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

## WHY MARRIAGE AND FAMILY?

In the next chapter in Genesis comes the truth that God created Eve as a "help meet" for Adam, and bound these two for life within the unique institution of *marriage*.

Again, WHY? Look at the animals and you can see that marriage is not necessary for procreation. Animals may exhibit a certain loyalty to certain other animals, but only humans have the multifaceted emotional and legal relationships associated with marriage and family.

Until a few generations ago, the concept of marriage and family was taken for granted—generally accepted as desirable—a means of rearing responsible children and producing a stable society. However, even then the deep *understanding* of WHY MARRIAGE was widely unknown.

Why? Because this is fundamentally SPIRITUAL knowledge!

Marriage is not a mere tradition. It is actually a sacred institution, established by God at the creation of humankind! It was created for specific purposes and designed to function according to definite LAWS. God also created our anatomies so that this two-person relationship is what generates children. He designed human development to occur slowly in order to make FAMILY LIFE necessary: Children are completely dependent upon their parents, and parents must love, nurture, protect, educate and discipline their children.

God intended these covenant relationships to bring STABILITY into our lives, to teach us faithfulness and loyalty, and to give us the opportunity to learn to live unselfishly with others as a harmonious team.

God could have made us all alike, never established marriage, provided some other means of reproduction, had us born with fully developed bodies and minds. He could have done things any number of other ways. But He did it this way for a reason.

Why? To one who doesn't understand God's purpose for mankind, it might seem somewhat arbitrary. WHY male and female? WHY marriage? WHY do we reproduce through sex? WHY children? WHY family?

But the answer is clear to anyone who understands the truth revealed in the Bible but not generally understood—that of the INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL.

The way God designed male, female, marriage and children, the family unit naturally creates a *government structure* patterned after the GOD FAMILY PATTERN.

God designed all of these things the

way He did to prepare us for eternal life in HIS FAMILY!

The truth of this reality far surpasses the insipid view of an afterlife spent sitting on a cloud strumming a harp. God is about to establish a Kingdom, here on Earth, ruling all nations, with literal positions of king-priesthood to be filled by human beings transformed into Spirit-born members of the God Family! (Request our book *The Incredible Human Potential* for a thorough biblical explanation of this truth.)

This is why the human family is so critical in God's mind. We *need* family, AS GOD DESIGNED IT, in order to really prepare for positions in God's Family! Done right, marriage is intended to teach spiritual lessons about the God Family (e.g. Ephesians 5:31-33). A child growing up in a godly family learns *spiritual* lessons. In other words, if a family is run as God intended it, there are GOD-PLANE DYNAMICS at work—living lessons in God's government and family love!

## BEHIND THE ANTI-FAMILY FRONT

It is true that *not* being in such a family does not in any way disqualify someone from God's Kingdom. However, they still must learn deeply about *why* marriage and *why* family.

To take it upon ourselves to redefine what a family is, to spurn God's standard and set up our own, to presume that our ideas which are totally *contrary* to God's are in fact SUPERIOR in design and in the results they produce—THIS IS THE HEIGHT OF BOTH ARROGANCE AND FOLLY!

Yes, there is a WAR being waged over marriage and family. On one side are those trying to preserve God's design; on the other are those trying to destroy God's design!

Marriage and family have everything to do with the GOSPEL OF GOD—which is the *good news* of the coming FAMILY OF GOD. This is why it is so important to God. "Adultery, fornication, masturbation, homosexuality are so COLOSSALLY SINFUL because they violate, pollute, profane and destroy something so HOLY and so monumentally RIGHTEOUS in God's sight!" (Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*).

The true force motivating the anti-family front is a spirit being, revealed in Scripture, who was never offered the opportunity to be in God's Family (our free book *Mystery of the Ages* explains this truth). He was never given the creative power to reproduce himself. He hates family and wants to blot it out forever! This is the adversary—Satan the devil—who first deceived Eve into turning against God

(Genesis 3:1-6) and has since deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). He is bent on nothing less than the destruction of humanity.

Satan seeks the complete destruction of family. He knows that by destroying families, he can destroy nations and can blind people to the simple, hope-filled truth of God—so he is doing everything he can to devastate that God-plane relationship!

Truly, we are witnessing a titanic war

over marriage and family. BUT GOD IS NOT GOING TO LOSE THIS WAR!

### GOD'S SOLUTION

God created humankind in His own image and likeness—to be productive, noble and free—to grow in godly character through the rich experiences and responsibilities of family life—to, ultimately, gain entrance into His own Family.

The anti-family agenda breaks down

character, tramples on that potential, and destroys the family vision of God. But in our sophistication, that is considered good! What God esteems, men scorn—and what men exalt, God calls an abomination!

Thus, God thunders this message to our modern world: “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their

# PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

The war on family will take you and your family with it unless you take strong steps to defend against it. Here is some practical advice. BY TRUMPET STAFF

■ First, remember that Satan is the god of this world and is working to *destroy* the family because he knows that strong traditional families hinder his purpose—to destroy mankind. The war on family is intended to hasten our demise! To protect your own family, you must *counter his influence*.

### IN YOUR MARRIAGE

■ Plan to spend time together with your spouse. Learn to enjoy the same hobbies or recreational activities. Read together, listen to music together, go walking together, play tennis together. Sharing activities will help keep you friends for life.

■ Rekindle the flames of romance that drew you together. Court each other! Get a babysitter for your kids and go out for a date, and not too infrequently. If you can, go on short trips alone—two to three days long, two to three times a year.

■ God designed sex to produce pure, righteous, clean, holy and rich blessings! He made it to be the loving bond to preserve your marriage in love. Use it as an energizing magnet to draw constantly closer together with increasing love—to heal over those little irritations in life. And always be giving, never selfish, in sex.

■ Realize that you and your mate are a team, working together in harmony—physically, emotionally and spiritually. Share each other's thoughts, attitudes, emotions,

bodies and the physical things in life. A husband and wife rise together and they fall together.

■ As with any team, there must be organization. God ordained the husband to lead his wife and family (Ephesians 5:22-23). While you are to make final decisions for the household, consult your wife for counsel. Discuss all aspects of the decision that must be made. When an agreement can't be reached, prayerfully make a decision that you feel will best benefit the family.

■ The wife, her husband's spiritual equal, is to be a fitting help, or aid, to him (Genesis 2:18). Study Proverbs 31 and build the skills and character to be the best possible support to your husband and family. If your husband doesn't take your advice, back his decision and try your best to make it a success. Show him respect; be sure he knows you value his leadership.

■ Communication is *vital* to a happy home. Communicate in a quality manner about quality subjects. Express your ideas, judgments, and emotions. Be open and honest—but also kind. Use pleasant tones of voice and facial expressions when talking to one another.

■ Communication is a two-way process. Take time to listen with genuine interest to your mate. Don't be impatient and constantly interrupt. Be attentive not only to words, but also to the feelings and meaning behind the words.

■ Resolve conflicts. Two cannot walk together without agreement

(Amos 3:3). When there is anger or division, do not rest until you have rooted it out of your marriage. A popular song says, “I just want to be mad for a while.” Don't buy into that reasoning—it only separates you. Discuss the problem at the first good opportunity.

■ Don't tear each other down. Beware constant, hard criticism; or arguing and belittling. Forgive and forget minor irritations. If you must point out a fault to your spouse, be kind and patient in your approach. Couch it in love and appreciation. And don't continue bringing the subject up.

■ We all need appreciation—so learn to express and receive it. Think about what your spouse does for you and the family—even the ones you tend to take for granted. Express your thanks. Don't focus on the negative and fail to see things that are worthy of praise.

■ Talk positively about each other both inside and outside of the home.

■ Keep up your personal health and appearance. Good health, grooming and hygiene is of utmost importance in marriage. It shows that you *respect* and have *concern* for your mate. Dress to please your spouse as well as yourself.

### IN YOUR CHILD REARING

■ Provide good music often for your children and read to them *daily* with animation and voice inflection (studies indicate this even has a beneficial effect while

they are still *in the womb*). This will begin to instill a love of reading and music appreciation into their precious minds. It stokes their curiosity and imagination, and enhances bonding between parent and child. It is also a fantastic memory-training technique. As children begin to talk, they will be able to “read” books from memory! Continue reading to them aloud as they grow older.

■ Teach your toddlers to respect authority, especially yours. Discipline them *appropriately* for their age—for rebellion and infractions of rules that you have taught them. And always do this calmly, with explanation and love, *never* in an outburst of rage.

■ Spend a lot of time *playing* with your toddler. Provide toys that stimulate creativity and develop motor skills. Discovery Toys, for example, is one company that produces quality toys that focus on learning.

■ Have *fun* with your young children. Take them to the library, the park, the zoo. Make them *laugh* a lot. Above all, leave no doubt in their mind that you *love* them and that you are willing to *sacrifice* your time for *them*.

■ Teach young children to be *responsible*. Build a good work ethic in them. As soon as they are physically able, require them to help you with household duties and chores. For example, make them responsible for keeping their rooms organized and tidy. If you have pets, give your child the responsibility to feed and care for them. Whenever possible, home improvement, gardening, landscaping and other household projects should be *family* affairs.



# WAR AGAINST FAMILY

own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isaiah 5:20-21).

Yes—woe! Track the prophecies of our family breakdown—of our upside-down marriages, of our lust-filled, adulterous culture, of our failure to govern our children, of our return to the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah—and you will see that God also promises to forcibly CORRECT those problems!

Peter, the chief apostle, spoke of the

anti-family history of Sodom and Gomorrah as a *prophecy*. God turned those cities "into ashes," and in so doing He made them "an ENSAMPLE unto those that after should live ungodly" (2 Peter 2:6). The epistle of Jude speaks of these two cities as suffering the "vengeance of eternal fire." Jude wrote that God set them forth as an example for our day!

These men were warning that any people getting caught up in those sins should

expect the same end! When you live in cities polluted like Sodom and Gomorrah, look out—they are about to be destroyed by fire!—this time, likely in the form of nuclear bombs and other modern means. It is probably the strongest warning example in the Bible!

This is not an outdated Old Testament story—it is New Testament doctrine. Christ Himself prophesied that in the last days, evil conditions would again warrant the cataclysmic destruction that Sodom faced (Luke 17:28-30). He warned about destruction so thorough that unless He personally intervened, no flesh would be saved alive (Matthew 24:22).

Jesus also reminded us of Noah's day, saying, "And as it was in the days of [Noah], so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that [Noah] entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all" (Luke 17:26-27). Obviously God doesn't condemn eating or drinking; nor does He condemn marrying and giving in marriage. This is a prophecy of a society whose behavior in these areas has careened completely off-track! It is speaking of the horrific effects of today's war on family!

And God says that, just as He left Sodom and Gomorrah in ashes, and just as He inflicted worldwide destruction in Noah's time, He is about to destroy today's sin-sick world.

But the prophecies do not *end* in that destruction. They end in hope! And it is there that we find the solutions we seek—solid *answers* on how to WIN this war on family in our own homes, even today.

## THE ANSWER IS FAMILY

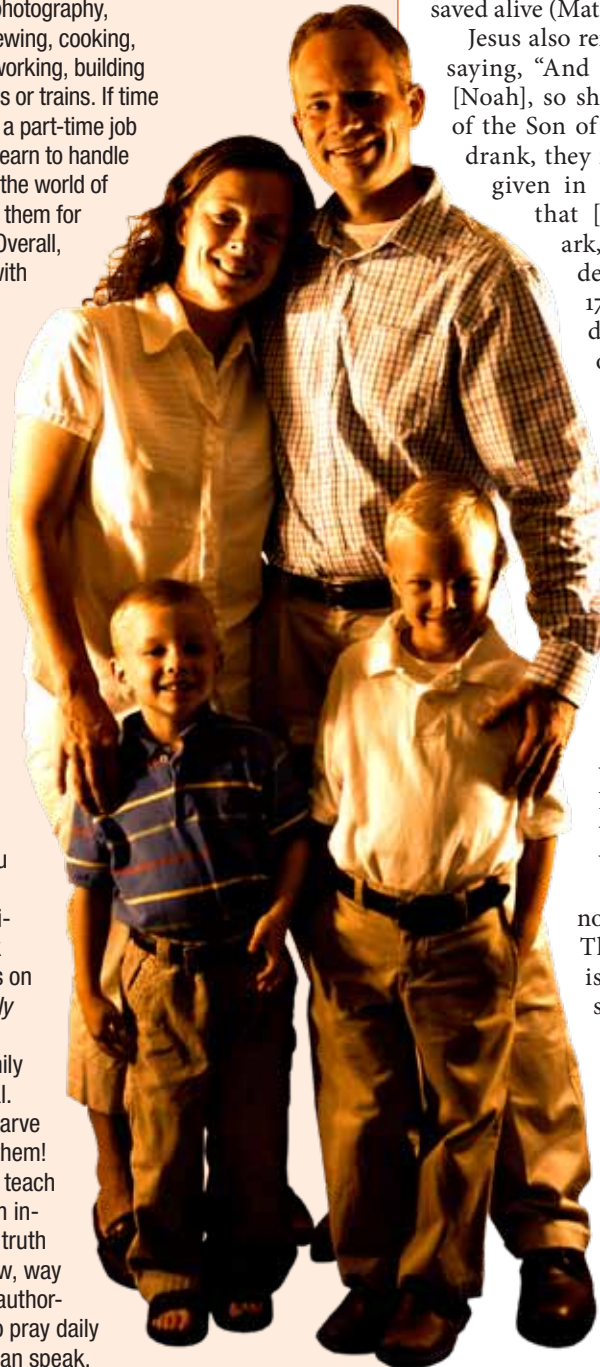
Once God brings a swift, decisive end to the anti-family trends, He will begin to set things right. And do you know how He will do so?

By educating

- Be *honest* with them. They must learn to *trust* you. If you want them to be honest and open with you, especially as they grow older, you have a better chance of securing their trust if they know you are *always* candid with them.
- Teach your children about *sex*. You need to start teaching them as soon as little minds *begin* to become curious about little bodies. Most importantly, make sure you stay ahead of the gutter-talk they will be exposed to from their peers. Our free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex* can help you do this. It is available upon request.
- Apply these principles *before* your children go to school so you build a strong foundation of parental *respect*. By the time they go to school, your children should be convinced that you are their rock-solid provider, confidant, nurturer and protector. They should know that they are fully *loved* and fully *secure* under your care.
- When your children *do* go to school, don't relinquish your position as the most important influence in their life. Continue to be heavily *involved* with your children. Become familiar with their teachers and friends. Participate as much as possible in school activities. Every day, rehearse and review with them what they were taught. If necessary, be prepared to *counter* any wrong teaching.
- As they start into their teen years, make sure they stay busy. Encourage them to excel in school and to participate in sports; music programs such as band or choir; and computer, language or chess clubs. In addition, cultivate their *interests*. Help them to develop

hobbies such as photography, arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, gardening, woodworking, building model cars, planes or trains. If time and grades allow, a part-time job would help them learn to handle responsibilities in the world of work and prepare them for the "real" world. Overall, keep them *busy* with fun and wholesome activities!

- Stay involved with your children as much as possible and keep the lines of *communication* open with your teens. This is of paramount importance. You need to know what they are thinking about. And they need to know that they can confide in you about anything. Provide opportunities to simply talk about whatever is on their minds—*daily* family meal time and a weekly family fun night are ideal. Ensure that you carve out that time for them!
- Above all else, teach your children from infancy the correct truth about God, His law, way of life and moral authority. Teach them to pray daily as soon as they can speak.



mankind in and implementing the same FAMILY LAW that He put in place from the beginning!

When He establishes His Kingdom after Jesus Christ's return, *family* will be restored to its rightful place at the heart of civilization. Christ will marry His bride, the Church (Revelation 19:7). That blissfully perfect marriage will set the example for marriages throughout the Earth.

## GOD CREATED THE PHYSICAL FAMILY AS A MEANS TO INTRODUCE US TO HIS FAMILY!

“Thus saith the Lord; Again there shall be heard ... in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate ... *The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever ...*” (Jeremiah 33:10-11).

Children will no longer oppress their elders. They will be taught respect, and everyone will be the happier for it. “Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in

his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof” (Zechariah 8:4-5).

These are the wonderful effects that implementing God's law will produce. Among these laws are those governing the marital *roles* (e.g. Ephesians 5:29-33; 1 Timothy 5:8), the safeguarding of sex within the marital relationship (e.g. Exodus 20:14, 17), and the *lifelong* nature of the arrangement (Luke

16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:39). Also among them are the laws and principles governing the parent-child relationship (e.g. Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:6-7) and establishing godly government and order in the home.

Those laws are as absolute as the physical laws governing the universe. When they are broken, unhappiness and dissatisfaction result—as our sick society amply proves.

But when they are kept—when they are taught, cherished and obeyed—EVERYONE BENEFITS!

This is how—even today—you can successfully fight the war on family. Study and obey God's basic spiritual laws

governing the family! Even if one lacks the spiritual understanding of their spiritual purposes, keeping those laws—set in inexorable motion by the Creator of marriage, family and all that exists—WILL bring stability, harmony, happiness and peace into your own home.

God is a Family! He created the physical family as a means to introduce us into His Family! What is more beautiful than a strong, godly family? We must learn the beauty of family. That is where the excitement is. Once you understand God's purpose, it is clear that REAL HOPE COMES THROUGH THE FAMILY—AS GOD DESIGNED IT! What it leads into boggles the mind!

We can be thankful to God that His supernatural intervention in the affairs of mankind, as prophesied in hundreds of biblical passages, is now just ahead of us. In the not-too-distant future, the world-ruling FAMILY of God will vigorously teach all of mankind the just and holy laws He always intended to govern the sacred institutions of marriage and family! ■

**Our free booklet *Why Marriage!—Soon Obsolete?* gives a stirring explanation of the reasons for marriage and family. *The Missing Dimension in Sex* goes further into the God-ordained purposes for sex. *The Incredible Human Potential* explains in hope-filled detail the inspiring future these institutions are intended to prepare us for. You need this knowledge! You need the genuine hope that comes from a deep understanding of this beautiful, inspiring subject.**

# MARRIAGE WILL BE SAVED!

Looking at all the attacks on marriage and family coming from society, one might ask, “Will we see the institution of the home and family disappear? Will marriage survive?”

How and where did marriage originate anyway? Does it actually serve any necessary purpose?



In the Bible, the Creator of marriage, home and family life reveals the inspiring meaning of this vital institution. This revelation is a beautiful, exciting truth that, when fully understood, will leave you in awe of the Creator's eternal purpose for marriage! To learn more, request our FREE booklet ***Why Marriage!—Soon Obsolete?***





# America's Decline— From Sinatra to Jackson

**It happened to ancient Rome—and all great world powers: You can track the moral descent of a nation by its cultural decline. BY RON FRASER**

**M**EDIA COVERAGE OF THE Michael Jackson funeral was massive and global. Such was the almost universal appeal of the Jackson entertainment machine. Yet, just a single lifetime ago, the style of “entertainment” embraced by generations of Jackson worshippers would have been relegated to the world of the weird and the perverse, if not the downright demonic.

How did the sense of taste and the social values of society descend to such a morally destructive level?

## Tracking a Phenomenon

In *Newsweek*'s July 13 cover story, journalist David Gates placed Jackson in order of descent in a line of pop idols that have emanated from postwar Anglo-American “culture.” “True, for a while he was the king of pop,” he wrote, “and he’s the last we’re ever likely to have. Before Michael Jackson came Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and the Beatles ....”

Thirty years ago, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote a timeless article about society’s reaction to Beatle John Lennon’s murder. In it he nominated the same entertainment icons of the postwar era as being part of a trend that indicated “[t]his world is fast losing all sense—if it ever had any—of true

social values. The lower the standard of social values, the more popular they become in a misguided and deceived humanity” (*Worldwide News*, Dec. 22, 1980).

Ever one to seek the *cause* of a phenomenon rather than just highlight its effect, Mr. Armstrong traced the history of the postwar trend to idolize the human icons of entertainment: “In a way, the Beatles started this modern trend in a new Satan-influenced lifestyle of a degenerating culture and sense of social values. But John Lennon was their bandleader in this.

“It picked up what had been started by Frank Sinatra, when teenage girls ran screaming half out of their minds for his autograph. It was revived and intensified by Elvis Presley. Then the Beatles delivered Satan’s knockout blow to any public sense of social values in the world.”

It is interesting that Gates would choose the same trend, employing the same examples, as Herbert Armstrong to describe this phenomenon. But Mr. Armstrong highlighted the *result* of 35 years of pop idol worship—each of those “idols” becoming more degenerate than the rest.

Commenting upon the powerful influence of the Beatles on society, Mr. Armstrong observed: “The hippie fad followed. Down went morality, rising triumphantly

was promiscuous sex, ‘pot,’ drugs, divorce, broken homes.

“The world will deify and worship one who can start humanity on such a downward plunge. ... [T]HAT’S OK with the public as long as he was in ‘show biz’ .... Lennon even made the statement at one time that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus Christ. He had MILLIONS—untold MILLIONS—of worshippers.”

Clearly, the spirit that uses the entertainment industry as a tool to aid in the destruction of the moral fiber of whole nations was not finished when John Lennon met his demise. There would be one more “idol,” and his influence on generations of children would mold their minds into a state where no longer could they differentiate between that which was clearly manly and upright on the one hand and soundly feminine on the other. A whole confusion of spirit as to the intended orientation of God-created humanity would result.

## Glorifying the Weird

“As the prepubescent frontboy of the Jackson 5, he sang in a cherubic mezzo-soprano of sexual longing he could not have fully felt,” David Gates wrote. “As a young man ... he seemed to never fully inhabit himself—whoever that self was. In middle age,

he consciously took on the role of Peter Pan ... with what he seemed to believe was an ageless, androgynous physical appearance ... thanks to straightened hair and plastic surgery. ... He did his best to construct an alternative reality on top of what must have been an initially miserable life ....”

In essence, Jackson embodied elements of the two pop idols who preceded him, by marrying Elvis’s daughter and buying the Beatles’ catalog of songs. But as Gates pointed out, Jackson was to descend even further down the slippery slope of decadence than Elvis and Lennon, becoming “the most *sinister* of superstars” (emphasis mine throughout). He was to eventually morph into what looked “like both a vampire and a mummy—Peter Pan’s undead evil twins.”

In its eulogy for Jackson, the *Economist* noted that “He told his biographer, Randy Taraborrelli, that he had ‘deep, dark secrets.’ They were encased in a voice as soft as a whisper, a handshake that felt like a cloud, a face as pale and delicate as plastic surgery and Porcelana skin-bleach could make it. Dark glasses and surgical masks kept the world away from him. ... He shared his meals with a chimpanzee and his bed with young boys ...” (July 2).

To pre-baby boomers, that’s just plain *weird!* Ours was a generation when men were overwhelmingly *really men*, and women really women, and very happy to be so! To appear as anything else, to in any way have the slightest doubt of one’s gender—or very *humanness* for that matter—would have then rendered one ostracized from society ... for the good of society!

As to dining with a monkey? The great problem with presenting such a confusing image to the world, wrapped in the trappings of huge success as an entertainer, is the effect on the minds of the young. The *Economist* noted, “But he had sold 750 million albums and, from Riga to Rio, children danced like him.”

Yes, children all over the world danced like Michael Jackson—their idol. Believe it or not, having such a confused individual as an “idol” has a deep effect on the molding of a child’s mind, particularly influencing what it ultimately accepts as normal. It creates an impression that the perverse is acceptable. It places the stamp of approval on social behavior that is way beyond the bounds set by generations of the past when a nation was great, a nation founded upon clear guidelines as to what is truly male and truly female behavior—true social standards.

The all-too-ready acceptance of the “appeal” that outlandish behavior has on

impressionable, immature minds clouds the judgment of parents when faced with a choice between exposing their children to entertainment that is educational, uplifting and morally sound and that which is clearly perverse.

In short, it creates *confusion*—and that points right to its source (1 Corinthians 14:33).

### Just One Hope

The upshot is, we now have a generation in their 30s and 40s who, having grown up exposed to Jackson idolatry, their social standards shaped by such weirdness as

dict that one day they shall place one who embraces confusion of gender at the helm of the nation.

It’s that same influence that leads the American president to infer (at a Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender Pride Month reception he hosted at the White House) that he will work to endorse historically antisocial behavior “step by step, law by law, mind by changing mind.” This is most worrying of all to those who embrace the fundamental virtues upon which successful societies are built.

Trouble is, these days it takes a really enlightened mind to see such an insidious



**INFLUENCE** The concerts, albums and even memorial service for the “King of Pop” reached millions.

portrayed in his top-selling *Thriller* album, make decisions at government and corporate level that affect multiple millions. The White House currently houses a president who stated he grew up with Michael Jackson’s music and is happy he’s “being remembered primarily for the great joy that he brought to a lot of people.” “Still have all his stuff on my iPod,” the president said.

Herbert Armstrong was right: “This world is fast losing all sense—if it ever had any—of *true social values*. The lower the standard of social values, the more popular they become in a misguided and deceived humanity.”

It’s that loss of true social values, once reflected in Anglo-American society during the heights of its greatness, that now results in the leading lights of the gender-bending movements being entertained at the White House and at Number 10 Downing Street.

It’s such a degenerative influence in society that leads the oldest political party in the world, the British Tories, to strongly endorse perverse lifestyles and even pre-

process for what it is and to deduce where it is ultimately leading. Then, when one does see it, comes the question, as asked by Herbert Armstrong, “What HOPE IS THERE IN SUCH A WORLD?”

It truly takes a mind enlightened by the Creator of mankind to provide the answer to that burning question. Herbert Armstrong gave the only patently true answer 30 years ago, upon the death of an earlier pop icon, in words that are even more appropriate today in the wake of Michael Jackson’s death.

Of that hope, Herbert Armstrong declared, there is “[j]ust one. It’s time we all pray, ‘THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.’ And put our hearts and energies in our prayers, as disciples, like this now dead ‘hero’ put his into the raucous loud squawk and scream with the fast beat. The world can put real energy into the things of Satan. Can we put some real energy into our prayers?”

How seriously do we really want God’s Kingdom to come? Let’s put some ENERGY into our prayers for it! ■

But what do most Christians today believe? Why, they think that everything revolves around Jesus!

Read those scriptures again. Do you realize that Christ *specifically* and *repeatedly* told us *not to do that*? When we overlook the Father, we *insult* both Christ and the Father! That is *rebellious* against God!

WE MUST LEARN TO *HONOR THE FATHER!* That is true in our homes and families, and in our spiritual lives.

When I read verses like this, it makes me realize more deeply how most of Christianity rebels against Christ and the Father! Christ directed us to the Father over and over and over and over and over and over—and people *still* refuse to get it. WHY?

Here is why. Christ said to some hard-headed religious people, “I speak that which I have seen with *my Father*: and ye do that which ye have seen with *your father*” (John 8:38). What did He mean, “your father”? “Ye do the deeds of *your father*,” He told them in verse 41. Who was their “father”?

Christ continued, “If God were your Father, ye would love me: for *I proceeded forth and came from God*; neither came I of myself, but HE SENT ME” (verse 42). Again, He continually honored and declared the Father. Then He said plainly, “YE ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, and the lusts of your father ye will do” (verse 44).

The religious people of Christ’s day *didn’t honor God the Father*. After all, they killed His Son! They obeyed *their* father, the

## The religious people of Christ’s day didn’t honor God the Father. After all, they killed His Son! They obeyed their father, the devil. And Satan hates family. He is determined to fight it with everything he has!

devil. And Satan *hates* family. He is determined to fight it with everything he has!

The same is true of so many people today—including religious people. Satan has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9). He wants to *blot out the Father* and *destroy* the Family of God. Most people fail utterly to understand family.

DID YOU KNOW THAT *FAMILY IS AT THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL THAT JESUS CHRIST PREACHED*? How many religious people understand that? (Request a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential* to understand this truth.)

Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4). His society is filled with attacks against God’s plan for family. These attacks are succeeding in some frightening ways. The institution of the family is suffering the death of a thousand wounds.

We see many politicians, celebrities and sports figures—who receive so much adulation and attention—with *wretched* family problems. Loose living, adultery, drug addiction, sexual deviancy—everything you can imagine.

God says that when you find a wife, you find a good thing and have God’s favor (Proverbs 18:22). That is inspiring! Don’t those politicians realize that—when they betray their wives and have shameful love affairs? Don’t they realize what a *good thing* they have, and that they are *TRASHING IT*?

Forty years ago, *Time* magazine warned that the crisis in the family has implications that extend far beyond the walls of the home. In a Dec. 28, 1970, article, *Time* quoted the founder of the

American Institute of Family Relations as saying, “NO SOCIETY HAS EVER SURVIVED AFTER ITS FAMILY LIFE DETERIORATED” (emphasis mine).

Look around today! Wouldn’t you say that institute founder knew what he was talking about? Family breakdown is having disastrous effects—and they are going to get far worse.

Remember what Mr. Armstrong wrote: “THE VERY FOUNDATION OF ANY STABLE CIVILIZATION is the SOLID FAMILY STRUCTURE. ... NOTHING in this material world is as important as a HAPPY HOME LIFE with father, mother and well-taught happy children—a CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY.”

The fact that the physical family is an exact type of the God Family should inspire us all to forsake the filth of this world and STRENGTHEN OUR FAMILIES!

Every father should study the example of God the Father to see how to lead his family. God says to His children, “I will NEVER leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). When He begets a child, He commits Himself to fulfilling His responsibility toward that child! If you study this scripture in the original Greek language, you will see it is written for maximum emphasis. There are *five negatives*. Though a good literal translation isn’t really possible, in essence God is saying, “I will NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, NEVER forsake you!” What a wonderful Father!

God honors His children. Think about when a physical father is watching his young child learn to walk. The baby is bound to stumble and fall. The father doesn’t focus on the stumbles. He looks at when the child takes a step! As soon as the child steps, that really excites him! The same is true of God the Father. He is moved and stirred when He sees His children take spiritual steps, and begin to walk and live and act like Him! That kindles within Him strong feelings of love.

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, He tells His people that He will never allow them to suffer a trial greater than they can bear. Yes, He does allow trials at times. He does chasten and correct His children (e.g. Deuteronomy 8:5; Hebrews 12:5-11). But He knows His children so intimately that He knows *exactly* where to draw the line in a trial that will develop their character! That is a PROMISE that reveals His great depth of understanding about you and love for all His children.

The parable of the prodigal son, recorded in Luke 15, also shows that love. The son rebelled against his father and fled to the world. He soon realized that his life had become a wreck. He recognized just how good he had lived under his father. He decided to turn things around, and he returned to his father in a repentant state. How did the father in this parable respond? Exactly the way God the Father responds when one of His children repents: He hugged and kissed his son! He was full of joy! He truly CELEBRATED his son’s return.

Yes, God is a *loving Father*. He’s not *like* a father—He is the ULTIMATE FATHER! And He’s perfect. He said, *If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more do I, in whom there is no evil?* (Matthew 7:11).

God gave His own Son to pay for our sins so that, when we repent and accept that sacrifice, God can open up His Family to us!

He gives us incredible honor. We all must learn to honor Him back, as Jesus Christ did. As Christ told us in Matthew 18:1-4, in order to enter God’s Kingdom we must humble ourselves as little children. That means seeing God, and honoring Him, as our Father!

# The Truth Behind Iran's Election Protests

The real struggle isn't between conservatives and moderates.

BY JOEL HILLIKER



**REVOLUTION?** Some Western reports hailed unrest in Iran as real change, but demonstrators in the streets are mere distractions compared to what goes on behind Persia's closed doors.

**I**N THE BROAD SCHEME, IRAN'S STAR IS rising. It is ready to seize the advantage from a fading United States in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, it has effectively neutralized the long-standing threat from the U.S. It has prepared its terrorist proxies in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip for a future attack on Israel. It is about to go nuclear. Many long-held dreams of Iran's radicals appear about to come true.

And yet, trouble stirs at home. Cracks in the ayatollah's power have appeared. After allegations of fraud sullied its June 12 presidential election, the streets filled with angry protest. As the weeks passed, clerics began to defect from the supreme leader and voice their dissent over the regime's heavy-handed, even corrupt rule.

Could it be that Iran is on the verge of a transformation? What is going on here?

Many outsiders have viewed the protests as a sort of prelude to a long-awaited Islamic counter-revolution. They are going to be disappointed.

The *Trumpet* believes categorically that this is *not* the herald of a new age of moderation in Iran. Though there may be bumps along the way, ultimately the Islamic Republic will roll on toward its goal of regional dominance and general mayhem in the name of *Allah*. It will keep

supporting terror and pursuing nuclear weapons. There are several reasons this is true.

## A Sham Election

For one, the election—like all Iranian elections—was a charade. This isn't merely a question of whether or not votes were counted correctly, as European and American leaders disingenuously claim.

Iran is not a democracy—it is a theocratic republic. The religious leaders decide who can run for office and who can't. "In practice," *American Thinker* wrote, "a president of Iran is already chosen through a farce process of giving the voters a chance to elect one of the men hand-picked from the regime's functionaries, as was the case with President Ahmadinejad" (June 16). Out of 470 candidates who entered the pre-screening process, *only four* came through. Ahmadinejad's main opponent, Mirhossein Mousavi—whom many seem to think would shepherd Iran into the peace-loving brotherhood of nations—has a history as a hardliner from the days when he was prime minister under the Islamic Republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Of course, the mullahs control more than just elections—they control *everything*. The president, whoever he may be,

doesn't create foreign policy; he is essentially a caretaker of domestic matters. Even then, everything he does is subject to approval by the ayatollah. Consider how Iran's nuclear program has developed virtually uninterrupted through several presidencies, both "radical" and "moderate."

The stranglehold these religious leaders have on the nation is far more complete than Western media are leading people to believe.

In truth, it is erroneous to view recent events as a battle between conservative and liberal camps within Iran. Rather, we are witnessing a power struggle between *rival conservative factions*, both hungering for the same goal: nuclear-armed domination of a Jew-free Middle East en route to broader, global ambitions. The two sides only disagree on how to go about it.

## The True Struggle in Iran

There has not in fact been an uprising against the regime. As Stratfor wrote, "The post-election unrest in Iran ... was not a matter of a repressive regime suppressing liberals ... but a struggle between two Islamist factions that are each committed to the regime, but opposed to each other" (June 29). Any truly reformist faction simply doesn't exist as a credible political force.

# Why Trouble in Iran Will Lead to War

**A** CANNY enemy of Iran may view that country's recent political turmoil as an opportunity. The regime faces opposition. There is murmuring in the camp. On the street are some—perhaps many—who seek genuine *liberalization* and are willing to fight for it. Maybe these rifts could be exploited, pried apart, in order to rock the establishment—if not to overthrow the regime, then at least to delay or perhaps even halt Iran's otherwise relentless drive toward achieving its nefarious goals.

That the U.S. is *not* that canny enemy has become patently clear. The Obama administration has no intention of rocking the Iranian establishment. President Obama *wants* to work with Khamenei and Ahmadinejad. Formal recognition of Iran's theocracy is a cornerstone of his foreign policy. Thus, he says preventing a nuclear Iran has "gotten more difficult" because of the popular challenge to the regime.

The realization that America is out of the picture puts other nations in an intriguing position. Outside of Israel—which now unenviably must face the Iranian threat without its staunchest ally—the most crucial of these nations to watch is *Germany*.

With America in paralysis, Germany is realizing that if anything is going to be done about Iran, it will have to do it.

Chancellor Angela Merkel sternly condemned Iranian leaders for their crackdown against election protests. She openly demanded a vote recount and warned that Germany would "not forget" the mullahs' brutality against their own citizens. Germany's human rights commissioner published an op-ed article saying that Germany should "openly encourage those who are calling for an end to the Islamic Republic." Germany's parliament is filling with calls for more confrontation with Iran. Bundestag member Philipp Mißfelder proposed reducing Germany's economic ties with Iran in order to "make our own contribution to destabilizing the Ahmadinejad regime."

Hundreds of German companies in Iran are freezing operations there or have pulled out altogether. Some are going much further: proactively working to foment the political tension. "German organizations are trying to escalate the internal power struggles in Iran," reported German-Foreign-Policy.com (June 22). Deutsche Welle broadcasted Farsi-language encouragement to protesters. Politically affiliated foundations have offered to partner with those challenging the regime. Apparently these seditious activities were going on for months even *before* the election.

The ayatollah and his agents are incensed. "The Iranians are rejecting this interference and threatening to break diplomatic relations with Berlin. Still, German organizations close to the government are continuing unabated their activities, fanning domestic protests in Iran" (*ibid.*).

The primary struggle within the regime is between the hard right, under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and the pragmatic conservatives led by influential cleric and former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Both of these men are sons of the 1979 revolution, as are the rest of Iran's political and religious leaders. As Stratfor pointed out, "It would be a massive mistake to think that any leadership elements have abandoned those principles" (*ibid.*).

On July 17, in his first sermon after the election, Rafsanjani claimed that he was the true heir to the Islamic Revolution and that he spoke for the Islamic

Republic's founder, Ayatollah Khomeini. He is no liberal reformer. He has a lengthy public record of supporting and driving Iran's radical policies.

Yes, both sides claim to speak for the Khomeinist cause. Both factions also want Iran to become a nuclear powerhouse capable of dominating the Middle East. Ahmadinejad, of course, has made this clear. But Rafsanjani, despite being considered a moderate by some in the West, has the same national goals. In a 2001 speech, Rafsanjani spoke of a nuclear Iran and said Iran would one day vomit Israel "out from its midst" in one blast, because

With these bold moves, Germany is clearly taking the lead in the EU's response against Iran. "European Union ministers may be ready to push for tougher sanctions against Iran after Germany has shown growing willingness to take a harder line," wrote the *London Times* (June 26).

Yes, of all nations to seize the opportunity to undermine Iran, it is Germany that is taking advantage. Many say its brash meddling in Iranian politics will actually backfire against the Iranian dissidents, for whom any association with the West is essentially a death sentence. "Interference by the West would be extremely harmful to the movement," said Iran expert Bahman Nirumand. The movement "would be immediately accused of being guided by the West and its leaders branded as collaborators." Berlin doesn't seem to care.

After years of Iranian provocations, Germany is beginning to push back. America's disappearing act on Iran is accelerating the trend.

Germany is deeply interested in expanding its influence in the Middle East. The fact that Iran—the most dominant and prickly power in the region—is its biggest obstacle is very plain. Germany's appetite for a confrontation appears to be growing.

Watch Iran and Germany closely. Tension is clearly growing and could be approaching an explosive climax.

What makes this situation so important is the fact that the Bible *specifically prophesies* a spectacular clash between these two nations—a clash that will spark a world war!

The Prophet Daniel wrote, "And *at the time of the end* [the time just ahead of us] shall *the king of the south* [an Iranian-led, radical Middle Eastern power] push at him: and *the king of the north* [a German-led European power] shall *come against him like a whirlwind*, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown ..." (Daniel 11:40-41).

That we are witnessing a *German-led Europe* getting agitated by and taking steps to *confront Iran* suggests just *how soon* we will see the fulfillment of Daniel's end-time prophecy!

**JOEL HILLIKER**



"a single atomic bomb has the power to completely destroy Israel, while an Israeli counterstrike can only cause partial damage to the Islamic world."

For the time being, Rafsanjani wants to avoid confrontation with the U.S. so the Iranian nuclear program can progress unhindered and the Iranian government can play a larger role in Iraq. Ahmadinejad's ultraconservative faction, on the other hand, opposes any sort of rapprochement with the West.

While Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has worked to build a consensus between

See **IRAN** page 34 ►

# Germany's Stealth Attack on the EU

What it means for the future of Europe and the world. BY BRAD MACDONALD

**T**HE GERMAN HIGH COURT HAS ambushed the European Union. At first, Europe's leaders didn't see it. Some are now coming to grips with it. But it could be too late.

Germany's Federal Constitutional Court recently ruled that the Lisbon Treaty is compatible with the German constitution. On June 30, the court rejected complaints by some German lawmakers that the treaty violated the constitution, and decided that "the substance of German state authority is protected" in the treaty.

EU leaders were so relieved Berlin said *ja* to Lisbon that they gave little thought at the time to a colossal caveat attached to the ruling.

Germany's constitution "says yes to the Lisbon Treaty," stated presiding judge Andreas Voßkuhle in his verdict, which was televised nationally, "but calls at *national level for a strengthening of parliamentary responsibility*" (emphasis mine throughout).

What did Voßkuhle mean by the "strengthening of parliamentary responsibility"? He meant this: Before Germany ratifies the Lisbon Treaty, it must strengthen the German parliament's influence on decisions made in Brussels. Therefore, a law is now being created that will demand members of the Bundestag approve any change to the Lisbon Treaty, or any expansion of EU power, before it can be imposed on Germany. The Bundestag (the lower house of the German parliament) hopes to draft the law and add it to Germany's official ratification of the Lisbon Treaty before national elections on September 27.

This law essentially will equip Germany with the power to hijack the EU! The biblically prophetic implications of this move are profound.

## Why Europe Was Excited

Peter Gauweiler, member of the right-wing Christian Socialist Union (CSU), spearheaded the challenge against the Lisbon Treaty. Although he lost his appeal and Germany is preparing to ratify the treaty, Gauweiler was more than satisfied with the federal court's far-reaching stipulation. "It's a very sweeping decision on the Lisbon Treaty as a whole," he told Spiegel Online. "In 91 pages, the Federal Constitutional Court expressly held that the treaty and its accompanying law *must conform to Germany's constitution*, the so-called Basic Law ..." (July 1).

Germany has been chiseling itself a seat atop Europe ever since its reunification in 1989. With its location at the geographic heart of the Continent, its large population and its economic and political clout, it has been quite successful. Because of its size and influence, Germany's acceptance or rejection of an EU law or policy has a major impact on the decisions of other member states, and ultimately on whether or not the law or policy is written into the books in Brussels. This legal stipulation will now give Germany unparalleled influence in Brussels. With German politicians weighing every EU law and policy more carefully, EU lawmakers will be forced to take the *German* constitution and *German* opinion into account when formulating virtually every law, every policy and every decision.

Essentially, it will make Berlin, not Brussels, the epicenter of EU law and policy!

After the June court ruling, at first EU leaders were tickled that Germany was being so expeditious in ratifying the treaty. They hoped Berlin embracing the EU

constitution would provide fresh, much-needed impetus to Ireland, the Czech Republic and Poland, which have all yet to ratify the treaty.

The more the other EU states mulled it over, however, the clearer it became that they had indeed been ambushed by the German high court. "[T]here is a danger that, given the country's size, the German parliament will be the tail that wags the EU dog," noted the *Irish Examiner*, nearly *three weeks* after the ruling had passed. "It can dictate a direction for laws or, if it vetoes legislation, then it cannot proceed at EU level" (July 20).

## The Truth Comes Out

Really, there was no excuse for Europe's slow uptake. After all, it was only a *matter of hours* before the German media was reporting on the far-reaching reality of the ruling.

The court's verdict "takes the German parliament to task," observed the German paper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. "German politicians will need to become involved with every new law, no matter how small. ... *And with this decision European integration becomes part of Germany's domestic politics*. ... This spectacularly clever verdict artfully says that European integration will not be stopped—but *will be making a little detour through Germany*, where it will benefit from some added democracy."

"This is the end of European integration as we know it," wrote the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. "Germany will support the Lisbon Treaty, but only under strict conditions. *And anyone who wants to found a European state must now ask for the permission of the German people*." Multiple issues are already lining up,





**HOW IT'S GOING TO BE** The German Constitutional Court is making sure Berlin controls the EU, not vice versa.

waiting for adjudication by the German court, the article said, and the “message is loud and clear: We wear the pants.”

Observed *Handelsblatt*: The German court clearly sees the “European Parliament as a *minor* instrument which is ‘not suited to *major political decisions.*’” The German business daily continued: “For Karlsruhe [the German Constitutional Court], democracy has only one important organ: the national constitution. And that’s not exactly an altruistic move—because by saying this, the *Constitutional Court is also increasing its own claim to legislative power.* Only Karlsruhe can stop Brussels from going overboard, only Karlsruhe can protect principles of democracy. And that secures Karlsruhe a long sought-after advantage over various European tribunals.”

The ruling of the German high court could not have been more plain. When it comes to EU affairs, Germany considers the *European Parliament* a minor instrument, and the *German* constitution and Federal Constitutional Court the supreme authority!

Under the new law, the German high court will be able to overrule the EU’s highest court, the European Court of Justice. The ECJ is designed to establish and uphold the supremacy of EU law over the national law of member states. One of its primary functions is to interpret and provide the last word on EU law. Under the proposed new German law, if the ECJ makes a decision at odds with German national law, or if Germany perceives that it oversteps its authority, German citizens will have the right to legal protection by the Federal Constitutional Court, even against EU regulations and the ECJ.

It must comfort German citizens to know they stand above EU law. But what about the lawmakers in Brussels, or the citizens of the other 26 EU member nations? Brussels will be forced to formulate laws and policies with the German high court peering over its shoulder, ready to shred any decision that doesn’t align with German interests or the German constitution. Citizens of other member states will have to stand idly by as the EU is stealthily put under subjection by Berlin.

That’s democracy, German-style!

Even some prominent Germans are openly admitting the blatant nationalistic spirit behind this new ruling. The court ruling is “outrageous,” declared former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. “The decision comes at a time at which our European neighbors and the Americans are increasingly gaining the impression that Germany is more and more turning away from Europe and is mainly interested in its own affairs,” he wrote. “The Constitutional Court’s decision strengthens this impression” (Spiegel Online, July 17).

In its ruling, the German high court expressed concern that the EU in its current form is an undemocratic institution. It argued that this new law strengthening the role of the German parliament in Brussels would make the EU more democratic.

Don’t believe it. Both history and prophecy tell us that is a BALD-FACED LIE!

### Germany and the Holy Roman Empire

In 1954, Herbert Armstrong wrote, “Nothing can prevent Germany from *completely dominating Europe.* Soon there will be the prophesied united Europe—the resurrected Roman Empire—with

Germans in complete domination. *IT’S PROPHESED!* It is hurtling on toward the destruction of America and Britain” (co-worker letter, Sept. 18, 1954). Mr. Armstrong was referring to prophecies in the biblical books of Isaiah, Daniel, Nahum, Hosea, Revelation and elsewhere that foretell the emergence in the last days of a newly resurrected Holy Roman Empire—led by *Germany!*

This new law will NOT make the EU more democratic. *Germany* will be the only member with a greater voice. It’s a stealthy ambush of Brussels that will only make the European Union even more German-centric, German-dependent and German-dominated. This legal decision will equip Berlin with far-reaching leverage over EU law and policy, and will ultimately advance Germany’s prophetic march to become the unchecked leader of a united European empire.

If you haven’t already started, *now* is the time to begin studying Bible prophecy, specifically those prophecies relating to Germany and the Holy Roman Empire. A German-led, Catholic-inspired European empire *is* building. Take the time to become familiar with how it will affect America, Britain and the rest of the world, how powerful it will ultimately become, how its reign will end, what will come after it is gone, and what you can do to escape its grip.

We can help you answer these questions. Request your free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire.*

Believe it or not, this resurrected German empire is coming, and it will touch *your life!*



# WORLDWATCH

## EUROPE

ON JULY 1, **Sweden** took over the rotating presidency of the European Union. One of the biggest challenges Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt will face is pushing the Lisbon Treaty forward despite the increased number of right-wing euroskeptics who gained seats in the European Parliament's elections in June.

As European leaders focus on holding the Union together, Pope Benedict XVI issued a call for a "true world political authority" in his 144-page encyclical released July 7 (article, page 20).

Europe's economic outlook continues to deteriorate. According to the EU's statistics office, industrial production in the 16-nation eurozone fell an astounding 21.6 percent from April 2008 to April 2009. **Germany** was one of the hardest-hit countries, with a 23.2 percent annual fall. As the largest economy in Europe and the world's biggest exporter, Germany is the main driver of economic activity on the Continent. As an indication of the general fear on the street, "Gold to go" vending machines are being unveiled across Germany, as firm TG-Gold-Super-Markt tries to take advantage of widespread economic uncertainty. Historically, the price of gold going up indicates probable economic trouble. Gold becoming so popular that people can buy it from vending machines is a big warning sign for Europe.

The European parliamentary election in June has placed Germany in a position



of much higher and stronger representation than any other EU member nation in this Parliament. The new **EU Parliament president, Jerzy Buzek**, will have an uphill battle resisting pressure from the powerful German lobby within the new Parliament's ranks. German parliamentary members have been elected to three of the most powerful legislative committees in the new Parliament: the influential industry, research and energy committee; the environment committee; and the new legal affairs committee. In addition, a German member of the European Parliament now heads a special committee investigating the financial crisis. This means that industry, energy, environment, legal affairs and the financial crisis—about the sum total of all major EU business—will now be under German leadership



in the **European Parliament**.

At the official opening of the new European Parliament on July 13, the departing president, Germany's Hans-Gert Pöttering, gave an indication of how Germany is likely to use its dominance in the new Parliament when he "urged MEPs to unite to freeze 'anti-Europeans' out of the decision-making process for the next five years" (*Times*, July 14).

If the Lisbon Treaty is ratified by Germany and the remaining dissenting nations sign up to it, Germany will gain even more political power. "If and when the Lisbon Treaty comes into force, Germany stands to be the big winner," reported *European Voice*. "The introduction of a system of voting in the Council of Ministers by double majority, taking into account the population represented by the member states as well as their allocation of votes, will favor Germany" (July 9).



## MIDDLE EAST

THE U.S. BEGAN IMPLEMENTING its new strategy for **Afghanistan** in early July, mounting an offensive into the Taliban's opium-growing stronghold in the south of the country. A surge of 4,000 troops was sent to Helmand province with the aim of "winning hearts and minds." Time is on the Taliban's side, however, and as casualties mount, fragile public support for the war in the U.S., and in its main ally, Britain, are certain to falter.

On July 2, **Iran** and Afghanistan signed a 17-article memorandum of understanding to promote bilateral trade and expand commercial ties between the two countries.



Items in the memo included a joint Afghanistan-Iran chamber of commerce in Kabul and a preferential trade agreement. Iran has stepped up its involvement with Afghanistan (and **Pakistan**), not only as a means of increasing its influence in that country, but also in an effort to increase its leverage against America.

Four EU countries and **Turkey** signed an agreement on July 13 formally launching the Nabucco gas pipeline project, which will take natural gas from the Caspian Sea region and the Middle East through Turkey to Europe. “Nabucco’s viability critically depends on gas supplies from **Turkmenistan** and Iran,” said Asia Times Online (July 15). The pipeline is designed to decrease the EU’s dependence on Russian gas. But reliance on Iran and the Middle East for energy will prove to be every bit as dangerous for Europe.

On July 9, the U.S. released five Iranian agents accused of supporting Shiite terror cells in **Iraq**. The U.S. military

turned them over to Iraqi authorities, who promptly released them to the Iranians. U.S. spokesmen said Washington had no choice but to release the Iranians under the terms of the Status of Forces Agreement made with Iraq last year. Stratfor reported, however, that it appears the captured Iranians were a bargaining chip for the U.S. to use in its negotiations with Iran, and that their release could indicate that Washington intends to continue its policy of diplomacy with Iran. Regardless, the U.S. has proven unwilling to prosecute Iranian agents responsible for the deaths of U.S. soldiers. Iraq’s actions also reveal that its sympathies lie more with Iran than with America.

American troops completed their withdrawal from Iraqi cities June 30. **About 130,000 U.S. soldiers will remain in urban outposts to help Iraqi forces** if called upon. Fox News military analyst Col. David Hunt warned that the security situation in Iraq “will



hinge as much on Iran as the Iraqi government.” Iran has strong ties to Iraq’s Shiite government, and where it refuses to do Tehran’s bidding, Iran has another tool: terror. “Iran is still supporting, funding and training surrogates who operate inside of Iraq,” said Gen. Ray Odierno, America’s top military commander in Iraq. “They have not stopped, and I don’t think they will stop.” Watch for Iraq to strengthen its ties to Iran as it acknowledges the current reality: that America is leaving, and Iran is there to stay.

It seems that as **Lebanon’s** ruling March 14 alliance battles to form a new government following the country’s parliamentary elections on June 7, its aim is to reconcile with Hezbollah. The ruling party knows that the Iran-sponsored Hezbollah terrorist group will retain its grip on the country one way or another—which is why it is accommodating Hezbollah rather than standing up to it. While Saad Hariri, leader of the ruling alliance, is resisting granting Hezbollah formal veto power, Stratfor

reports that he and his Saudi patrons are “formulating a new working relationship with the Shiite militant group that protects and pays tribute to the ‘Resistance’” (June 16). Fearing Hezbollah would take matters into its own hands violently, Hariri has set out to appease the group by giving it security guarantees, meaning Hezbollah will not be called upon to disarm.

## ASIA

**A**FTER TESTING ITS FIRST nuclear bomb on Independence Day three years ago, and then detonating its second nuclear bomb this past Memorial Day, **North Korea** chose July 4 this year to launch seven missiles eastward into the Sea of **Japan**, likely in an effort to demonstrate it would not hesitate to seek to overwhelm the missile defense systems of its enemies. The U.S. State Department spokesman’s response was to say, “This type of North Korean behavior is not helpful.” Such a response reinforces the international perception of America’s weakness.

**Thousands of Chinese troops flooded into Urumqi**, a Chinese city of 2.5 million near the Pakistan and Afghanistan borders, in early July to separate feuding ethnic groups after riots left more than 190 people dead and hundreds more injured. Chinese officials allege that the fighting between Muslim Uighurs and ethnic Han Chinese was whipped up by U.S.-exiled Uighur activist Rebiya Kadeer and her overseas supporters. The ethnic violence may be a sign that **China’s** economic slowdown is becoming more severe, at least in the interior provinces.

The *World Tribune* reported July 7 that Chinese military experts are calling for the setting up of military



space forces, an indication that Beijing is moving ahead with plans to wage space war in a future conflict. The Beijing Zhongguo Xinwen She, the official news service for overseas Chinese, reported that space is now a fourth domain after land, sea and air. In 2007, China tested its first anti-satellite weapon by firing a ground-based missile that destroyed a Chinese weather satellite. The test shocked U.S. military planners because it demonstrated a strategic asymmetric warfare capability that could be used against the U.S. to devastating effect.

During President Barack Obama’s visit to Moscow in early July, America and **Russia** signed an agreement that will allow U.S. military transport

flights through Russian airspace to supply U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan. A cap of 4,500 flights per year has been put in place, however, which, while shortening the supply line, will not allow a greater quantity of supplies to reach Afghanistan. It is land routes through Russian territory that the U.S. really wants—and a deal on this is unlikely without a great deal of haggling and a substantial pay-off for Russia.

On June 29, Russia began its largest war games since the fall of the Soviet Union. The exercises near the Georgian border raised tensions just under a year after Russia’s invasion of **Georgia**. Russia’s Defense Ministry said that more than 8,500 troops, 200 tanks, armored vehicles, 100 artillery units and several units from Russia’s Black Sea naval fleet took part in the week-long exercises. Just a few weeks earlier, NATO held its own military exercises in Georgia. “The Russian exercises, given

the timing, are a definitive response,” said Russia’s envoy to NATO, Dmitri O. Rogozin. Russia’s growing power and confidence are becoming increasingly visible.

Russia’s energy weapons are growing stronger too. Russia signed a major deal with **Azerbaijan** on June 29 to purchase natural gas beginning next year. Moscow wants to become the middleman between Azerbaijan and Europe, and remove a potential supplier for **Europe’s planned Nabucco pipeline**. That way Russia could continue to use the threat of cutting off gas supplies as a geopolitical weapon.

## LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

**T**HE UNITED STATES AND **Venezuela** are restoring full diplomatic ties, with their ambassadors having returned to each other’s countries in June. But Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has already



lambasted President Obama more than once and is continuing to build relationships with Iran and China that will undermine U.S. interests in the region. For now, Venezuela still needs the U.S. When that is no longer the case, expect Chavez to close the door again.

Meanwhile, the Venezuelan president is continuing his war on his country's media, promising to take over more than 200 radio stations and bring cable television under government oversight.

**Argentina's** President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner suffered a major political defeat in June 28 elections when her party lost its majority and her husband, himself a former president of Argentina, lost the election for a parliamentary seat in Buenos Aires.

While President Fernandez's populist policies have backfired, she may well try to push through as many of her agenda items as possible before the newly elected legislators take office in December.



The Honduran Supreme Court ordered the military to remove **President Manuel Zelaya** from office on June 26. Many news outlets, apparently following the lead of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, reported his legal removal by the judiciary and replacement by his constitutionally mandated successor as a "coup." On July 15, Roberto Micheletti, the interim president, offered to resign as long as Mr. Zelaya was not reinstated. Three days earlier, Micheletti said Zelaya could be granted amnesty as long as he returned home quietly to face any legal consequences. This behavior reinforces the obvious: There was no military coup in **Honduras**.

**Zimbabwe** has secured

\$950 million in credit lines from China as well as pledges totaling more than \$500 million from the U.S. and Europe. The tattered country says it needs \$10 billion to rebuild its infrastructure. Unemployment is at 90 percent.

**South Africa's** Medical Research Council (MRC) has released a shocking survey: One in four South African males admits to having raped someone, with about half saying they had multiple victims. The survey included 1,738 men in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. According to BBC News, the MRC said that "practices such as gang rape were common because they were considered a form of male bonding" (June 18). Seventy-three percent of respondents said they carried out their first attack before

they were 20 years old. One in 20 admitted to committing a rape in the last year. For every 25 men accused of rape in South Africa, however, only one is convicted.

## ANGLO-AMERICA

**T**HE BUREAU OF LABOR Statistics reported that the **U.S.** officially lost 460,000 jobs in June. For its calculations, the bureau automatically adds between 150,000 and 200,000 jobs. The actual job loss was probably closer to 600,000. When discouraged and "underemployed" workers are included, the unemployment rate is already above 16 percent, and duration of unemployment now is at an all-time high. Although exact data from the 1930s is unavailable, economists are seeing 2009 mimic the early stages of the Great Depression.

The federal deficit topped \$1 trillion in June for the



first time ever. It could grow to nearly \$2 trillion by this fall, intensifying fears about higher interest rates, inflation and the strength of the dollar. The deficit has been widened by the huge sum the government has spent to ease the recession, combined with a sharp decline in tax revenues and the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Foreign investors, on whom the U.S. is dangerously reliant—including some American allies like **France** and **India**—are questioning whether it's a good idea to invest in the dollar.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated in late June that up to **1 million Americans may be carrying the new h1n1 swine flu**. Nearly 28,000 U.S. cases of the illness, including more than 3,000 hospitalizations and 127 deaths, had been reported to the CDC.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reported on July 9 that Britain, formerly an empire, now faces big military cuts: "[A]t a time of overwhelming public support for its service men and women, the global recession is causing Britain to face hard choices about its future military role in the world—putting at risk plans to build new aircraft carriers and heralding consequences for everything from operations alongside the U.S. in Afghanistan to whether the

**UK** remains nuclear-armed." Britain's defense forces are undergoing a full-scale official review for the first time in more than a decade. Three of Britain's most influential independent research institutes forecast that Britain's defense budget will be drastically cut.

Britain is also facing an "energy crunch" in the North Sea. New oil and gas exploration there plunged almost 60 percent in the first half of this year. Companies are cutting back on new projects because the recession is forcing costs higher and making credit tighter. The majority of the UK's energy needs are supplied domestically, but with domestic production dropping 5 percent every year, Britain is being forced to rely more and more on imports.

The UK has the worst violent crime record in the EU, according to reports by the European Commission and the United Nations. For every 100,000 residents there are 2,034 instances of violent crime. The UK also reported the fourth-highest burglary rate (523 per 100,000) in the EU and the fifth-highest robbery rate (164 per 100,000). Comparing Britain's current rates to the late 1990s, the number of violent crimes in Britain has risen almost 80 percent.



# Pope Benedict and National Socialism—the Connection

Few commentators have picked up on the connection between the pope's recent encyclical on the global economy and Nazi ideology. **BY RON FRASER**

**C**AUSE AND EFFECT. THERE'S A BINDING universal law that connects the two. So it is with Pope Benedict XVI's recent, long-awaited encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("In Charity and Truth"). That encyclical is inherently joined to a consistent theme that has run through Catholic social doctrine over the past 120 years, finding its most extreme political outlet in the National Socialism that gripped Europe in the wake of the great global crisis of the 1920s and '30s.

Is it entirely coincidental that this pope would choose the worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression to profoundly endorse those same principles that laced the economic theories of fascism and Nazism just one lifetime ago during a similar crisis?

Pope Benedict's encyclical is the latest contribution to Catholic economic theory,

traditionally known as Catholic social doctrine. It is crucial to understand the true source of this thinking. It traces back much further in history than most people realize.

## State Intervention

Catholic social doctrine is founded upon Pope Leo XIII's encyclical "Rerum Novarum" ("On the Condition of Labor"), issued in 1891 in response to the tensions between capital and labor in the wake of the Industrial Revolution. It endorsed an essentially *socialist* approach to economic control.

Building upon that theme, Pope Pius XI issued his encyclical of May 15, 1931, titled "Quadragesimo Anno" ("On the Reconstruction of the Social Order"). The text of that encyclical introduced the concept of *subsidiarity* that has long since become a catch cry of the European Union.

Pope John XXIII followed up with the

introduction of the theme of globalism, calling for all peoples to live as *one community* working for the *common good*, in his encyclical titled "Mater et Magistra" ("Christianity and Social Progress"), issued May 15, 1961. This publicized the concept of a global "common market," working for the good of the "global community," themes deeply embedded in the general philosophy that undergirds the EU.

The theme of *solidarity* then threaded its way into Catholic social doctrine with the release of the encyclical "Populorum Progressio" ("The Development of Peoples") by Pope Paul VI, March 26, 1967. Twenty years later, "Solidarity" became the motto of the Vatican-sponsored Polish workers' movement, which underpinned the effort to break the Communist yoke on Eastern Europe, thus enabling the EU to build its long-awaited eastern leg (Daniel 2:33). On the eve of that momentous change in the map of Europe, Pope John Paul II marked the 20th anniversary of "Populorum Progressio" with the release of his own encyclical on social doctrine, "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" ("On the Social Concerns of the Church"), Dec. 30, 1987. That encyclical, produced less than two years before the fall of the Berlin Wall, was a reflection on the great social changes that had affected the world over the previous 20 years, destined to consummate in the collapse of Communist rule in Eastern Europe at the turn of the last decade of the 20th century.

In his latest encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI expresses the conviction that Pope Paul VI's "Populorum Progressio" "deserves to be considered 'the "Rerum Novarum" of the present age,' shedding light upon humanity's journey towards unity."

It is a peculiarity of papal encyclicals on social doctrine that—from the founding document defining Catholic social doctrine, Leo's "Rerum Novarum," to Paul VI's overtly socialist "Populorum Progressio"—all support *the intervention of the state in economic planning and control*, rather than the free enterprise system.

This, of course, has ancient origins tracking back to the interventionism of the Holy Roman Empire, and even more anciently to old Babylon.

Knowing the history of Rome's approach to economic theory and, more importantly, the Bible prophecies that bespeak its effect on our immediate future, it ought to come as no surprise that Pope Benedict has endorsed such a central role for the state. In fact, reading both the lines and in between the lines of his latest encyclical

lical, this pope is calling for a *world order regulated and controlled by a central power that would govern the world economy.*

And what does he think that central power should be?

### A World Political Authority

Here's a hint. Check the vocabulary of the public communication surrounding the one institution—a “common market”—that possesses an overwhelming lust to become a recognized world power despite its present hodgepodge of 27 differing bickering nationalities. Which great trading empire has used the following terms in the process of its evolution to global power status: “one community,” “solidarity,” “subsidiarity”—terms that come right out of encyclicals on the global economy emanating from Rome?

If you guessed *the European Union*, you're right on the money!

## Pope Benedict's call for a global “new financial order” is based upon the very foundational tenets of fascism and Nazism!

Now, which institution has maneuvered to have all 20 of the world's greatest economies sign up to one *central power*, one governing *global authority*, to *regulate* their individual and collective national economies?

You're right if you again guessed the EU!

Finally, which head of a powerful religious institution has recently recommended that the world submit to a singular central authority to govern the world economy? Pope Benedict XVI, in “*Caritas in Veritate*.”

Connect the dots.

The cruncher is contained in paragraph 67 of chapter 5 of this latest papal missive. It is a statement that has been anticipated by many, ever since Herbert Armstrong prophesied over 70 years ago of its coming reality “in our time.” Here are relevant excerpts from that section of Benedict's message, which was released July 7 to coincide with the meeting of the leaders of the top eight economies of the world at the G-8 summit in L'Aquila, Italy: “[T]here is a *strongly felt need*, even in the midst of a global recession, for a reform of ... *economic institutions and international finance*, so that the concept of the family of nations can *acquire real teeth*. ... This seems necessary in order to arrive at a *political, juridical and economic order* which can increase and give direction to *international coop-*

*eration* for the development of all peoples in *solidarity*. To *manage the global economy ... there is urgent need of a true world political authority* .... Such an authority would need to be *regulated by law*, to observe consistently the principles of *subsidiarity* and *solidarity*, to seek to establish the *common good* ...” (emphasis mine).

Where is there, today, a *political, juridical* and *economic* order, a *common market*, established for the “common good” under central control, incorporating the principles of *subsidiarity* and *solidarity*? We need look no further than that very German-Roman Catholic idea that has become a political reality in the form of the European Union.

If we truly can connect the dots between Pope Benedict's latest encyclical, the Germanic European Union, the EU-controlled Financial Stability Board (to whose regulatory power all major world

economies must now submit) and the origins of Catholic social doctrine, then we will begin to understand that we are being led by the nose down the road to global disaster.

Here's the real shocker. Pope Benedict's call for a global “new financial order” is based upon the very foundational tenets of fascism and Nazism!

### The Nazi Connection

The connection between the fathers of both National Socialist doctrine and modern Catholic social doctrine is irrefutable. One of the principal minds that crafted the earliest economic philosophy of 20th-century Nazism belonged to German theologian and politician Wilhelm Emmanuel Freiherr von Ketteler.

As bishop of Mainz, von Ketteler had profound influence on the framing of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical “*Rerum Novarum*.” He was a disciple of Ferdinand Lassalle, a German Jewish socialist and political activist of whom it was said, “Lassalle was the first man in Germany, the first in Europe, who succeeded in organizing a party of socialist action. Nevertheless, if he had not unfortunately been born a Jew, Lassalle could also be hailed as a forerunner in the vast halls where National Socialism [Nazism] is ac-

claimed today” (*Cambridge Encyclopedia*). Lassalle founded the first workers' party in Germany, the General German Workers' Association, which later changed its name to the Social Democratic Party under Hitler's finance minister, Dr. Hjalmar Schacht. It is said Schacht played a crucial role in bringing the Hitler regime to power, laying the economic and financial foundation for the Third Reich (*Executive Intelligence Review*, July 16, 2004).

It is a fact of our own recent history that, to use Benedict's own terms, “a *political, juridical and economic order* which can increase and give direction to *international cooperation* for the development of all peoples in *solidarity* [and] *manage the global economy*” has already been tried. It was aggressively pursued between 1939 and 1945 by those who slavishly followed that same social doctrine as propounded by Lassalle, von Ketteler and Pope Leo XIII.

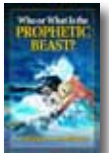
The result was the annihilation of over 60 million souls and the devastation of the economies of literally dozens of nations!

If you are still with us, here's the big one. Where can you find, in your own Bible, divinely inspired prophecies of a world power that reflects such ideological origins, forecast to be extant in our day, *today*?

Our long-time readers will go straight to Revelation chapters 12, 13 and 17. There's a direct connection between those prophecies and Pope Benedict's latest encyclical.

Believe it or not, Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical released July 7, titled “*Caritas in Veritate*,” is the most powerful sign that we have yet seen of the rise of that power prophesied in your Bible as destined to exert its brutal rule over the whole global economy for a brief moment in time! ■

**There's much more yet to be said on this subject. Tune in to the *Key of David* television program to monitor its progress. As you do, study the prophecies referred to above with an open mind. To assist you in this process, request our free booklets *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*, *The Rising Beast—Germany's Conquest of the Balkans*, and *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*. The study of these booklets is a must if you wish to truly comprehend current world events and where they are imminently leading—toward the direct intervention in world affairs by the Savior of mankind to enforce the only global government guaranteed to bring peace to all nations!**



**I**F YOU WERE GIVEN THE PERFECT country, could you mess it up as bad as California? Begin with fertile, productive, well-irrigated soils capable of growing just about anything. Add vast agricultural tracts and miles upon miles of wine country with lush, bountiful vineyards. Include majestic mountain ranges containing rich deposits of gold, silver and other useful metals, and covered with thick, immense forests with every type of timber imaginable. Toss in critical navigable rivers to move these resources to market. Insert vast oil and natural gas deposits while you are at it, along with wind, water, geothermal and solar resources. Give it a long coastline with beautiful beaches, plentiful fresh water, ocean fisheries, many natural harbors, a well-connected transportation grid with first-class roads, rails and airports too.

Bestow all the natural building blocks necessary for a well-balanced, diversified, leading economy that is virtually guaranteed to bring unparalleled prosperity to your people—a smorgasbord of natural blessings. Then on top of it all, throw in days spent skiing at sunrise on Lake Tahoe and swimming at sunset in San Francisco the same day. This is the Golden State.

Yet California is imploding. And it is dragging the rest of the country with it.

California is home to America's leading manufacturing belt, the nation's largest high-tech center (Silicon Valley), and one of its most productive agricultural areas (the Central Valley). As a stand-alone economy, it is bigger than Canada, Brazil, India and even Russia. It is also the most populous state, with one in eight Americans calling California home.

But just look at the next headline you see that says "California." Whether it's an article on finance, economics, government, crime, morals or some other subject, it's sure to be announcing bad news.

The glaring question is: *What went wrong?* This is important to answer. With California being America's most important economy and most populous state, what happens there can't help but affect the rest of the nation. As famed investor Warren Buffet once remarked, "If California prospers, the country prospers," but "if California has troubles, the country has troubles."

Sadly, California is going down quickly.

### **Agricultural Collapse**

"California's Central Valley is our nation's agricultural engine, and unemployment here is devastating the economy and

# A State of Emergency

**California has been the most blessed state in the Union. Today it is the most troubled. If it goes down, will it take America with it?**

**BY ROBERT MORLEY**

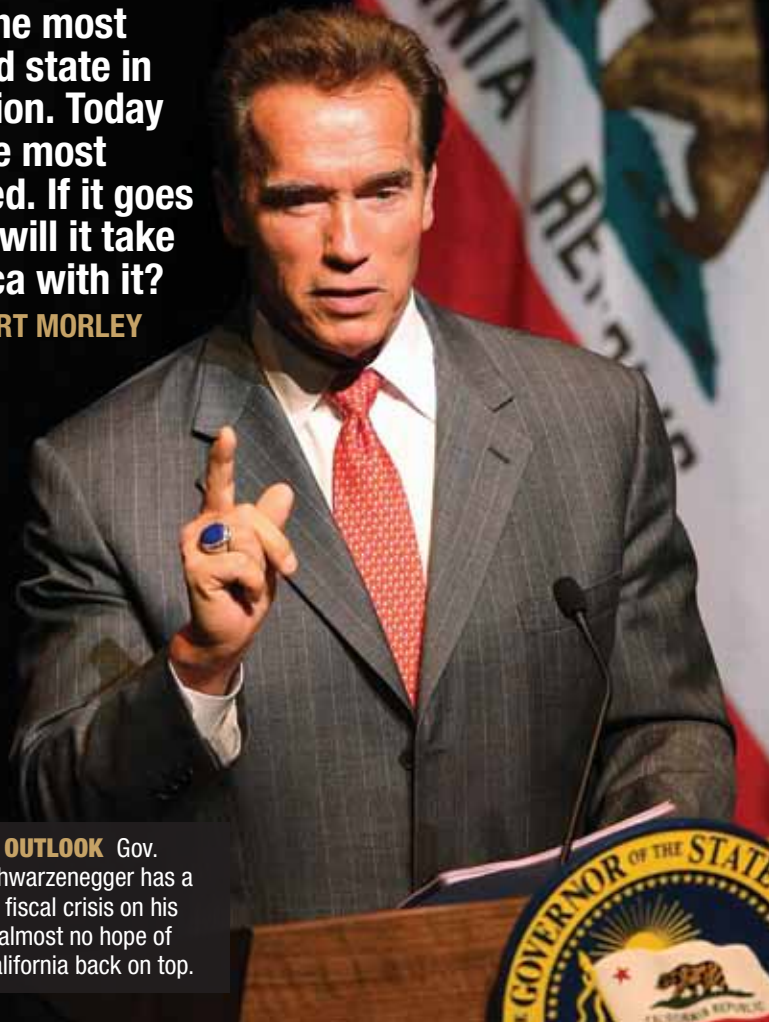
**BEARISH OUTLOOK** Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has a beast of a fiscal crisis on his back and almost no hope of getting California back on top.

hurting the people of California," Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in June. "These are dire circumstances—no water means no work—and no work means people cannot feed their families. This drought is truly an emergency ...." Although the Central Valley contains less than 1 percent of the total farmland in the United States, it produces close to 8 percent of the nation's agricultural output by value.

Schwarzenegger declared California's Fresno County a disaster zone and took the extreme step of asking President Barack Obama to declare the region a federal disaster zone as well. The declaration

followed a string of executive orders issued to save an agriculture sector on the brink. On June 4, 2008, Schwarzenegger issued an executive order proclaiming a statewide drought. Four days later, he ratcheted it up to a state of emergency for 9 of 18 Central Valley counties. Then, this February, he proclaimed a state of emergency for the entire state.

California received only 53 percent of its normal rainfall in 2007 and 58 percent in 2008. Up to June this year, it had received only 77 percent of normal volumes. Around 450,000 acres of normally prime agricultural land are lying fallow this year in California due to water shortages. And





the drought is an emergency for more than just the farmers. Before the Spanish arrived in 1769, there were 12 large natural lakes in California. Today, four have been completely de-watered for agriculture. Man-made reservoirs are running low, and sedimentation is reducing even their remaining lifespans. Los Angeles announced in February what was, in effect, water rationing for the first time in its 200-plus-year history.

### Fisheries in Crisis

On April 21, Governor Schwarzenegger also renewed a state of emergency for California's fishing industry, citing a "commercial fishery failure due to a fishery resource disaster." This is the second year in a row that both the commercial and recreational fisheries will be closed statewide. Last year's declaration, which stemmed from the sudden collapse of the Chinook salmon in California's Sacramento River, was the first such ban in 160 years.

California has a rich history of fishing. Back in the winter of 1883 to 1884, more than 700,000 salmon from the Monterey Bay Delta alone were caught and processed. But today, there are no commercial fish canneries in operation—a result of habitat destruction. There are other reasons California's fisheries are suffering as well.

River water volumes are plummeting due to irrigation and other industrial use. As less water reaches the oceans, the river deltas get inundated with saline sea water, destroying ecosystems. Fish populations struggle to make it to open ocean water. Lower water volumes also provide less nutrients and feed for fish populations. Toxic chemical discharges take their toll too.

"It breaks my heart to report this," said author and fisheries sustainability expert Alex Rose. "I believe we are at the tipping point. The Pacific salmon fishery may very well go the way of the Grand Banks cod."

"[I]n a generation we've gone from unbelievable abundance to a crisis," he said.

### Suffocating Environmental Regulation

A crisis of another sort is strangling Californian industries. California has some of the most progressive environmental laws in the world. It needs environmental laws, because vast swaths of the state are a polluted mess.

However, misdirected and poorly timed environmentalism is also inhibiting

job growth and sending jobs out of state—and out of country.

The *New York Times* reported that Californian businesses are being slammed by new requirements to curb carbon dioxide emissions at a time when they are already struggling to survive in a very tough economy. In 2006, the state passed laws to curb carbon dioxide emissions from all economic sectors, including transportation, manufacturing and real-estate development. The result: People are paying more to travel and make purchases, and manufacturers are moving out of state or to places like China, taking jobs with them. And just *look* at the real-estate industry.

CalPortland's formerly profitable Mount Slover limestone cement facility is a powerful example. The state of California says the company must reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 12 percent per ton of cement. The company estimates that to retrofit its operations will cost in excess of \$220 million—for just one plant. There is not nearly enough limestone in its quarry to justify such an expense. This plant, which has produced cement for over 100 years, will probably be shut down. Workers will be laid off. The state will take a tax revenue hit. Future shipments of cement will probably be imported from Mexico.

Every manufacturer across the state will be subject to what is essentially a massive carbon tax. So multiply CalPortland's problems by the thousands.

All this environmental regulation and strangulation couldn't come at a much worse time for California.

### Economic Collapse

It is economic judgment day in California. In spite of its natural resources, the state's economy and budget are in a complete shambles.

On April 17, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency for unemployment. He said that the "current and continuing economic downturn and resulting unemployment" represented "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property" in California. At that time, state unemployment was 11.2 percent—which was then the highest for the state since statistics began to be collected, and far above the national average of 8.5 percent. Since then, the situation has worsened. As of June, unemployment stood at a new record high: 11.6 percent. And the

**Los Angeles announced in February what was, in effect, water rationing for the first time in its 200-plus-year history.**

## IN NUMBERS

**58** Percentage of normal rainfall received in '08.

**11.6** Unemployment as of June

**25** Percent decline in exports from 1 year ago.

**7** Percent of residents who are illegal immigrants.

real unemployment rate, after including those people who are stuck working part-time and those who have given up looking for work, is closer to 20 percent. The unemployment rate may be even greater in counties such as Los Angeles, due to losses in what the *Los Angeles Business Journal* calls "informal employment"—involving cash for hire, off-company books, and uncounted illegal workers.

And the unemployment rate is probably about to get dramatically worse, especially since the state budget is in such a big hole. Moody's ratings agency joined Standard & Poor's investors service and Fitch Ratings in warning the state that if it does not resolve its enormous budget woes, the agency will be forced to lower the state's credit rating several notches again. The state's credit rating largely determines the cost of borrowing money from the market. In California's case, *it already has the worst rating of any state in the country* and is having extreme difficulty finding any lenders at a price it can afford.

The federal government can't necessarily be relied on for a bailout either. After bailing out an insurance company, a credit card company, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, underwater homeowners, the Wall Street big banks, General Motors and Chrysler, President Obama said in May that he would not bail out states and advised California to "make some very difficult choices."

In July, California began issuing over \$3 billion worth of IOUs to contractors and state employees in lieu of payments owed. But California is seen as such a credit

risk, many big banks, including Bank of America, Wells Fargo & Co., J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. have refused to cash California's IOUs.

Massive spending cuts will be needed to cover the projected \$24 billion deficit—which means thousands more teachers, police, firemen and garbage collectors will lose their jobs. The Anderson Forecast projects that Schwarzenegger's budget cuts will eventually result in 64,000 job cuts from state government plus countless private-sector and local government jobs.

The slowing economy is reflected in the now eerily quiet great ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Francisco. Clobbered by the weak global economy, exports from California fell 25.5 percent in April from a year earlier. Massive tankers sit idle. Air traffic is down too. Exports from San Francisco International Airport plummeted 34 percent.

Green shoots are nowhere to be found, according to *Money and Markets'* Martin Weiss. He says California is home to the highest concentration of 90-days-past-due mortgages in the country. And the number of foreclosures is continuing to skyrocket. So the housing and real-estate industries that provided the jobs during

report, the state spends billions of dollars per year on illegal immigration costs—primarily for prisons and jails, schools and emergency rooms. Then there are the costs to other parts of local government, including police and fire protection, highway maintenance, libraries and other public services. Additionally, the state spends hundreds of millions of dollars per year providing welfare for the U.S.-born babies of illegal aliens. And since most illegals hold low-paying jobs and are often paid under the table, the amount paid back to the state in taxes does not nearly cover what the state gives out.

But here is the rub. With the state in such economic distress, employers shedding jobs and banks no longer indiscriminately giving out home mortgages, some illegals are heading back south of the border. And when they go, they take whatever money they have accumulated with them.

### California: A Harbinger

As ugly as conditions are in California, they are an indicator of what is to come for the rest of the country. Where did the housing bubble first form? California. Where did the housing bubble first burst? California. Where did the first banks that failed—IndyMac Bank, Countrywide Financial and Washington Mutual—come from? California. Where did the bulk of the job losses first hit? California. What state pioneered the industry-strangling environmental regulations that federal politicians are now seeking to copy? Yes, California too.

California is a leading indicator of state budgetary problems as

well. Every single state except North Dakota and Montana faced budget deficits this year. All but four states eventually balanced their budgets, but the reality is that few of those states would have had any hope of balancing their budgets if the federal government hadn't given them a one-time lump-sum stimulus package of \$135 billion. The crisis has only been temporarily postponed. The money will soon be spent, and the state funding gap for fiscal year 2010 alone is projected to be \$166 billion. If the economy doesn't improve, the rest of America will be in the same boat next year that California is in today:

"functionally bankrupt," as one legislator from New Jersey described her state.

And the federal government isn't in any better shape than the states. That is why President Obama doesn't want to bail out California. Washington is afraid that if it bails out one state, it will have to bail out them all.

"[P]eople always say that the United States maybe has to bail out California," noted Schwarzenegger when he declared an economic state of emergency on July 1. But "who is to say that the United States should bail us out? We are actually in much better shape than the United States."

The scary thing is, he's right.

### What Went Wrong?

The *Trumpet* has repeatedly written about the many curses California has experienced in recent decades—the fires, the drought, the riots, the earthquakes and so on. Of course, many scoff at the idea that an ever living, supremely powerful God is actually *intervening* in the affairs of mankind.

Abraham Lincoln didn't. "I believe," Lincoln said, "that it is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father *equally* in our triumphs and in those sorrows which we may justly fear are a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins to the needful end of our reformation" (emphasis mine). Just as God rewards us for obedience to His laws, He lovingly punishes us for disobedience so we might be REFORMED, Lincoln said.

It is this God who has set before all of mankind two ways of life: the way of BLESSINGS and the way of CURSES, as it says in Deuteronomy 28. God will not force us to choose His way. But we all *must* make a choice. And there are consequences, whether good or bad. If we choose the way that results in curses, no amount of wishful thinking will magically transform a curse into a blessing.

In the case of California—and America—we are now experiencing the *curses*.

But there is hope, and it is found in the reason America had such a lavish array of fantastic physical blessings in the first place. If you believe your Bible, those blessings were a direct result of a promise God made 4,000 years ago to the great patriarch Abraham. Request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to see the prophecies of how and why those blessings would be taken away—and of when the loving God would ultimately restore them again to a chastened people. ■



the boom years are probably not coming back anytime soon.

"California's day of reckoning is here," Schwarzenegger told the state legislature in June. "Our wallet is empty. Our bank is closed. Our credit is dried up."

### Immigration Problem

California is home to an estimated 2.7 million illegal immigrants—an astounding 7 percent of the state's population. While a low-paid workforce comes with some benefits for the state, the net costs are substantial.

According to a *Los Angeles Times*



# Another Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact?

BY BRAD MACDONALD

**C**LOSE TO MIDNIGHT ON AUG. 21, 1939, music stopped playing on Berlin radio for the following announcement: “The Reich government and the Soviet government have agreed to conclude a pact of nonaggression with each other.” The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was signed two days later. Hitler had allayed his primary fear; the eastern front was secure. Russia was his friend.

Eight days later, World War II began.

Germany and Russia have a long history of conflict. There have been bouts of cooperation, such as the Treaty of Rapallo in 1922 and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. But these were marriages of convenience—forged out of mutual strategic necessity before major conflict—that always ended in divorce, often violent.

History is consistent on this point: Germany and Russia are *not* close friends. Any appearance that they are is a herald of war.

## A Significant and Underrated Trend

During a visit to Russia in June, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier praised the relationship between Russia and Germany, calling Russia “an *indispensable partner* for Germany and the European Union” and touting “German-Russian cooperation as a model of interaction, so that *both sides will benefit if our potential is united*” (emphasis mine throughout).

Steinmeier’s remarks should be deeply disturbing to students of history. “One cannot fault the rest of the world if it takes Steinmeier’s comments with a bit of apprehension,” mused Stratfor. “The last time Germany and Russia ‘united their potential,’ the result was the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which carved up Eastern Europe between the Soviet Union and the Third Reich in 1939” (June 11). This premier intelligence organization sees Russian-German relations through the grim prism of history and recognizes cause for apprehension.

Truth is, this forming RUSSIAN-GERMAN AXIS is one of the most *significant* and *underrated* trends on the world scene! Significantly, Germany’s relationship

with Russia is thriving as its relationship with the U.S. is melting down. Tension between America and Germany is flaring on a range of issues—the war in Afghanistan, the global financial crisis, Guantanamo prisoners, Russia. These are not superficial, short-lived differences. Fundamentally, Stratfor wrote, they are “symptoms of a long-term trend—GERMANY’S RISE TO A PREEMINENT POSITION IN EUROPE” (June 5).

Berlin’s ascendancy is undermining U.S. interests in Europe. Stratfor continued: “In almost 65 years of diplomacy following the defeat of the Third Reich, the key U.S. strategy in Europe has been to prevent the rise of a single powerful political entity that could block U.S. interests in the region. *The Germany of 2009 is giving the United States the first glimmer of such an entity.*”

Germany’s decision to engage Russia, *even though it means upsetting the U.S.*, is a sign that “a *single powerful political entity*” has emerged in Europe!

Russia recognizes this reality and is positioning itself accordingly. The Kremlin knows European history and sees that Germany has restored itself as the dominant power of Europe. The Russians are thus forging closer ties with the political, military and economic entity that will determine Europe’s future. Henry Kissinger once famously asked: “If I want to call Europe, who do I call?” Well, the Kremlin knows exactly who to call: That’s why it has established a *direct line to Berlin!*

The Kremlin also sees the fissures in the U.S.-German relationship and is wooing Berlin further away from Washington. Consider the Opel saga. Until recently, this European subsidiary of America’s General Motors, like GM itself, faced collapse—a collapse that would have hammered parts of the German economy. Despite cries for help from Berlin, Washington made no attempt to save Opel. Seeing an opportunity, the Kremlin swooped in with an eleventh-hour deal that saved Opel—and the jobs of thousands of Germans.

“The last-minute assist by the Kremlin might be the first glimpse of a *new politi-*

*cal alliance developing in Europe,*” wrote Stratfor (op. cit.).

It was indeed a glimpse, but it wasn’t the first. The world got a hard look at the Russian-German alliance August last year when Russia steamrolled Georgia and Germany barely raised an eyebrow. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote at the time: “I believe Germany may well have been *complicit* in Russia’s plan to attack Georgia!” That bold statement was supported by later events. In January, when Russia shut off natural gas supplies to Ukraine, Germany sided with the Kremlin. Now Russia has reciprocated by coming to Germany’s rescue and bailing out Opel.

It’s also noteworthy that every time Russia or Germany meets with America, soon after comes a meeting between Berlin and Moscow. Steinmeier’s meeting with Putin and Medvedev in Russia in June occurred just after Obama met with Merkel in Dresden. In July, Medvedev got together with Merkel shortly after meeting with Obama. Stratfor wrote that “the Russian and German leaders are *presenting a united front after every substantial meeting with Washington*” (ibid.).

The trend is obvious: Russia and Germany are forging a relationship almost in defiance of the United States. Though prophecy does foretell of a temporary warming of U.S.-German relations, that will end in a vicious betrayal (explained in our free booklet *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*).

## Where Will This End?

History tells us where this will end. The formation of a peace pact between Russia and Germany is a sure sign that *one or both* are preparing for an imperialistic, violent mission.

Watch German-Russian relations carefully: It appears another Molotov-Ribbentrop pact is imminent. In fact, as Mr. Flurry wrote last year, such an agreement may *already* exist. “*I believe that Germany’s leaders may have already agreed to a deal with Russia, a modern Hitler-Stalin pact where Germany and Russia divide countries and assets between themselves,*” he wrote. “This agreement would allow each to turn its sights on other targets” (*Trumpet*, November-December 2008).

He wrote that *before* Germany sided with Russia in the Ukraine gas crisis, *before* things really began to fall apart in the U.S.-Germany relationship, and *before* Russia came to Germany’s aid by bailing out Opel. Time and events are proving that analysis correct.

Watch for fireworks to follow! ■

# Keep the Ghetto Out of Your Bedroom

It's more difficult than ever. BY JOEL HILLIKER

**P**ORNOGRAPHY USED TO BE MORE difficult to get to—confined to the other side of the tracks, hiding in the hardscrabble, no-go zones of the city. The shame used to be prohibitive.

Now pornography lurks in your home, right inside your computer. All you have to do is click.

Two out of three 18-to-34-year-old men you meet on the street use Internet pornography at least once a month. A survey published in February by *New Scientist* found that in the U.S. the states that consume the most online porn tend to be the more conservative and religious. Eight of the top 10 porn-consuming states voted Republican in last year's presidential election.

Why? In areas with higher social stigma attached to such behavior, people may be less inclined to visit a sex shop. But the anonymity and accessibility offered by the Internet is proving too great a temptation. A 2007 ChristaNet.com poll found that one in five women and *half* of men calling themselves Christian are addicted. Despite their publicly professed faith, in the secrecy of their bedroom or study they view just as much pornography as the next guy.

## The Path to Addiction

It begins with just a mouse click. In fact, it begins before that, with hundreds of advertisements for normal products emphasizing sexuality, desensitizing your mind and making your definition of actual pornography a little more graphic.

Then there are the pervasive ads, pop-ups, e-mails and other lures to snag you. If you click, you can soon become hooked on "soft" pornography. Then you want a little more, and a little more. That's how addiction works. Pornographers know it. They distribute this "soft" version of fornication, often for free, because they know that minds will become more and more numb to it, build up a "tolerance," and then want something a bit more perverse

the next time.

This is why pornographers produce more and more perverted and extreme Internet sex. It's not that people have naturally perverse sexual appetites. *They learn it.* And often, they can't stop.

Society has come to portray pornography as exciting, fun, trendy—even healthy. That's a sick lie.

## It Makes People Miserable

Men, who make up three out of four Internet porn users, waste hours viewing increasingly worse forms of degradation. Work and home life bend and warp to fit the habit. These men develop perverse attitudes, coming to view the opposite sex through a shallow, highly sexualized lens, comparing them to the distorted images they have become addicted to.

"The men ... who become hooked on this bilge are often miserable about it," wrote Mona Charen in the *National Review* (Dec. 19, 2008). She quoted psychiatrist Norman Doidge as saying, "Pornographers promise healthy pleasure and a release from sexual tension, but what they often deliver is an addiction, tolerance, and an eventual decrease in pleasure. Paradoxically, the male patients I worked with often craved pornography but didn't like it."

The effects are devastating. Relationships suffer. Men lose the ability to relate with and respect women. They lie about their addictions and deceive their wives, families and friends. They can't spend time together with others and have fun the same way they used to. Healthy emotion evaporates. Trust shatters. The more they watch, the more mundane *actual* sex becomes. Their opinion of their wives and girlfriends changes. Their opinion of themselves changes.

And how do the women in their lives feel? "Though pressured to accept pornography as a sign of being sexy and hip, many women admit that in practice, their boy-

friend's porn hurts," wrote *Pornified* author Pamela Paul. "Women view men's relationship with pornography as a sign of betrayal, even cheating." And so they should.

The horrible effects of pornography supply ample and vivid proof that the spiritual law of God is as much in effect today as the physical law of gravity.

Jesus Christ roundly condemned such images: "I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Adultery breaks the Seventh Commandment. God outlawed it because it makes our lives miserable.

## A War Against the Soul

Whether you consume pornography or just live in this pornophilic culture, you need to know how to keep yourself pure and clean.

God doesn't just tell us to avoid pornography. He gives practical instruction—that is up-to-the-minute relevant in today's world—on *how* to do so.

It isn't easy. The Apostle Paul called it a *life-and-death* struggle: "Put to *death*, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: *sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires* and greed, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5, New International Version). The Apostle Peter called it *war*: "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which *war* against the soul" (1 Peter 2:11).

Staying pure and "unspotted from the world," as James 1:27 advocates, is difficult. But Scripture *commands* us to bring into captivity *every thought* to the obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Don't think "moderate" porn consumption is okay. Just a "little bit" of mud in a glass of water makes it impure. Just a "little bit" of poison can make food lethal. Just a "little bit" of pornography can scar your mind.

Human nature wants to get as *close* to



a temptation as we can. That is a guaranteed path to failure, because, as Christ said, “[T]he spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).

The Bible tells us, simply and frankly: *Flee fornication* (1 Corinthians 6:18). That means not rationalizing about what we can “handle,” but rather being truthful with ourselves and with God, and seeking to keep ourselves—and our families—as far away from unsuitable material as possible.

To become pure, we must be vigilant gatekeepers for what goes into our minds. Shun entertainment with inappropriate sexual content. Strictly avoid movies that contain nudity or lust-inducing sexuality. Before deciding to see a movie, check reviews from moral-based film critics; websites such as [MovieGuide.org](http://MovieGuide.org) provide much more comprehensive explanations of possibly objectionable material than the only-vaguely trustworthy MPAA system employed in the United States. Consider cutting out “R” or even “PG-13” rated movies altogether.

Get a program or add-on to your Internet browser that blocks objectionable material. I use ProCon Latte on Firefox.

Romans 13:14 instructs us to “make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” The Living Bible translates this, “[D]on’t make plans to enjoy evil.” Rid your life of all the temptations you can, and then *burn your bridges*.

### When to Win the Battle

What if you do find yourself drawn toward sexually explicit material?

Understand: It is *not* a sin in and of itself to have a tempting thought. The sin is allowing ourselves to  *dwell*  on that temptation.

That’s why it is important to become skilled at *directing our thoughts*—to get in the habit of *immediately* stopping a sinful line of thinking the moment we recognize it. That is realistically the best—and per-

haps *only*—moment you can make a genuine choice to block it. Once you’ve tossed it around mentally a few times, it can be virtually impossible to then get rid of it before it leads to a sinful act (James 1:14-15). At the *first* moment of temptation, break that thought before it takes root. *Immediately* force yourself to think on something else. The longer you let the wrong thoughts linger, the likelier they are to lead to action.

If you do fail, remember the command to *flee fornication*. Don’t wrestle in your mind. Don’t try to be cool, calm and collected. Flee. Physically *run*—get away from the source of temptation. Immediately change the channel, turn off the TV, walk out of the theater, turn off the computer, end the conversation.

The point is, do whatever you must to conquer the problem. Remember Christ’s instruction. After explaining that simply *looking lustfully* can constitute adultery, He said, “And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:29). If you have to get radical, do so.

### Ironclad Promises

These strategies are essentially tangible, physical means of eliminating or at least minimizing the temptations presented by this world and our own minds. The trouble is, many people have deep-rooted sexual addictions that *cannot* be solved by such methods. They suffer the effects of childhood trauma, deep emotional emptiness, and/or simple entrenched habit.

“Pornographers promise healthy pleasure and a release from sexual tension, but what they often deliver is an addiction . . .”

Norman Doidge

In many cases, *willpower* alone will not solve the problem. So often, *the spirit* is willing—but the flesh is just *too weak* to produce lasting change! True freedom from pornography and lust cannot come from the “flesh.”

But it can come.

The Bible is *filled* with promises of *spiritual help* in overcoming such obstacles!

Read this guarantee in Psalm 119:9: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? *by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*” Christ Himself supported this fact in John 8:32: “And ye shall know the truth, and the *truth shall make you free.*”

Notice James 4:7-8: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

These are promises God makes to His begotten children—those in whom, upon His calling them and their responding in repentance, He has imparted a measure of His Holy Spirit. He then fulfills these promises through the power of that Spirit. This awesome spiritual power is not available to any but those whom He has called and to whom He has given it upon their repentance.

Perhaps God is convicting you and calling you to repentance—a complete *turnaround* from a life of sin to a life of overcoming. God wants all people to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), but at this point He is calling only a very few to do so. If you believe you may be one of them, request immediately a free copy of our potent and convicting little booklet *Repentance Toward God*. It could be the first step toward truly ridding yourself of the evils of pornography and lust, and achieving the true purity God wants in your life! ■



# Why Rest on the

**D**O YOU KNOW THAT GOD HAS A sign by which He *recognizes* His spiritual children? And do you know that only those having this *sign* will be born into His ruling family?

That vital, *overwhelmingly important* sign is God's SABBATH DAY!

Yes—God's Sabbath!

Not a "Sabbath of the Jews," or any "day" that seems more or less important to any man, or group of men—but the Sabbath of Almighty God Himself!

"But," you might ask, "what does any 'day' have to do with entering into the happy, glorious World Tomorrow and the very Kingdom of God?"

*It has a GREAT DEAL to do with it!*

To human beings using only fallible human reasoning, it may seem strange indeed that God would place stress and importance on *a specific day of the week!* "WHY," some might reason, "would God want me to rest on one day of the week *more* than any other?" "What real difference does it make anyhow?" ask others.

It makes a *tremendous difference—to Almighty God!*

## God Blesses the Obedient

Noah "walked" with God (Genesis 6:9). They were that friendly! And because Noah "walked" in *obedience* to God, He saved Noah and his family from the great Flood that destroyed sinful mankind (verses 11-14). That was REAL FRIENDSHIP!

After the Flood, Abraham also became an *obedient* friend of God (James 2:23, 21). Abraham and Christ (Melchizedek) were *very close* friends (Genesis 14:18-20;

Hebrews 7:1-3)—right here on Earth—at the present site of the city of Jerusalem.

And what was the *result* of this close friendship?

Because Abraham continued in this *obedient* relationship with God (Genesis 26:5), God promised him the greatest and most abundant blessings imaginable—this *whole Earth* for an inheritance, SONSHIP *in God's Family*, and ETERNAL LIFE with which to enjoy it!

But God blessed Abraham *even more* because of his loving obedience and mutual friendship! God placed before Abraham's spiritual offspring—we who become his "seed" through Christ—the SAME OPPORTUNITY to receive these *same great blessings!*

God is always the close, loving friend of those who *obey* Him. He says, "Ye are my *friends*, if ye DO whatsoever I *command* you" (John 15:14).

It is within God's plan to become a very close friend of all who lovingly obey His wishes. And God shows great love in return by doing *wonderful things* for them!

God is going to shower those of us who now learn our lessons of loving obedience with far *greater* blessings than we can imagine! He says, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that LOVE Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

## God's Purpose for Mankind

God is *love* (1 John 4:8). And the way of God's love is GIVING and SHARING. As our loving friend and Father, God wants to *share* with us the glory and riches of His Kingdom—His divine Family!

And so, God reveals His great PURPOSE for mankind to His obedient friends: "Let us make man in *our* image, after our likeness ..." (Genesis 1:26). And, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the [*Spirit-begotten*] SONS OF GOD ... [W]e know that, when he [Christ] shall appear, we shall be LIKE HIM ...!" (1 John 3:1-2).

God's plan is to create *Gods* out of mortal mankind—very sons of *God's divine Family!*

Notice Christ's earnest desire to make friends of humanity so they may become God's Spirit-born sons: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his LIFE for his *friends*," Christ said (John 15:13).

Then Christ proceeded to show the extent of His great love for mankind by laying down His *own life* for the world—laying down His precious life for all who would become His *obedient* friends—FOR YOU AND FOR ME!

Christ is overjoyed to be the close Friend of us all and will do *great things* for us if we become His obedient friends. "Submit yourselves therefore to God [OBEY HIM]. ... Draw nigh [NEAR] to God [as His *obedient* friend]," James was inspired to write, "and he will draw nigh to you [as *your* loving Friend and Father]" (James 4:7-8).

## Sabbath Pictures Eternal "Rest"

In addition to Christ's great sacrifice for us, what else did He say He would do? Notice:

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden [be my *obedient* friends], and I will give you REST" (Matthew 11:28). A *gift!* And what kind of rest is this?—"glorious" rest! (Isaiah 11:10).

# Sabbath Day?

As our loving Friend and Father, God wants to give each of us His greatest gift of all—*eternal life*—glorious, eternal “rest” in the KINGDOM OF GOD.

In the fourth chapter of Hebrews, the Apostle Paul plainly shows us that RESTING from our daily labors on God’s holy Sabbath day *pictures* our glorious future as Spirit-born sons in God’s Family! He shows that Sabbath keeping actually *pictures* REST *from our struggles against sin* which God promises to give His obedient children (Hebrews 4:1-11).

When born of Spirit, we will no longer suffer the *downward pulls* of our carnal flesh and *sinful* human nature. We will then possess the MIND OF GOD in full. We will have the ability to remain *perfectly obedient* to God’s will *forever!* (1 John 3:9).

And when born into God’s Kingdom—when we become very Gods—we will also possess the same kind of gloriously radiant and POWERFUL spirit body that Christ and the Father now have! We will no longer be *limited* by our weak mortal bodies. For it is then that we will possess the powerful capacity for infinite accomplishment with our supremely efficient SPIRIT BODIES! Bodies that will be, by comparison to our weak mortal bodies, *gloriously efficient and effortless!*

God promises to give us all of this when we become His Spirit-born sons! Isn’t it astonishing what God will do for us if we now become His *obedient* friends and *Spirit-begotten* children?

## Eternal Life Offered to All Mankind

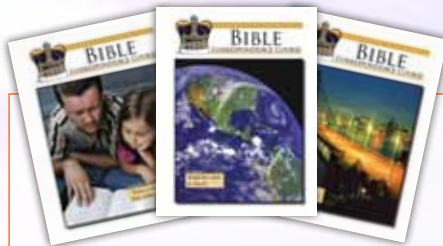
God promises His gift of eternal life to all peoples of the Earth who become,

*spiritually* speaking, “Abraham’s seed”—those who surrender themselves to the will of Christ and are *spiritually begotten* by the Holy Spirit. “[I]f ye be Christ’s, then are ye *Abraham’s seed*, and HEIRS according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29).

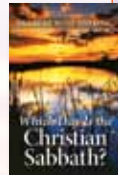
As Abraham’s “seed,” we become heirs of the same promise made to Abraham—the promise of eternal life and sonship in the Kingdom of God. But that is true only if we obey God and REST from all our labors on God’s weekly Sabbath that *pictures* this glorious future.

God reveals this great *spiritual* truth to those who have become sick of the pagan ways of this world and have begun to OBEY Him. He reveals it as a Friend to a friend.

But only those who *continue to obey* God’s command to keep the Sabbath will finally enter the glorious “rest” of God’s Kingdom and receive the gift of eternal, spiritual life!



If you enjoyed this article, we encourage you to become a student of our **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Each month, you will receive a lesson that guides you in discovering the answers to life’s most important questions in your own Bible. Your enrollment has already been paid for. Sign up today! You may also be interested in our free booklet **Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?**



## No Sabbath Keeping—No Holy Spirit

God, who is the loving Friend of mankind, offers us the priceless gift of His Holy Spirit—a gift that imparts all the peace and joy the human heart really longs for. Yes, and ultimately *eternal life*—eternal “rest” from this carnal, mundane life!

But to *whom* will God give the precious gift of His Holy Spirit? What does God expect of those who are recipients of His Spirit? Notice the answer in Acts 5:32: “the Holy [Spirit] ... God hath given to them that *obey him*”—OBEY His *Ten Commandments*, which includes SABBATH KEEPING!

To carnal man, there is seemingly no earthly reason to keep the Sabbath. Man, so he reasons, could rest as well on other days he would choose for himself.

But *keeping*, or *not* keeping, God’s Sabbath days REVEALS AN ATTITUDE! Keeping them shows a willingness to forsake our *own* thoughts for periods of time specified by God. It shows a *willingness* to learn—to study, to think and to meditate on the really important matters of the universe—and an *attitude toward development* of GOD-LIKE CHARACTER!

And keeping God’s Sabbath reveals an attitude of SIMPLE OBEDIENCE just because *God* says so! To the carnal, unrepentant mind, Sabbath keeping seems so unfathomable, unnecessary and sometimes *annoying!* (Although to the *repentant*, Spirit-begotten mind, the Sabbath is eagerly looked forward to every week.)

Sabbath keeping plainly is a *test* of our ATTITUDE to reveal whether we *really* want to OBEY and DEPEND on God and *receive* His Holy Spirit! ■

# Growing Up in the Worldwide Church of God

For former members, it's not an unfamiliar story. BY STEPHEN FLURRY



**H**ERBERT W. ARMSTRONG ONCE said that 11 years of age must be the happiest, most enjoyable time for a young boy. To be honest with you, there's not a lot that stands out in my life from that year. But growing up in the Worldwide Church of God, I do remember age 12 being the *longest* year of my life. That was the final year every boy in the church had to endure before *finally* crossing the 13-year threshold into what was called Youth Opportunities United—or Y.O.U., for short.

As a 12-year-old, I went to Y.O.U. basketball practice every week—waiting—*hoping*—that after practice I could get in on a pick-up game if the guys needed an extra player.

I guess my eagerness and persistence finally paid off. Three weeks before my 13th birthday, I was allowed to play in a Y.O.U. basketball tournament. The December 1982 tournament was in Portland, Oregon—a five-hour drive from my house. To be included in that teenage group, on that road trip, was one of the biggest thrills of my life.

It was also nerve-wracking. On Saturday night, before the Sunday games, there was a family dance. The thought of asking a teenage girl to dance was terrifying. The next day, before our first game, I was overcome with nervousness. I actually felt my heart pounding in my throat!

The tournament was inside a huge gymnasium complex, with three full-size courts running side by side. This was

where they played all the “A” games. My game was up behind the bleachers, on a tiny practice court surrounded by concrete walls that were barely 18 inches outside the court’s out-of-bounds line.

Not a lot of hoopla surrounding those “B” games. It consisted of two teams of youngsters on the court with immediate family members lining the walls. But what a thrill.

Over the next several years, my family traversed all over the Pacific Northwest to attend Y.O.U. activities. My sister and I played in basketball and softball games, ran and jumped in track meets and performed in talent shows all over Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Utah—in places like Pasco, Spokane, Vancouver,



Seattle, Coeur d'Alene, Boise, Portland, Salt Lake City and Missoula. It was much the same when we moved to Oklahoma in the middle of my teen years. From here in Edmond, we traveled to Tulsa, Stillwater, Ada and Lawton. In Texas, we visited Big Sandy, Dallas and Amarillo. Everywhere we went, we stayed with members of the Worldwide Church of God—sometimes me along with my family—and sometimes just me with a bunch of guys at a chaperon's house.

Those were some great trips. And sometimes things would happen during those excursions to make the journey more memorable—like one time when a snowstorm blocked the roads over the Cascades and we had to spend an extra night with church members at a remote location. I also have fond memories of the traditional stops at pizza parlors on the way home from tournaments.

My sister and I also attended Worldwide Church of God youth camps in Orr, Minnesota, and Big Sandy, Texas. As wonderful as my upbringing was, I still have to say that my first camp experience in Orr, when I was 15, dramatically altered my life for the better. It gave me a burning desire to attend Ambassador College, which Herbert W. Armstrong established in 1947.

Besides Y.O.U., our family enjoyed numerous other outings with our local church congregation—like the time we hiked 8 miles to Packwood Lake, where no cars or motorized boats were allowed. I remember how excited several of the dads were to help my father understand the intricacies of fishing. My dad was never much of an outdoorsman. And so they worked with him, told him all about special kinds of bait and lures needed for *this* particular lake.

Several hours later, after about a dozen disappointed fishermen returned to the campsite empty-handed, my father showed up with two beautiful rainbow trout. He was the only one who caught anything!

My parents also encouraged my sister and me to participate in extracurricular activities at school. They always taught us to look upon our weekly Sabbath observance not as an obstacle, but as an opportunity. So what if I couldn't play basketball games on Friday nights or with the concert band on Saturdays—I could do those things on Tuesdays or Thursdays!

My sister and I also worked numerous jobs and side-jobs outside the home. I threw newspapers, flipped burgers, sanded and refinished hardwood floors, mowed lawns, planted flowers and made photocopies.

Through it all, following my parents' lead, I studied Mr. Armstrong's teachings.

I finished his Bible correspondence course as a teenager. (We have produced an updated version of the course if you would like to enroll.) I also studied *The Missing Dimension in Sex* every day with my dad before school in junior high.

After high school, I applied for Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, and was accepted as a freshman in the fall of 1988. I remember vividly, like it was yesterday, the cross-country trip with my parents, who drove me from Oklahoma to drop me off at my new home.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime. Besides offering a Bible-based education that concentrated on teaching young people how to live, Ambassador was like Y.O.U., Packwood Lake, weekend tournaments, youth camp, family get-togethers and summer jobs ALL WRAPPED IN ONE.

During my freshman year, along with nine other AC students, I ran the Los Angeles marathon. And in a way, that marathon was a lot like my teenage life. When I started, I thought it would last forever. But soon enough it was all over. It all went by so fast.

But what a wonderful upbringing I had as a youth in the Worldwide Church of God—the things I learned, the places I saw, the people I met and the many, many experiences I had. I had an exciting, interest-packed life as a teenager in the Worldwide Church of God, which coincided with the last years of Herbert W. Armstrong's long, productive life.

As I wrote in *Raising the Ruins*, "These many youth activities established and emphasized at the end of Mr. Armstrong's

life had a tremendous impact on me personally. Besides drawing me closer to my parents, they strengthened my relationships with other like-minded peers who wanted to succeed in life and avoid the common pitfalls of youth in this evil age."

I have Mr. Armstrong to thank for that—as well as two wonderful parents for upholding his biblical teachings and embracing his family-oriented work.

### Radically Transformed

Earlier this year, Worldwide Church of God officials announced that they had changed the name of their church to "Grace Communion International." The church's president, Joseph Tkach—who is the son of Mr. Armstrong's handpicked successor, Joseph Tkach Sr.—explained the change to church members this way: "We are a church that God has changed radically from what we once were to what we are today."

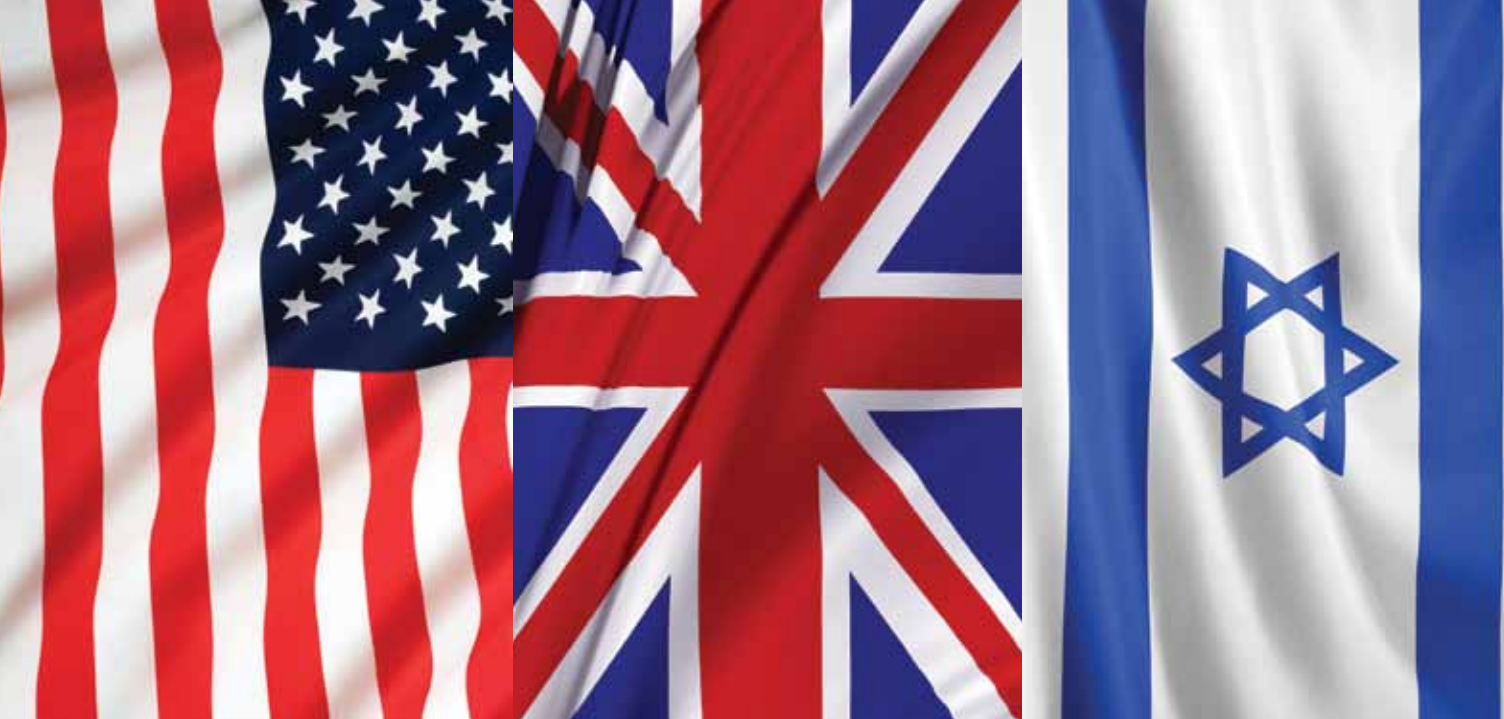
The church I grew up in has indeed been radically transformed. Over the past 20 years, the Tkach administration has denounced Herbert W. Armstrong. To this day, when I hear people parroting Tkachism propaganda about how horrible it was to be a member of the Worldwide Church of God, I have to wonder: *Are they referring to the same church I grew up in?*

To read much more about the church Mr. Armstrong established—and the cabal of leaders who took control of the church he founded, after pledging to "follow in his footsteps," and then proceeded to methodically destroy all he had built—request your free copy of *Raising the Ruins*. We'll even pay for the shipping. ■

## What happened to the Worldwide Church of God?

You've read it, serialized, in the *Trumpet* magazine. Now receive a *free* personal copy of this full-length, hardcover book. This is the shocking, gripping untold story of the doctrinal hijacking and spiritual destruction of the WCG after the death of its founder. It is the story of the life-and-death, six-year court battle that ensued when a faith-filled few held fast to Mr. Armstrong's mission and sought to defend his legacy. Request your free copy of *Raising the Ruins* today.





# The Tie That Binds America, Britain and Israel

**D**URING HIS FAMOUS “IRON CURTAIN” speech in 1946, Winston Churchill described the alliance between the United States and Britain as a “special relationship.” Midway through the 20th century, that special relationship helped forge the existence of a new Jewish state in the Middle East. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy told Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, “The United States has a special relationship with Israel in the Middle East really comparable only to what it has with Britain over a wide range of affairs.”

This brotherhood among three peoples—the Americans, the British and the Jews—has been intimate the last two centuries because of historical ties rooted in the very first book of the Old Testament—and because of God’s hand in establishing these end-time nations and raising them to unprecedented heights of world power. This critical historical context is fully explained in Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. (We will send you a free copy upon request—see the back cover of this magazine for details.)

You can see from newspaper headlines that these three nations are now in the midst of an astonishing free fall from their former positions of world dominance. That’s because, just as God prophesied of our rise to power, He also prophesies of

**Though divided by  
contention and strife,  
the three remain  
prophetically linked.**

**BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

our simultaneous fall.

Coinciding with this precipitous decline in world power and influence is the unraveling of the relationship that once bound these three brothers so tightly together. The Prophet Isaiah described this dramatic unraveling, which occurs just before the latter-day appearance of the prophesied Messiah. “Manasseh shall devour Ephraim,” Isaiah wrote, “and Ephraim Manasseh; Together they shall be against Judah” (Isaiah 9:21, New King James Version).

These three Israelite nations—which have maintained such strong and durable alliances through generations—were PROPHESED, *in our day*, to forsake their special alliance and to engage in furious strife and contention with one another.

That is happening before our eyes.

**America Devours Britain, and Britain America**

In June, the United States concluded a deal that allowed four Guantanamo detainees to settle in the British colony of Bermuda. According to several reports, British officials at Downing Street knew nothing

about the arrangement Washington made with Britain’s oldest colony.

Said one Labor MP, “The U.S. is clearly determined to act in what it perceives as its own national interest even *riding roughshod* over what it should have done, which is spoken to the British government” (*Daily Mail*, June 15; emphasis mine throughout). *Investor’s Business Daily* wrote that by secretly foisting terrorists off on a British colony, the United States was effectively scrapping its special relationship with the UK.

This relationship has been rapidly deteriorating since the beginning of the year.

Barely a month into office, U.S. President Barack Obama ditched the term “relationship” in favor of “partnership” when describing America’s association with Britain. This change coincided with his administration rejecting Britain’s offer to extend the loan of a bust of Winston Churchill that had been situated in the Oval Office since Sept. 11, 2001.

Then there was President Obama’s chilly reception for British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in early March, which consisted of a 30-minute chat inside the White House. Afterward, as a parting gift, Obama presented Brown with a DVD collection of 25 Hollywood movies. When the British responded angrily to what they saw as a snub from President Obama, a White House official excused the slight by

saying the new president had been “overwhelmed” by the economic meltdown.

The real views of Obama’s administration were laid bare by one State Department official who helped plan for the Brown visit. “There’s nothing special about Britain,” the Washington insider told the *London Telegraph*. “You’re just the same as the other 190 countries in the world. You shouldn’t expect special treatment” (March 7).

The dustup between the two countries in June over the Guantanamo detainees certainly attests to that. Whitehall officials accused the United States of treating Britain “with barely disguised contempt.” The *Independent* quoted one senior official as saying, “The Americans were fully aware of the foreign-policy understanding we have with Bermuda and they deliberately chose to ignore it. *This is not the kind of behavior one expects from an ally*” (June 13).

Even as the United States and Britain exchange blows with one another, there remains one common goal that both of them share: HOSTILITY TOWARD ISRAEL.

### Breaking an Alliance

President Obama’s speech in Cairo on June 4 perfectly summarized Washington’s renunciation of any special relationship it once had with Israel (see our cover story from last month).

In the speech, President Obama said the historic bond between the U.S. and Israel was based on Jewish aspirations for a homeland that were “rooted” in the tragedy of the Holocaust. In fact, Jewish aspirations for statehood not only predate the Adolf Hitler era, they predate the Zionist movement.

In 1879, ten years before Adolf Hitler was even born and nearly two decades before Theodore Herzl published *The Jewish State*, the venerable *New York Times* made this prediction: “So much has been said for generations of the Jews regaining possession of Jerusalem that it is agreeable to think that they are likely to do so at last. *They certainly deserve Jerusalem.*” Much had been said, of course, because of the Jews’ millennia-old roots that run through Jerusalem and the surrounding hills of Judea and Samaria.

Palestinians have reinvented this history, claiming the Jews are without legal or historic right to their homeland and that modern-day Israel exists only because of the guilt left hanging over Europe after the Holocaust. In Cairo, the president of the United States legitimized this bit of Arab propaganda.

In the same speech, he *delegitimized* the “natural growth” of Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria, as well as Jerusalem

suburbs, by demanding, “It is time for these settlements to stop.”

Blaming the failure of the peace process on settlement growth is ludicrous. It is not settlement activity that’s obstructing the process for peace—it’s *the presence of Jews*. Palestinian leaders remain steadfast in their aspirations for a homeland that includes *all* of “Palestine”—from the banks of the Jordan River to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea—being ethnically cleansed of *any* Jewish presence.

Why would the United States now elevate the marginal issue of settlement growth to the top of its Middle East peace agenda? This only applies intense pressure on an already fractured relationship between Washington and Jerusalem.

This, as several commentators noted, is exactly what the new American government *wants*. In creating this crisis, Stratfor explained, Obama wins no matter what Israel’s response. “If Netanyahu gives in, then [Obama] has established the principle that the United States can demand concessions from a Likud-controlled government in Israel and get them” (June 8). And if Netanyahu doesn’t give in, which is much more likely when viewing the collision from a prophetic standpoint, Obama can drive a wedge between the U.S. and Israel and then “use that split as a lever with Islamic states,” Stratfor noted.

The United States, in other words, has effectively decided to abandon its most dependable ally in the Middle East in hopes of boosting its standing in the Muslim world.

Britain has followed a similar course for some time now.

### Together Against Judah

Earlier this year, amid widespread European protests against Israel’s operation in Gaza, anti-Semitic hatred and violence was especially ugly in London, where more than 100,000 protestors took to the streets in open support for Hamas. More telling than the mass demonstration itself was the astonishing fact that British authorities did *nothing* to curb the incitement of hatred toward Jews.

In fact, more and more, Britain’s domestic and foreign policies actually *encourage* anti-Semitic behavior. Last December, for example, Britain spearheaded an unsuccessful push in the European Union to tie any special favors for Israel directly to the Jewish state’s diplomatic progress with the Palestinians.

That same month, several weeks before President Obama was sworn in, Gordon Brown wrote a letter to the Palestinian

Authority prime minister to express his “frustration” over the settlement activity. “The UK is now looking at what effective action we can take to discourage settlement expansion,” he wrote.

Also in December, the British government issued an advisory warning to British citizens telling them not to purchase property in East Jerusalem, the West Bank or the Golan Heights—territories 10 Downing Street envisions as a future Palestinian state. Israelis viewed the advisory “as the latest in a series of less-than-friendly steps toward Israel,” the *Jerusalem Post* wrote (Dec. 23, 2008).

Another of those steps came in July, when London partially halted arms exports to the Israeli Navy. Britain revoked five of its 182 weapons export licenses, thereby blocking the sale of spare parts for Israeli gunships. The British made the decision because these gunships were used in Israel’s military operation in Gaza in January—even though one of Britain’s top commanders has said that “the IDF did more to safeguard the rights of civilians in a combat zone than any other army in the history of warfare.” Meanwhile, British politicians have voted to pledge \$30 million to train and support Palestinian security forces.

*America against Britain—Britain against America*—both of them united only in their blatant hostility toward Israel.

*Exactly as Isaiah prophesied.*

### The End Result

We’ve been predicting this division for many years, thanks to two specific prophecies found in Hosea 5:13 and Zechariah 11:14. In the latter verse, God said He would “break the brotherhood between Judah [modern-day Israel] and Israel [primarily the United States and Britain].”

This is why in Hosea, God says that Judah, after being mortally wounded by the peace process, will seek help from Germany rather than from the United States.

Yet, despite the unraveling ties that once bound these three brothers together, all three nations are inextricably linked by another end-time prophecy, which points to our simultaneous downfall. Hosea 5:5 tells us, “[T]herefore shall Israel [including the United States] and Ephraim [Britain] fall in their iniquity; Judah [the Jewish state called Israel] also shall fall with them.”

These two prophecies are, in fact, closely related. For the weakening of those oncemighty ties that bound together the United States, Britain and Judah is only making our peoples *more* vulnerable to the threat of invasion by ascending world powers! ■

the two camps, the election in June brought the dispute to a head.

Ahmadinejad had been stacking the Iranian government with his loyalists for years, and prominent politicians and clerics came to see him as a threat to their own political careers. It wasn't voter fraud they were concerned about in Ahmadinejad's reelection. It was the threat to their own power.

### What to Expect

The challenge that Rafsanjani and the other clerics are mounting is worth watching. It could prove to make Ayatollah Khamenei even more dangerous. Tests of his absolute authority undermine the very nature of the Islamic Republic. He could well take more extreme and brutal measures to reestablish his authority and demonstrate his power. The weapons in his arsenal include the Revolutionary Guard, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza, operatives in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq, and many more terrorist sleeper cells around the world.

The battle for power will continue on behind the scenes, but at the end of the day the struggle is not over foreign policy. That will remain the same. The regime may even take a more aggressive stance in its foreign policy and nuclear development in an effort to unify the country.

For 17 years, the *Trumpet's* editor in chief has been drawing readers' attention to Iran—particularly its aim to seek undisputed leadership of the radical Islamic camp and how this factors into its significant part in the unfolding of end-time biblical prophecies. Through most of those years, reports have percolated of Iran's moderate youth movement preparing to take over. American leaders have kicked the Iran can down the road in hopes that its dissidents would muster the strength to overthrow the mullahs. But Gerald Flurry only became further convinced over time that Iran would grow more radical—eventually to fulfill the prophesied role of "king of the south" (Daniel 11:40). Request a free copy of his booklet *The King of the South* to understand this pivotal scripture.

We stand by that prophecy today, even while political turmoil swirls in Tehran.

The situation is still developing. Though it looks like Ahmadinejad, supported by Khamenei, firmly has the upper hand, we can absolutely say that should that change and Rafsanjani succeed in this power struggle, Iran's geopolitical course will remain steadfast. ■



### UNITED STATES

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

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

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

**Dish Network** ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri

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

**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

**Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

**Alabama, Dothan** WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

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

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

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

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

**Arizona, Phoenix** KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

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

**Arkansas, Fayetteville** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Fort Smith** KCWA 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

**Arkansas, Rogers** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Springdale** KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

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

**California, El Centro** KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

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

**California, Los Angeles** KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

**California, Monterey** KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

**California, Sacramento** KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

**California, Salinas** KION 9:30 am, Sun

**California, San Francisco** KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

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

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

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

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

**Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Delaware, Dover** WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

**Florida, Miami** WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

**Florida, Orlando** WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Florida, Panama City** WJHG-DT 9:30 am, Sun

**Florida, Tallahassee** WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

**Georgia, Albany** WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

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

**Georgia, Brunswick** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

**Georgia, Columbus** WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

**Georgia, Macon** WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

**Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike** Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

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

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

**Idaho, Pocatello** KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Indiana, Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Indiana, Terre Haute** WBI 8:30 am, Sun

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

**Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

**Iowa, Des Moines** KFPP 5:00 am, Fri

**Iowa, Keokuk** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Kirksville** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

**Iowa, Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

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

**Kansas, Topeka** KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

**Kentucky, Lexington** WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Louisiana, Alexandria** KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

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

**Louisiana, Lafayette** KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

**Louisiana, Lake Charles** WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

**Louisiana, New Orleans** WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

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

**Maine, Presque Isle** WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

**Maryland, Hagerstown** WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

**Maryland, Salisbury** WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

**Massachusetts, Holyoke** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

**Massachusetts, Springfield** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30 am, Sun



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

**North Carolina, Washington** WNCT-DT 9:30 am,  
 Sun  
**North Carolina, Wilmington** WBW 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Bismarck** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Dickinson** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Fargo** WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Minot** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Valley City** WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun

**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Ohio, Cincinnati**WSTR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Lima** WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Steubenville** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Zanesville** WBZV 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KSHD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Lawton** KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oklahoma, Tulsa** KTPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Eugene** KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU  
 10:00 am, Sun

**Oregon, Klamath Falls** KMFD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Medford** KMFD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Portland** KPXG 6:00 am, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WBEP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia** WPPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh** WPCW 9:00 am, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Florence** WWMB/WWMB-DT  
 9:30 am, Sun

**South Carolina, Myrtle Beach** WWMB/WWMB-  
 DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Mitchell** KWSB 8:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Sioux Falls** KWSB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Tennessee, Jackson** WBJK 8:30 am, Sun  
**Tennessee, Knoxville** WPXK 6:00 am, Fri  
**Tennessee, Memphis** WPXX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Tennessee, Nashville** WNPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Abilene** KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Amarillo** KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30  
 am, Sun

**Texas, Beaumont** KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Brownsville** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Corpus Christi** KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Harlingen** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Houston** KPXB 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Laredo** KTXW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Longview** KCEB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Lubbock** KLCW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Midland** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Odessa** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Angelo** KWSA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Antonio** KPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Sherman-Ada** KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Sweetwater** KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Tyler** KCEB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Victoria** KWVB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Weslaco** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Wichita Falls** KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00 am, Fri

**Vermont, Burlington** WVNY 10:00 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Harrisonburg** WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Norfolk** WPXV 6:00 am, Fri  
**Virginia, Roanoke** WPXR 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW  
 6:00 am, Fri

**Washington, Kennewick** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Richland** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Seattle-Tacoma** KWPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Seattle KVOS 8:30am, Sun**  
**Washington, Spokane** KGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kenne-  
 wick** KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun

**West Virginia, Beckley** KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Bluefield** KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Charleston** WLPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**West Virginia, Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Oak Hill** KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Parkersburg** WBPB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Wheeling** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT  
 8:30 am, Sun

**Wisconsin, La Crosse** WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am,  
 Sun  
**Wisconsin, Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Wisconsin, Rhinelander** WAOW/WYOW 8:30  
 am, Sun

**Wisconsin, Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30  
 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Cheyenne** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Riverton** 10:30 am, Sun

## CANADA

**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am  
 ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision  
 TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel  
 11:00 am ET, Sun.  
**British Columbia, Vancouver** KVOS 8:30 am, Sun;  
 CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**British Columbia, Victoria** CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Ontario, Toronto** WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30  
 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

## LATIN AMERICA

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,  
 Tue/Thu  
**El Salvador** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Guatemala** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Honduras** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Mexico** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Panama** WGN 7:00 am, Sun

## CARIBBEAN

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,  
 Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Aruba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Bahamas** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Barbados** CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun  
**Belize** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Cuba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Dominican Republic** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Haiti** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Jamaica** WGN 9:00 am, Sun  
**Puerto Rico** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Trinidad and Tobago** WGN 8:00 am, Sun

**Michigan, Cadillac** WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Detroit** WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL  
 10:00 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Michigan, Lansing** WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Marquette** WBKP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac** WGTU-DT/  
 WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Duluth-Superior** WDLH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Mankato** KWYE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00 am, Fri  
**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBGP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Columbus** WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenville** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenwood** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Gulfport** WBGP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Hattiesburg** WBH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Laurel** WBH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Meridian** WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Tupelo** WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, West Point** WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Hannibal** WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Jefferson City** KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg** K SXF 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Kansas City** KPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk** WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, St. Joseph** WBJO 8:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Billings** KTVQ-DT 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Bozeman-Butte** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30  
 am, Sun  
**Montana, Glendive** KWZB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Great Falls** KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Helena** KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Missoula** KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings** KCWL-TV 8:30 am,  
 Sun  
**Nebraska, Kearney** KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, North Platte** KWPL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Scottsbluff** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Binghamton** WBXI 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV  
 10:00 am, Sun  
**New York, Elmira** WBE 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, New York City** WPXN 6:00 am, Fri;  
 WLNY 10:00 am Sun  
**New York, Syracuse** WSPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Utica** WBU 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Watertown** WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Charlotte** WLMY 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Durham** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri;  
 9:00 am, Sun

## Obama's Cairo Speech

GERALD FLURRY'S ARTICLE ABOUT PRESIDENT Obama's speech really hits the nail on the head ("How President Obama's Cairo Speech Will Shake the Nations," August). Iran is an evil empire and will stop at nothing to destroy Israel and the United States. It seems that Obama is trying to be nice to the terrorists to win them over. The terrorists must be laughing in their fists at how the United States has been economically destroyed due to flagrant corruption and massive debt. They are like jackals going in for the kill on a weakened gazelle. It is too bad that many innocent people may be hurt in the process.

*George Leonty—WILLINGDON, ALTA.*

I CAN'T HELP NOTICING THAT ALL OF Obama's policies—be it the trillions of dollars he is stealing from future generations to prop up the economy or his Middle East policy—fall into the Esau category. Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. This is the essence of Satan's way and the opposite of God's way of profit. Obama is buying short-term relief at the expense of long-term destruction, as your article points out.

*Alex Smith—SYDNEY, N.S.W., AUSTRALIA*

I REALLY THANK GOD FOR THIS REVELATION and also for your boldness. Now I know where the world is moving towards and I am not afraid when I think about God's redemption. I pray a lot of people will see this and believe since this world will come to an end soon. Thank you again.

*Enoch Abronyeh—KUMASI, GHANA*

MAY THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF God continue to be blessed in blowing the trumpet and prophesying. Thanks for giving us articles like this that shows prophecies as they are being fulfilled and come to pass.

*Ron—MICHIGAN*

## Britain's Forgotten Veteran

HOW SAD ("BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN VETERAN," August). How very, very sad. This slight, no, this egregious effrontery against the Crown is unforgivable. Shame on all—of whatever nationalities—who allowed it to happen. It deeply troubles and pains me to see the once-great nations of Great Britain and America—and

indeed, even the once-proud Judaic nation of Israel—reduced to the laughing-stock nations of the world. We have only ourselves to blame. ... I used to be proud of America. Now I pity her and our "elder brother" across the Atlantic. ... Thank you for a message of hope amidst the incredibly unhopeful events in the world today. ...

*Dan Koenig—ARKANSAS*



## North Korea

NORTH KOREA ISN'T AMERICA'S problem, but China is ("Why China Won't Stop North Korea," August). The problem was created by your government by doing business with Communist China and abandoning your principles of freedom and free enterprise. Instead you went for cheap labor and cheap money. I cannot understand why you hated the Soviet Union so much and still you are in love with an even greater enemy.

*Andrzej Jaworski—MANITOBA, CANADA*

IT IS UNFORTUNATE INDEED THAT THE societies of the U.S. and Canada, which at one time stood for apple pie and motherhood, now stand for depravity, perverted lifestyles ... homosexual special rights, full-term abortions on demand, corrupt politicians, and the list goes on and on ("Happy Memorial Day. I Have a Nuclear Bomb," August). So it is difficult to comment on Iran, North Korea, or any other country who opposes us, because who really are the terrorists and the despots? Is it them or us? In our societies, right has become wrong, and vice versa ... and this is only the beginning.

*Jim—CANADA*

## Let the Stones Speak

NEXT TO FULFILLED PROPHECY, THE greatest faith builder is the unearthing of the stones of David ("Let the Stones Speak," August).

*Russell—STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.*

## Crazy for Ida

THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN A CHALLENGE to this ridiculous hype ("Crazy for Ida," August). Thank you for blowing it out of the water. I knew someone would get around to exposing it for what it truly is. All these fossils and no missing link. ... By the way, how could anyone be excited that we came from apes? Seems kind of shameful.

*J.V.*

I AM STUDYING TO BECOME A PALEONTOLOGIST, but on the creationist side. I have never believed that humans evolved from apes. I took an evolution class in college, and I don't find a single shred of proof that we did evolve from apes. Everything that I studied points me to truly believing in the creation. There seems to me to be more evidence for the creation than for evolution, but scientists are desperately trying to prove that there is no God—that life just happened. ...

*Sondra—IDAHO*

## Unapologetic Pope

THIS IS SO GLARING THAT EVERYONE IN this world should see the bias and one-sided way of this "church" ("The Unapologetic Pope," August). As you have said, this is documented in history and prophecy. Thanks for the article.

*Marcello Sukhdeo—GUYANA*

## American Gold?

BEING INVOLVED IN A FINANCIAL CONTROLLING job, I often wonder why the "perceived" strong dollar still persists among several markets ("American Gold? No Thanks!," August). It amazes me to see that the dollar being the world's only accepted reserve currency is losing the luster it once had. The viability of the dollar has been rapidly depreciated. And only time can tell when the next, far more catastrophic financial crisis will be—but this time, it will be fueled by a lack of faith and character in the U.S. currency.

*Alain Ralph Cortes—TAGUIG CITY, PHILIPPINES*

## Clear Analysis

I HAVE DISCOVERED YOUR WRITINGS only recently. Your analyses of world events are made so clear, it's hard to believe it's not common knowledge. Your book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for me is life-changing. I am amazed at the truths you unfold for all to see who will see.

*Wallace—NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA*

OUTSTANDING ANALYSIS! ("FIVE PROPHECIES to Watch," August). Thank you for clearly pointing out the most important issues we all need to be watching right now. Please keep up the great work your magazine is doing!

*S.L.W.—U.S.*

## Comments?

[letters@theTrumpet.com](mailto:letters@theTrumpet.com)  
or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,  
Edmond, OK 73083

# A Solution for Social Depravity

Abortion is becoming birth control. How can we stop this? **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

**A**BORTIONS WERE RARE 100 YEARS AGO. HERE'S ONE reason why, from the life of the late Herbert W. Armstrong: "I distinctly remember one incident—*after I had passed 20*. A girl I frequently dated and I were being driven to her home by a young man with his girl friend. In those days all cars were *completely* air-conditioned—they were open cars. It began to rain. We buttoned on the side-curtains. To hold the curtain down, on my girl friend's side, I was obliged to stretch my arm over the seat behind her. *I shall never forget the difficulty I experienced in keeping my arm far enough to the rear to avoid any contact with the back of her neck*. I was terribly afraid she would think I was 'fresh' *if any part of my arm touched her!*" (*The Missing Dimension in Sex*; emphasis mine throughout).

Can you imagine a young man today going to such extremes to protect his reputation? And what girl would view the brush of a man's arm over her neck as a sign he was getting "fresh"?

Consider just how much times have changed. "Dozens of girls as young as 12 or 13 are **REGULARLY HAVING ABORTIONS**," the *Daily Mail* reported June 29, citing a Department of Health study. Just last year, we learned that the number of British girls under 14 having abortions shot up a shocking 21 percent in 2007 as compared to 2006. During the same period, girls under 16 had 10 percent more abortions. Now, however, we see that **REPEAT ABORTIONS** in Britain are soaring. "Across all age groups," the *Daily Mail* said, "64,715 repeat abortions were carried out last year." Among those, 46 women had terminated *at least eight* pregnancies. Between 2005 and 2008, 52 teenage girls terminated *four or more* pregnancies before they reached age 18! This news confirms research from earlier this year "that the number of abortions performed on teenage girls who have had at least one before has risen by almost 70 percent since 1991" (*ibid.*).

This trend is not unique to Britain. In the United States, repeat abortions have rocketed since 1973, when abortion became protected by law in *Roe v. Wade*. In 1989, the Association for Interdisciplinary Research in Values and Social Change wrote: "In 1973 it was estimated that only about 12 percent of the induced abortions were repeat abortions. By 1979 the national repeat rate had risen to 29.4 percent and by 1983 it had reached 38.8 percent. In 1987 [research] found that 42.9 percent of the women said they were having repeat abortions."

In America today, *about half of abortions are repeat abortions!*

A disturbingly high number of women are aborting three, four, five, six, seven, eight or more children! For some, abortion has become an acceptable form of birth control.

Is there a more glaring and disgusting testament to Britain and America's moral **DEVOLUTION**?

One hundred years ago, a strong moral compass prevented a young, unmarried man from even *accidentally* brushing his date's neck. In 2009, the tattered shreds of our "morality"—of the "dating" couple perfunctorily having sex, of their parents, even of our national leadership—is apparently helpless to prevent thousands and thousands of women and girls from killing their unborn babies, **MULTIPLE TIMES!**

Does it not reveal something about our morality, our parenting skills and the character of our leadership, when American and British girls as young as 12 are 1) getting pregnant, and 2) *having abortions*? Does it not scream something vile about our moral and mental health that around *50 percent of all British and American abortions* are **REPEAT VISITS**? It started with "just" fornicating and "just" becoming pregnant. Then it was "just" the fatal mistake of having an abortion. Now it is having sex over and over and getting pregnant over and over—and killing lives, over and over.

Surely this is a sign of our society's mental and emotional callousness.

The Apostle Paul prophesied of this selfishness. "[U]nderstand this," he wrote, "that in the last days will come ... perilous times

of great stress and trouble"—"last days" referring to human society just prior to the return of Jesus Christ. "For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered .... [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman) ... uncontrolled and fierce ..." (2 Timothy 3:1-3, Amplified Bible).

Are there better terms to describe the growing number of women *repeatedly* getting pregnant and *repeatedly* aborting their unborn children? Surely these are the actions of a reckless, loveless, **WHOLLY SELFISH** existence.

Mr. Armstrong described the solution to abortion and all marriage and family problems in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, which we'd like to send you for free. Many people would consider the anecdote about Mr. Armstrong corny. If only more people considered it a **MAJOR PART OF THE SOLUTION** to some of this world's greatest problems. How can we avoid premarital pregnancy, venereal diseases and abortions? How can we prevent repeat abortions from ever occurring?

Simple, as Mr. Armstrong stated in his book: "By simply not starting the 'necking' in the first place!"

It's a humorous story with a weighty lesson: The morally upright man who worries about even accidentally brushing his arm across a lady's neck will never worry about impregnating his date or catching an STD. And neither will his date. ■



**CASE CLOSED** Arguments that aborting babies would never be used merely as birth control are now out with the bathwater.



# What You Don't Know About Sex

**W**e live in an age where sexual information, images, and innuendo pummel us from every direction. If it has to do with sex, surely we know all about it by now, right?

Don't be fooled!

There is a vital dimension to this subject that is woefully missing from the onslaught of sexual information available today.

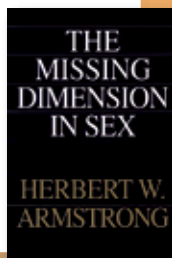
Education doesn't teach it. Religion hasn't revealed it. Medicine hasn't discovered it. There is only one source where you will find it; the Holy Bible.

Our free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex* contains biblical revelation that will revolutionize your social life, your family, your marriage—and it will answer the most basic yet profound questions about sex.

Join over 1.5 million readers and discover God's purpose for man—and how He is fulfilling that purpose through love, marriage and sex.

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