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The hidden high costs
of government handouts

SUICIDAL NATION

Documenting the danger in Israel's policy of retreat from and
restraint toward the enemies intent on destroying it.

**DOES GOD USE
EVOLUTION?**

Why Christians are confused

OCTOBER 2007

THE PHILADELPHIA

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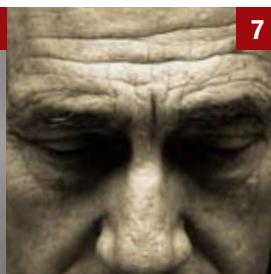
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COVER Descriptions of tomorrow's cities include accounts of social environments for people of all ages. Photo illustration by Michael Dattolo/PhotoObject/iStockPhoto

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Gerald Flurry

Why the Pope Offends Muslims, Jews and Protestants

IN SEPTEMBER 2006, THE POPE OFFENDED MUSLIMS BY quoting a Byzantine emperor from the 14th century. Here is what the emperor said: “Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as HIS COMMAND TO SPREAD BY THE SWORD THE FAITH HE PREACHED” (emphasis mine throughout).

The pope apologized for offending Muslims, but didn't retract what he said. And it was a shocking statement.

But here is something FAR MORE SHOCKING: I didn't notice anyone reminding the pope of his *own* church's history! He discussed Mohammed's “command to spread by the sword the faith he preached,” but the truth of history is that no church has spread its faith by the sword more than the Catholics!

The Vatican and Germany primarily comprise the so-called *Holy Roman Empire*. Six resurrections of that empire have come and gone. I defy anybody to show me a religious empire that has shed more blood in man's entire history!

In spite of this bloody history, the pope is doing most of the criticizing and condemning.

The seventh head of the Holy Roman Empire is now on the scene in Europe. And the stronger it gets, the more aggressive the Vatican becomes. That empire has had a history of converting people to Catholicism with the sword for about 1,500 years. Bloodshed has repeatedly followed its strong criticisms.

The greatest hero of the Holy Roman Empire is Charlemagne. He waded through a sea of blood to win converts to Catholicism. Still, the last two popes have continually instructed Roman Catholics to remember and resurrect that “*glorious*” past! That is the opposite of repenting for past sins! Some European Union leaders even discuss how they are waiting for a new Charlemagne to get the Holy Roman Empire moving again. And nobody seems to be alarmed.

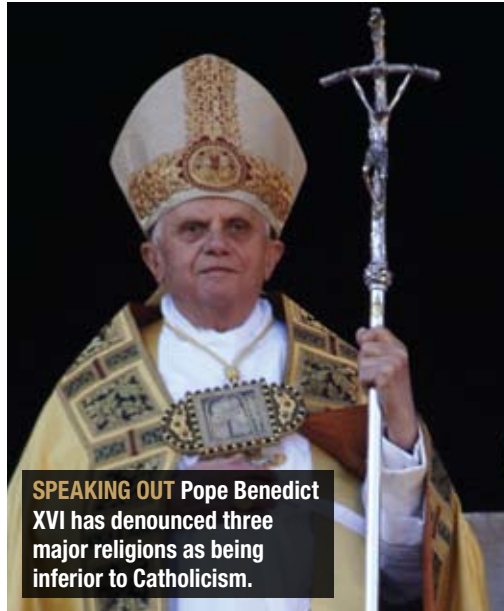
Have people forgotten the history of the Holy Roman Empire?

How about the Catholic crusades?

Most religious (and even secular) people are reluctant to criticize the Vatican. But the pope is hurling some scathing criticisms at others—especially other religions.

Since the Vatican is so critical, surely it can stand a little criticism too.

If we fail to learn from history, the bloodshed is going to get a lot worse. This world desperately needs to know where the Vatican's aggression is leading. All religions have their faults. However, the Vatican acts like it is innocent.



SPEAKING OUT Pope Benedict XVI has denounced three major religions as being inferior to Catholicism.

Protestants Not Even a “Church”

In July, London's *Telegraph* reported, “Christian denominations outside Roman Catholicism are either defective or are not full churches of Jesus Christ, the Vatican has reaffirmed. A 16-page document released by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, WHICH POPE BENEDICT XVI ONCE HEADED, described Orthodox churches as true churches, but said they are suffering from a ‘wound’ since they do not recognize the PRIMACY [STATE OF BEING FIRST!] of the pope.

“THE DOCUMENT, APPROVED BY POPE BENEDICT, went on to say the ‘wound is still more profound’ in Protestant denominations. ‘Despite the fact that this teaching has created no little distress ... IT IS NEVERTHELESS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE TITLE OF “CHURCH” COULD

POSSIBLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THEM,’ it said. ...

“While there was nothing doctrinally new in the document, it nevertheless prompted swift criticism from Protestants, Lutherans and other Christian denominations” (July 11). But the criticism was anemic compared to the pope's scathing condemnation of their religions. The reason Protestants revolted in the first place was the corruption inside the Roman Catholic Church.

THE POPE CAN'T SEE HOW THE PROTESTANTS COULD EVEN HAVE THE TITLE OF “CHURCH” ATTRIBUTED TO THEM! Quite an outrage coming from a church with such a bloody history.

This document criticized Orthodox churches almost as severely.

Other religions have a history of being afraid to criticize a powerful Catholic Church. That situation is only going to get worse as the Catholic Church rapidly grows in power and influence.

Jews Are “Blind”

Also in July, the *Observer* newspaper wrote, “Jewish leaders and community groups criticized Pope Benedict XVI strongly yesterday after the head of the Roman Catholic Church formally removed restrictions on celebrating an old form of the Latin mass which includes prayers calling for the Jews to ‘be

See POPE page 34 ▶

The United Welfare States of America

America, and much of the Western world, is addicted to welfare. But the cost of government “giveaways” is far higher than you may think.

BY ROBERT MORLEY



“GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE me death!” Patrick Henry said famously. This Founding Father would likely have been shocked at the litany of taxes imposed on the modern citizens of the nation he helped shape. Today’s Americans pay federal and state income tax, state and local sales tax, state and local property tax, federal and state unemployment tax, Social Security tax, Medicare tax and school tax. Some pay capital gains tax, dividend tax, interest tax, luxury tax, gift tax, and utility taxes such as phone tax, which includes state and local tax, state and local surcharge taxes, federal excise tax, universal service fee tax, possibly also minimum usage surcharge tax, and recurring and non-recurring charges tax—whatever that is. They also pay tax for the privilege of getting married, for purchasing a car, for licensing a trailer, for having a water well or septic tank, even for sitting down at home and enjoying a glass of wine with dinner. The list doesn’t come close to ending there.

And Americans are hardly the world’s most heavily taxed people. Many Western nations are burdened with effective tax rates in excess of 30 percent per year. In some countries, such as Sweden and Israel, the rate is closer to 60 percent.

But don’t governments *need* high taxes to operate? *The answer, believe it or not, is no.*

An entirely different system requires a simple 10 percent on your annual earnings, 10 percent saved for your family to spend at special celebrations, and then every third year an additional 10 percent to support widows and orphans. No other complex, confusing taxes. No fishing for loopholes. No 16,000-page IRS tax code. Efficiency and simplicity!

Which sounds more ideal to you?

This contrasting system, used by the ancient nation of Israel, is called tithing. You can read about it in Leviticus 27:30-33 and Deuteronomy 14:22-29.

Actually, this system was in use long before Israel was founded. It was practiced by Abraham (Genesis 14:20) and Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22). Much later, the apostles and Jesus Christ Himself (Matthew 23:23) followed this system in addition to submitting to Roman taxes (Matthew 22:21).

The results of rejecting this system are

clearly evident, historically and currently. The people of ancient Israel rejected God’s simple system of government. They demanded a king and an administrative system like other nations. Consequently, they and their descendants have paid the price ever since. (For documentation regarding where the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel are today, request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The Prophet Samuel warned Israel what would come of their request: “This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen ... and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war And he will take your

Forget King George, the American Revolution and the Boston Tea Party—today Americans love taxes. In fact, a huge swath of Americans wouldn’t know how to survive without taxes.

daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants” (1 Samuel 8:11-17).

Under poor kingship, Israel’s governmental support system quickly grew from simple tithing to the confiscation of property and businesses, the young being drafted into the army, and the people being heavily burdened by the rulers.

Just two generations after rejecting God’s form of administration, taxes and big government under King Solomon were instrumental in causing the northern tribes in Israel to revolt and split from Judah (1 Kings 12). Yet revolution did not solve any problems, because it never fixed the *cause* of burdensome government and high taxes.

Origins of the Welfare State

America, like many nations, finds itself in a similar situation today. It has become a nation of big government and big taxes. Contrary to the principles set forth by America’s Founding Fathers—principles involving a small, efficient,

service-oriented government; principles that helped make the American republic great—America has morphed into a social welfare behemoth.

And truth be told—forget King George, the American Revolution and the Boston Tea Party—today Americans love taxes. In fact, a huge swath of Americans wouldn’t know how to survive without taxes. Shocked? Disagree?

Ask yourself: What is the *root cause* of taxes and big government? Once you realize what it is, you will see why America is *addicted* to taxation, and why that is so bad for the nation.

According to author Durham W. Ellis, this is what historian Alexander Tyler said about the fall of the Athenian Republic: “A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can

only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves money from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most money from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy”

That succinctly sums up why America’s financial condition is deteriorating so quickly.

Both Republicans and Democrats have become parties of big government. The main difference is that some Republicans claim they are for small government, while Democrats are open about their support for increased government and entitlement spending—though even this difference is fast disappearing.

As *Wall Street Journal* editor Bret Stephens recently wrote, “[W]e have a 40-year history of Republican policy, which says, *We’re in favor of what the Democrats are in favor of, only less so.*”

The fruits prove this out. Not one administration since 1960 has balanced its budget, and government spending continues to grow unabated. The continually elevating federal debt ceiling, which has become a farce, is breached year after year. In July, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson warned Congress that unless the cap was raised again, the United States would be unable to pay its bills. The last breach came in March 2006, when Congress was forced to approve an

additional \$781 billion in federal debt.

Last year, federal, state and local governments spent a massive \$4.6 trillion, according to Michael Hodges's *Grandfather Economic Report*. The gross domestic product of the U.S. is only \$13.1 trillion. That means 35 percent of the economy now depends on government spending.

Government employment has also bloomed, vastly outstripping population growth. Federal, state and local governments now employ one out of every seven workers in the country, according to the *Daily Reckoning*. That is more than any other sector of the national economy.

In 1946, there were 2.3 state and local government employees per 100 citizens. Today there are 6.4. If government today had the same proportion of employees with respect to its population as it did in 1946, there would be 12.2 million fewer government salaries that current taxpayers would have to pay (*Grandfather Economic Report*, March 2007).

And to support increased government spending and employment, citizens must work additional hours. This year, "Tax Freedom Day" fell on April 30, which means if you gave the

the government's top financial auditor, says it will be virtually impossible for the economy to grow fast enough for America to meet its financial obligations. He says the economy would have to grow at double-digit rates for the next 75 years to meet its obligations. During the 1990s, the economy averaged 3.2 percent per year.

So why can't the spending stop?

Simple: As Alexander Tyler indicated, once people learn that they can vote themselves handouts, politicians learn that the best way to get elected is to promise more than their opponents—more services, more benefits, more spending, whether or not the nation can afford it. Voters punish those who might actually slash spending or reduce government employment by cutting government waste—in essence, anyone supporting financial responsibility. Voters enjoy the short-term benefits of big spending and leave the consequences for the next generation.

There are only two ways government programs can be paid for: additional taxes or increased borrowing—and increased borrowing just means even more taxes in the future.

In other words, EVERY TIME THEY VOTE THEMSELVES MORE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED GIFTS, VOTERS INDIRECTLY ASK FOR MORE TAXES.

much steeper than many realize.

Social Problems

There are also huge social consequences.

Government has become so large and all-encompassing that it acts like a big mother hen still nurturing her 40-year-old children who refuse to leave the family nest.

This big-mother approach promotes a culture of irresponsibility. Take the effects of welfarism on family life, for example.

Despite the welfare reforms of the late 1990s, the U.S. government still requires the state to meet every material need of a child despite the actions of his or her parents. The welfare solution is to provide money for disadvantaged children by taxing everyone else. Nobody considers that by rewarding certain lifestyle choices, welfarism only encourages negligent behavior by detaching it from its consequences.

Welfare continues to act as a giant engine powering the production of fatherless children, and consequently child misery and poverty. Millions of young girls get pregnant out of wedlock—and the state, instead of focusing on the cause of the fatherless children, deals with the effect by providing a range of welfare benefits including generous "income disregards," government accommodation, and in-

There are only two ways government programs can be paid for: additional taxes or increased borrowing—and increased borrowing just means even more taxes in the future.

government all your earnings beginning in January, and worked every day including weekends, you wouldn't have been able to keep a dime until May. One third of the year (120 days) goes *just to pay taxes*—more than the days spent working for food, clothing and housing combined (105 days). In contrast, back in 1900 you only had to work 22 days to pay your yearly taxes.

If you live in the United Kingdom, or Canada, tax freedom arrived even later—June 1 and June 20, respectively.

Yet, even with all the taxes collected each year, the government continues to spend much more than it takes in, borrowing to make up the difference.

Big Government = Big Spending

In fact, big government coupled with even bigger spending is so rapidly degrading the nation's finances that David Walker,

That's the problem with the American system; as Frédéric Bastiat put it: "Everyone wants to live at the expense of the state. They forget that the state lives at the expense of everyone."

Political vote-buying has spiraled out of control. Politicians have promised Social Security and Medicare benefits to Americans to the tune of \$70 trillion; that is money America does not have and can't hope to get. Again, the whole economy is only valued at \$13.1 trillion.

Between 78 and 100 million baby boomers are rapidly approaching the date when they can quit their jobs and rely on Social security and Medicare. That's a growing wave of retirees, nearly the size of Japan, that will not dissipate until around 2027. These people have based their retirement plans on government promises that can't be kept.

The economic consequences of vote pandering are about to be felt. Yet the price of becoming a welfare state may be

home visitation by nurses. Other young girls see their peers experiencing a life that looks appealing; young men see no consequences. So there is little deterrent, and the welfare cycle continues, drawing in more young mothers and creating more fatherless, disadvantaged children.

In essence, welfare programs often undermine the role of the father in the home. The welfare culture tells recipients that the father is not necessary to the family; the breadwinner is a welfare check. But an ethereal state figure cannot provide authority and love that helps build proper character that keeps adolescents out of crime.

The welfare mentality has also eroded basic individual responsibility for things like planning for the future and determining how you will put food on your own table once you retire. Before big government welfare programs and the mandated Social Security tax, "social security" meant family, a good work



ethic and responsible planning. If an aging parent could no longer work, his children would provide for his needs. Family came together to take care of Mom and Dad. Elderly parents weren't left for the state to pay for. If someone slipped through the cracks, these real needs were taken care of by charitable organizations and churches. (Again, the biblical economic model does have a system of welfare to provide for the truly needy.)

With Social Security, because the government has plundered the Social Security fund to finance its spending, the younger generation is taxed, effectively, to pay today's retirees. It is a similar situation with Medicare and other government-sponsored programs. Aging parents don't need kids—the state takes care of them. And kids don't want to care for parents because it is cheaper and easier to foist them on the state—which is actually the taxpayers.

The problems with welfare in America are even worse in Britain. Commenting on that system, Melanie Phillips wrote, "It is the welfare state which, more than anything else, has created a culture of incivility, irresponsibility, family breakdown and disorder Yet no politician, even Conservative ones, will go near this subject. For all the windy rhetoric about irresponsibility and state interference, the root cause of these problems—the welfare state—remains a political untouchable" (*Daily Mail*, April 26).

Man's Solutions Inept

Welfare and big government are untouchable issues because politicians are more worried about their own party interests than those of the nation or the people they are supposed to serve.

That is why democracy is doomed to fail. Voters just don't seem to realize that you can't get something from nothing no matter how much politicians might like you to believe otherwise. Eventually, all government-promised benefits must be paid for. And as they are, the tax burden will steadily grow, and more people will experience financial hardship. If history stays true, voters will be only too happy to elect the next politician promising the quick fix of additional government programs. How those programs are to be paid for and their social consequences will be lost in the euphoria.

Any nation that succumbs to this trap

will continue to experience the effects of big government and oppressive taxes that Samuel warned about in 1 Samuel 8. God says He will let that nation suffer the consequences of rejecting His rule. "And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen

The welfare mentality has eroded basic individual responsibility for things like planning for the future and determining how you will put food on your own table once you retire.

you; and the Lord will not hear you in that day" (verse 18).

God is letting America and the world in general get sick and tired of man's rule, but He has a purpose. After enough punishment, the world will then be ready for God's government in the soon-coming World Tomorrow.

The future will be very different from today.

A Better Way

In the World Tomorrow, dealing with the government will be refreshing. Government will operate with a giving, service-oriented attitude. Christ said a leader should be the servant of all (Mark 9:34-35). Leaders will truly serve for the good of the governed and not determine policies based upon vote pandering.

Actually, the world's whole economic system will be completely obliterated and replaced.

Burdensome taxes and the complex and inefficient tax code will be replaced with God's simple system of tithing. No more Internal Revenue Service or audits.

Every man will work. The Apostle Paul told the congregation at Thessalonica that "if any would not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). To the brethren at Ephesus, Paul said, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Ephesians 4:28).

Honest pay will be the foundation of wages (1 Timothy 5:18) and will eliminate the need for unions and tedious governmental regulation and oversight. Employers will not cheat their employees (Matthew 20:1-15).

People will be taught to be good stewards with what God has given them. They will plan for the future, leaving their children an inheritance (Proverbs 13:22), thus eliminating the need for government-sponsored social security plans. Inheritances will not be taxed.

God's system—fundamentally the same one given to ancient Israel—will prevent system abuse: The poor and needy will be dealt with on the local level—preferably, within the family (Deuteronomy 15:7-8). That way, it will be easier to discern whether the individ-

ual in need really *needs* welfare. Bogus worker's compensation claims will be a thing of the past. Families will provide for their own children—citizens will not be taxed so that the government can provide subsidized child care, in many cases subsidizing lifestyle choices of people with questionable need.

In the future, when people and families step in to help those in need, God will reward them personally for living the way of give—repaying those unselfish acts many times over! (Proverbs 19:17). That will be an additional incentive to help the poor.

It is impossible to outgive God. Today, many refuse to acknowledge God and implement His laws concerning government and finance, but by doing so they reject God's blessings too.

God challenges us to prove Him. In Malachi 3:10, He says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith ... if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

While those who practice God's laws on tithing already experience the many financial and spiritual blessings that come as a result, the whole world will soon also benefit from keeping those laws. Then "shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10).

A new world government, based on giving, is about to encompass the Earth. Mankind's civilization of inefficient bureaucracies and taxation will be history, a teaching tool for future generations. Having learned the lessons of the past, mankind will experience the many blessings that result from following God's laws. ■

For a more complete description of the coming new world, write for *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



DOUG KANTER/ARND BRONKHORST/GETTY IMAGES

COUNTING THEIR CHICKENS GE and Honeywell CEOs celebrate their companies' merger. The European Union later blocked the deal.

The Long Arm of European Law

The Continent is imposing its standards on foreign technology companies.

BY MARK JENKINS

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS NOW routinely exerting its authority as a regulator on technology companies. Intel, AMD, Apple, Microsoft, Sony and Toshiba can verify this from first-hand experience. Consequently, European standards of doing business—if the European Commission's behavior continues to go unchecked—will become de facto law in the United States.

The EU Commission sparked tremendous controversy in 2001 when it blocked a \$42 billion acquisition of Honeywell International by General Electric, even after Washington had already approved the merger between the two U.S.-based companies. Until then, no one fully realized that Europe intended to exert its influence beyond its borders in such a proactive way. But now, among prominent technology companies, this sort of behavior is commonplace.

On July 27, for example, EU regulators accused the world's largest processor company, Intel Corp., of anti-competitive activity. The crime? Intel gave rebates to companies that used its processors.

legal if the company in question were not considered 'dominant.' This leaves companies in the absurd position of being free to compete as hard as possible until they reach a certain market share—at which point their hitherto legal behavior becomes unlawful. This is the kind of reasoning that has damaged the Commission's credibility, as Europe's highest courts overturn one major antitrust decision after another" (July 31).

The European Commission is taking action even though AMD actually gained market share throughout 2005 and most of 2006. The writing has been on the wall ever since EU officials carried out a raid of Intel offices throughout Europe at dawn on July 12, 2005. Such actions are becoming routine where technology companies—especially American technology companies—are involved.

Perhaps most shocking, the EU has launched an investigation into the war between Sony's Blu-ray and Toshiba's HD-DVD formats—without having received a complaint from anyone. In June the European Commission notified all the major studios in Hollywood to turn

Where the companies involved consider this an incentive to buy, Brussels considers it "abuse of a dominant position"—with a potential fine of up to €3.5 billion (us\$4.8 billion). Advanced Micro Designs (AMD), Intel's main rival, lodged the complaint.

The *Wall Street Journal* observed that Intel is being punished because it has an 80 percent share of the \$33 billion microprocessor market, as opposed to AMD's 20 percent: "In Europe, a firm's size and success are the determining factors of its alleged violations. The same commercial practices would be entirely

over agreements, e-mails, records of telephone conversations, etc. regarding their decisions on their choice of DVD format. Every major studio except NBC Universal has backed the Blu-ray format. Five studios exclusively produce Blu-ray discs, a decision the EU is specifically challenging. One can only presume that if these were still the days of VHS versus Betamax, the EU would be trying to prevent Betamax from failing in the marketplace. The result, if the EU is successful: Two incompatible formats getting equal support from movie studios and retail outlets because of government interference—and a foreign government at that!

Apple Computer has discovered the troublesome European standard as well—and on multiple fronts. EU regulators are targeting Apple because its iTunes music store pricing is higher in some European jurisdictions than others—likely a result of record companies' pricing rather than any proactive decision on Apple's part. Yankee Group analyst Mike Goodman said Apple is "somewhat caught in the middle on pricing" with a profit margin of only a few cents a song as it is (MacNewsWorld, July 30).

EU regulators have also targeted the exclusive operation between the iPod and iTunes, which a consumer group in Norway called an "illegal lock-in" that forces consumers' hands by "technically blocking interoperability," MacNewsWorld reported. But, like the pricing war, it is the record labels that have insisted on this restriction. Nevertheless, Apple has started responding to European regulators' concerns: It has made some of its catalog available without the restrictions—called Digital Rights Management (DRM)—that would otherwise prevent other players from using the iTunes store. The real story is that Apple is taking European law into consideration even though it is in the clear with its own government.

Microsoft has also famously come under the European hammer of justice, paying record-breaking fines and still currently under European review and the threat of stiffer fines.

The concept goes back to German Chancellor Angela Merkel's May 2006 comments to the Bundestag: "Europe has to show that it can mold world policy according to its own values." No doubt, that is exactly what Europe is doing: enforcing European ways of doing business on foreign companies, and in the process establishing laws far beyond its own borders. ■

WHEN EHUD BARAK pulled Israel Defense Forces out of Lebanon in May 2000, IDF commanders deferred to United Nations officials to determine an internationally recognized border between Lebanon and Israel. Israel was so determined to abide by international guidelines that it divided the borderline city of Raj'ar, even though comprised of Israeli citizens (Allawite Arabs) who actually *wanted* to be included within Israel's territorial boundaries. To this day, Raj'ar literally straddles the border between Lebanon and Israel, with 80 percent of its residents technically living in Lebanon.

In accepting the new UN boundary line, and to lock down its northern border, Israel abandoned the old security fence that ran around the northern outskirts of Raj'ar and instead erected a barrier

south of the city. This kept its residents from being divided by a Berlin-style wall, but it also forced *everyone*

to go through a security checkpoint in order to enter northern Israel, similar to the procedure West Bank residents must undergo to get into Israel proper.

So Israel effectively abandoned every square inch of Lebanon—and then some—in order to eliminate every possible territorial dispute as a potential pretext for Hezbollah to instigate another war. Yet just five months after Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Hezbollah guerillas crossed into Israeli territory and abducted three IDF soldiers near Shebaa Farms. That same month, October 2000, Hezbollah operatives abducted an Israeli businessman in Dubai. Israel chose not to retaliate for fear that it might escalate tensions on the northern border. Instead, it nego-

tiated with Hezbollah, with the help of Germany as mediator.

Three years after the abductions, in what amounted to one of the most lopsided prisoner swaps in the history of hostage negotiations, Ariel Sharon freed 429 Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners and handed over the remains of 59 Lebanese fighters in return for *one prisoner* (the businessman) and three corpses (the kidnapped soldiers). In response to the public outcry in Israel, the Knesset claimed that the freed prisoners were only small fish in the terrorist pond—none of them having been convicted of killing Israeli civilians. *Not that they didn't try to*, of course.

The Arab world greeted the news of the prisoner swap jubilantly. In Beirut and Gaza, taxi drivers honked horns as

Hezbollah fighters had been repeatedly tapping Israel's electronic fence, setting off alarms at IDF observation bases. Each time, the IDF dutifully sent out patrols, only to find the area secure. *Just another false alarm.*

But on Tuesday night, July 11, instead of tapping the fence, a group of terrorists slashed the barrier open, sneaked across the border, and spent the night hiding in a thicket of trees next to a narrow road running parallel to the fence on Israel's side.

The next morning, in southern Lebanon, Hezbollah rocket launchers unleashed a barrage of Katyushas on western Galilee, distracting the IDF from Hezbollah's covert operation the night before. About an hour after missiles first exploded on Israeli soil, Hezbollah gueril-

WOUNDED Ehud Olmert joins a number of Israeli prime ministers who have made damaging concessions.

pedestrians danced in the streets. Hezbollah's regional profile skyrocketed throughout the Middle East—first they had boot-ed Israel out of southern Lebanon; now their violent acts had forced Israel to free hundreds of terrorists.

By the summer of 2006, riding high from a string of victories, Hezbollah was itching for another fight. And its primary state sponsor, Iran, desperately wanted to distract the world's attention away from its nuclear aspirations. So Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ordered another cross-border kidnapping operation, fresh on the heels of the Hamas raid on Israel's *southern* border in June 2006, which resulted in the abduction of one Israeli soldier.

RETREAT and RESTRAINT

Israel's suicidal policy for making "peace."

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

Invasion of Israel

For about three weeks prior to the start of the Second Lebanon War,

las ambushed two armored Humvees on patrol in northern Israel, killing three IDF soldiers and taking two others hostage.

This was not a random terrorist act. It was an audacious declaration of war against Israel by a guerilla army, referred to by some Israeli officers as Lebanon's "Iranian division."

The attack caught Israel completely off guard. "It was a very good operation," Col. Koby Morom admitted in a July 31 interview. "We have to be honest and say that. They did a great job." Morom, who once served in Lebanon and commanded an IDF northern brigade, admitted, "From our point of view it was an operational failure and an intelligence failure."

Making matters worse, the intelligence failure was followed by a botched rescue attempt as an IDF tank chased the kidnappers into Lebanon, only to trigger a huge mine, killing all four soldiers inside. Another soldier, trying to rescue his buddies from the burning tank, later died from his wounds.

All totaled, Hezbollah killed eight soldiers and kidnapped two others on the first day of its invasion. It was the IDF's deadliest one-day setback in more than four years.

Failed Objectives

Judging by the international media's

coverage of the Second Lebanon War, one could be forgiven for thinking Israel instigated the fight. Some media outlets even misled their readers and viewers by reporting that the abductions occurred "along the border" or "by Israeli border positions." And for the media outlets that got it right, the fact that Hezbollah started the war without provocation was quickly lost in the repeated denunciations of Israel's "disproportionate" response to the attack. European leaders and UN officials joined with the anti-Israeli media elites to urge Israel to exercise "restraint," even though it was Israel's policy of restraint (some would say *weakness*) that invited Hezbollah's invasion in the first place.

Five days after Hezbollah attacked, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert promised to respond with powerful force. "In Lebanon," he told members of the Knesset, "we will insist on compliance with the terms stipulated long ago by the international community, as unequivocally expressed only yesterday in the resolution of the eight leading countries of the world: the return of the hostages, Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev; a complete cease-fire; deployment of the Lebanese Army in all of southern Lebanon; expulsion of Hezbollah from the area, and fulfillment of United Nations Resolution

1559. ... We will not suspend our actions. ... We will continue, without hesitating, without capitulating and without fretting, until our goals are achieved."

Two weeks later, after *plenty of fretting and hesitation* over how to prosecute the war, Olmert dramatically pared down his list of objectives—and then, to the astonishment of nearly every clear-thinking observer, declared *victory* in Lebanon. At a commencement ceremony on Aug. 1, 2006, he talked about the "unprecedented" gains Israel had made, saying, "If the military campaign were to end today ... we could say with certainty that the face of the Middle East has changed following the great achievement of the State of Israel." He then made the absurd claim that Hezbollah would "never again" be able to threaten Israel with missiles—even as rockets, *by the hundreds*, were raining down on Israel. Olmert said he believed a cease-fire would result in a buffer zone in southern Lebanon, manned by an international force.

So it took just three weeks for his five objectives to be reduced to a buffer zone in southern Lebanon, which is exactly what Israel had between 1982 and 2000, before they pulled back. Yet the tragic lesson of the Lebanon withdrawal was completely lost on the Olmert government. It fails to grasp that Israel's enemies view pullouts and withdrawals, not as a stepping-stone to peace, but as a sign of Israeli weak-

Negotiating With Terrorists

"THE REASON why I shook that man's hand," Yitzhak Rabin told his speechwriter the night before his assassination, "was to strengthen the credibility and to empower the secular Palestinian national movement"—as opposed to radical Islam. Of course, Rabin was talking about his uncomfortable handshake with Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn with President Bill Clinton in September 1993. According to Yehuda Avner, one of Rabin's closest advisers at the time, Rabin consented to the agreement because he foresaw the Islamic radicalization of the Middle East.

In one discussion with Avner, Rabin took a sheet of paper and drew a circle around the State of Israel. "These are our neighbors," he said. "Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon." Around that, he drew another circle, saying, "And these are their neighbors: Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya"—all of them rogue states under the heavy influence of radical Islam.

According to Avner, who served on the staffs of five Israeli prime ministers during his political career, the secret negotiations at Oslo in the months leading up to the White House handshake were Rabin's way of establishing common ground between Israel and the inner circle—nations he believed were equally threatened by that outer circle. He was trying to "find some kind of dialogue with the secular, nationalist movement, as opposed to those who are doing their level best to theologize the conflict," Avner said.

And that might sound reasonable, but Mr. Avner completely misses the point! The real story from 1993 is not that Rabin identified the

outer circle as Israel's greatest security threat. It's that he turned to the inner circle for help—to Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority in particular.

Final Negotiations

The *Trumpet* staff was on hand for Mr. Avner's press briefing in Jerusalem on July 5. After his concluding remarks, we asked him to comment on the radicalization of Israel's closest neighbors. "The problem on our agenda is Iran," he said. "We have been threatened with destruction by a nihilistic dictator with a will to conquer the world. This is reality. And there is a time frame. The countdown has begun—whether it is two years, three years, four years—these will always be debated. ... But the enrichment program is on. And who can deny that we are living in a totally new and threatening period of history?"

Of course, the *Trumpet* has been sounding the alarm about the rise of this biblically prophesied "king of the south" for many years. Avner believes this threat will not be eliminated until there is "some kind of military solution." But he questions the will of American and Israeli leadership in confronting such a dangerous threat. "I don't know if there exists on this Earth today anybody in power, whether it be in Washington or Jerusalem, who has what it takes to make such a Kennedy-like decision" (referring to Kennedy's response to the Cuban missile crisis).

How shamefully accurate that assessment is! And if Avner can see this, surely the outer circle, led by Iran, has taken note. Iran has been intensely observing Israel's approach to the peace process—as well

ness—and a victory for radical Islam.

Israel's leadership was so out of touch with reality that Prime Minister Olmert publicly discussed Israel's next withdrawal even as the Lebanon war raged on! The day after his commencement address, Mr. Olmert told the Associated Press he believed the Second Lebanon War would actually hasten Israel's departure from the West Bank. "I genuinely believe that the outcome of the present [conflict] ... will allow me ... to create a new momentum between us and the Palestinians." Terrorists believe that too. That's why they keep killing Israeli civilians—to add momentum to Israel's withdrawal from "occupied" territories.

Later in the interview, Olmert said, "We want to separate from the Palestinians. I'm ready to do it" (Aug. 2, 2006). Six years earlier, Israel separated from Hezbollah in Lebanon—and that resulted in 158 Israeli casualties, Israel's longest

war since 1948, and a HUGE STRATEGIC VICTORY for Iran.

Snatching Defeat From the Jaws of Victory

Even with inept leadership and terrible mismanagement of the war, Israel's overwhelming advantage in firepower nearly delivered a deathblow to Hezbollah's guerilla army. Hezbollah, with its puny force of only 1,500 active fighters and another 4,500 reservists, should have been squashed within days. As it was, it took Israel more than a month just to push them behind a buffer zone.

Yet even that level of response surprised Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah. He had grown so accustomed to Israel's policy of non-response to provocation, he had expected yet another free pass. In July of 2006, however, Israel had finally had enough. It retaliated with a barrage of air raids, and later, a ground invasion.

According to the Lebanese daily *al-*

Safir, after it was all said and done, despite his public declarations of victory over Israel, in private Nasrallah was depressed. With UN and Lebanese forces deployed in southern Lebanon, Hezbollah no longer had free rein in "*Hezbollah*

lastan." Nasrallah concluded that he was "too hasty in pulling the trigger" against Israel, wrote Ehud Yaari, an Israeli commentator on Middle East affairs, in the *Jerusalem Report* (Oct. 2, 2006).

In an interview this summer, one Hezbollah officer commented on how close Israel got to obliterating Nasrallah's forces. The terrorists were on the run during the Second Lebanon War, the officer maintains. They hid behind civilian shields. Their supply lines had been cut off. Even when they were able to fire missiles at Israel, the launch sites were oftentimes bombed by Israeli jets within minutes.

If Israel had continued fighting for another 10 days, the officer said, HEZBOLLAH WOULD HAVE LAID DOWN ITS WEAPONS AND SURRENDERED. Instead, succumbing to the international outcry for restraint and seemingly satisfied with the lone objective of pushing Hezbollah and its arsenal a little bit north, Israel agreed to the terms of the UN-brokered cease-fire. And that, according to the Hezbollah officer, was exactly the "life jacket" the terrorists needed to stay afloat.

Thus, even when Israel wins, it can't avoid losing.

Peacekeepers to the Rescue

How different the war's outcome would have been had Israel simply resolved to finish the job. As it was, *by merely surviv-*



SHAKY START Rabin, Clinton, Arafat in 1993.

as America's weakening resolve in the war on terror. The king of the south interprets our penchant for negotiating with enemies as a sign of weakness. The peace process has weakened our position—and made our enemies much stronger!

"I think that in many ways we are back into the 1930s," Avner noted. "We have a Europe pretty complacent ... a Europe that didn't take Hitler seriously enough in the 1930s."

In effect, he was saying that America and Israel are aware of the looming threat, but lack the will to confront the problem. Europe, on the other hand, has the will to fight, but hasn't taken the threat seriously enough—not yet anyway. Bible prophecy tells us exactly what will happen once the European Union, led by Germany, fully awakens to the threat of radical Islam.

But before Europe unleashes its blitzkrieg whirlwind against the king of the south (Daniel 11:40), Bible prophecy says it will first be invited into the Middle East by Israeli negotiators! "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah [the Israeli people] saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian [modern-day Germany], and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound" (Hosea 5:13). The wound, as we have noted, is the peace process. And the final stage of those negotiations will culminate in Europe's "peaceful" entry into the Holy Land.

Notice what my father wrote in his booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*: "Already the European Union has stepped up its efforts to help

the Middle East peace process as the U.S. pulls out of the region and grows weaker. German-led Europe has been publicly mentioned as being a protector to Israel." My father then asks, "Can anyone miss the cruel irony of this situation?"

To a student of history, it seems unthinkable—Jews inviting Germans into Jerusalem to keep the peace? Could a Holocaust survivor even imagine such a scenario?

But your Bible says that is precisely what will happen. Yes, in the same way it drove Yitzhak Rabin to the negotiating table with an infamous terrorist, the spread of Islamic fundamentalism into its inner circle will prompt Israel to make one last desperate attempt to negotiate its way out of the danger—this time reaching out to its most notoriously ruthless and unforgiving enemy.

This time, though, the stakes will be much, much higher. Negotiating with the inner circle in the early 1990s has resulted in the destruction of Israel's security.

Shaking hands with the Assyrians will result in catastrophe.

Hosea's prophecy continues, "I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early" (verse 15). God says He will continue punishing the people of Judah (as well as America and Britain) until we acknowledge our offenses. All God wants is for His people to repent of their evil ways. So He sends this warning message to you first—before the destruction—offering you the unparalleled opportunity to repent NOW so that you might be protected from the coming explosion! **STEPHEN FLURRY**

ing the conflict, Hezbollah was seen as the heroic victor throughout the Islamic world. They managed to garner the sympathies of numerous international leaders, particularly in Europe. And from the very beginning of the conflict, mainstream news providers made sure Hezbollah won the propaganda war. Coverage throughout the war was overwhelmingly slanted in favor of terrorism. Israel was universally condemned for fighting back—for “killing civilians”; for “invading” Lebanon; for using “disproportionate force”—and on and on it went.

Today, more than a year later, Iran has completely re-supplied and enlarged Hezbollah’s arsenal through Lebanon’s porous border with Syria—and all in plain view of UNIFIL’s “peacekeeping” forces. Even until very recently, UN officials have denied that Hezbollah is being re-armed. On June 14, for example, UNIFIL’s commander in southern Lebanon, Claudio Graziano, told the *Jerusalem Post* that Hezbollah’s forces were “practically non-existent” in southern Lebanon.

Three days after that interview, right on cue, Hezbollah fired two rockets into the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Shemona. To save face, UNIFIL said Hezbollah was *not* responsible for launching the missiles—as if blaming the attack on another terrorist group in southern Lebanon would somehow ease Israel’s concern.

A week and a half after Graziano’s delusional comments, a UN-appointed team investigating the Lebanon-Syrian border released a 46-page report bluntly stating that Lebanon’s border security was “insufficient to prevent smuggling.” According to the report, there are four different Lebanese security agencies working the border that do not coordinate their strategic operations. The report says there has not been *one documented seizure of smuggled arms anywhere near the Lebanese border.* Not even one!

Many of Lebanon’s border posts are actually miles behind the border and with no fences or gates to secure the surrounding areas. Smugglers may actually find it *easy*, the report said, “to conceal not only explosives, light weapons and ammunition, but also assembled and unassembled heavy weaponry, such as missiles and rockets, into the country concealed in compartments and panels of cargo trucks and passenger vehicles.”

And yet, less than two weeks before



BACK ON THE STREETS
Armed Palestinians welcome a released Palestinian prisoner.

the report was released, UNIFIL’s *commanding officer* predicted that within three years, his peacekeeping forces will have COMPLETELY removed the threat of war between Hezbollah and Israel.

For a UN officer to be completely oblivious to the facts on the ground is one thing, but for *Israel’s leaders* to commit the same sin is suicidal.

Buying Time

Despite his strong words of response to Hezbollah’s attack in July 2006, within weeks Ehud Olmert agreed to the cease-fire without retrieving the two kidnapped soldiers. To this day, the soldiers remain in captivity, *if they are even alive.*

Israel also retreated from its vow to crush Hezbollah’s forces and to uproot them completely from southern Lebanon. Hezbollah did lose 700 to 900 of its terrorists, and much of its remaining force was pushed north of the Litani River, but it was not obliterated. Rather, it is regrouping—concentrating on training new recruits.

Israel also pulled back its forces last year without any assurance that the illegal flow of arms to Hezbollah would stop—notwithstanding UN resolution 1701, which called on the Lebanese government to secure its borders. If anything, the steady stream of weapons has increased.

Besides all that, Hezbollah violated the terms of the cease-fire when it fired those two rockets in June.

The only real “concession” Israel won during the war was the insertion of Lebanese in UN forces in southern Lebanon and the relocation of Hezbollah’s arsenal further north.

In essence, Israel bought itself a little time before the next round of fighting.

The sad part of it is, many of Israel’s leaders—even in the military—*seem to be content with that.* “We stayed in Lebanon for 18 years, with a terrible number of casualties,” Colonel Morom told the *Trumpet* in July. “And I think three, four or five years after the Israeli withdrawal the Israeli leadership didn’t want to touch Lebanon anymore. We had enough. We suffered enough.” In Morom’s view, pulling out of Lebanon was the right thing to do.

Another high-ranking IDF officer, who requested anonymity, agrees with Colonel Morom. Referring to the six years between Israel’s withdrawal from Lebanon and the Second Lebanon War, he said, “We had six *wonderful* years in the north”—obviously not referring to the abduction of three soldiers in 2000 or the barrage of rockets Hezbollah launched on northern Israel in the spring of 2002.

“Israel, the population and the army, do not like a war of attrition,” the officer said, in reference to Israel’s occupation of southern Lebanon. And while that might be true (Israel lost more than 1,500 soldiers during its 18-year occupation), no one likes to lose 158 of its citizens *all at once* either—during a short 34-day war, for instance.

“Since August of last year until now, the situation is again very good,” the anonymous officer continued, in an effort to put a positive spin on last summer’s debacle. One year on from the Second Lebanon War, these kinds of short-sighted excuses are gaining popular acceptance at the highest levels of Israel’s government and military. *Pulling out of Lebanon was the right thing to do—after all, it brought us six years of “peace.” And the results*

from the Second Lebanon War were actually much better than most commentators give us credit for—after all, we've had one year of "peace" since the war.

But no amount of false advertising will hide the fact that Israel's will to fight and WIN—not the will of its enemies—HAS BEEN CRUSHED (Leviticus 26:19). And while Israel's leaders might not admit to that, or even recognize it, their enemies have picked up on the signal loud and clear.

Sneak Preview

Even without the benefit of Bible prophecy, Israel's recent strategy of retreat and restraint offers a frightening preview of what lies ahead. The 2005 pullout from Gaza, like Lebanon, was hailed the world over as a bold step toward Palestinian statehood and peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs. Fundamentalist Islam, however, viewed the retreat as yet another victory for its ongoing war against the West and regional goal of eliminating the Jewish state. Palestinians immediately elected a Hamas majority and today, after forcefully remov-

ing Fatah from Gaza, an Iranian proxy now lies within 50 miles of Jerusalem.

In response to the emergence of a terrorist state along its southwestern border, Israel's policy, backed by the United States, has been to ignore the rockets that Hamas fires on the Israeli town of Sderot, and to promise additional territorial concessions. Besides that, with overwhelming support from the international community, Israel has taken extraordinary steps to bolster the beleaguered government of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah movement. In July, for example, Israel released 256 Palestinian prisoners, most of them Fatah members, without receiving anything in return.

Israel has also lifted certain restrictions on weapons transfers into the West Bank, even though it was recently burned by its decision to allow guns into Gaza—most of them ended up in the hands of Hamas.

Meanwhile, the international community is pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into Abbas's government. All this for a man who spent 40 years being mentored by Yasser Arafat

and who, since coming to power, has refused to disarm terrorists. Giving terrorists the freedom to roam, as it turns out, may have cost him the Gaza Strip—but it also landed him a huge pile a cash, a storehouse of weapons, the release of 256 prisoners and an expedited timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and the formation of a Palestinian state.

Given the circumstances, it would be difficult to imagine things going much better for Mahmoud Abbas.

Meanwhile, Israel presses forward with its policy of retreat and restraint, undeterred by its previous failures in Lebanon and Gaza. *Just keep pulling back to internationally recognized borders. Don't escalate a tense situation by retaliating strongly to terrorism*, the thinking goes. And in the case of the next territorial concession, the West Bank, *Let's prop up the Abbas government and help establish a Palestinian state. Then, finally, it will bring peace and stability to the region.*

But as former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Dore Gold recently pointed out in the *Wall Street Journal*, "Observers forget that Hamas also won the Palestinian elections in the West Bank in 2006. However, in contrast to the situation in Gaza, the Israeli Army is fully deployed in strategic areas of the West Bank and could intervene in minutes if Hamas tried to execute a Gaza-style military coup to topple Mr. Abbas" (August 12). Once Israel leaves, Gold pointed out, the only remaining deterrent against a Hamas takeover in Judea and Samaria will be gone.

But never mind these fatal flaws in the peace-making policies proposed in Washington and Jerusalem. *Retreat and restraint*—that's the conventional wisdom. *And if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.*

Writing for HumanEvents.com, Jeff Emanuel recently interviewed Ehud Olmert's spokesperson, Miri Eisen, in Jerusalem. He asked her to respond to critics who argue that Israel's enemies interpret unilateral concessions as a sign of weakness and that it only emboldens terrorists. Eisen responded by saying, "We know that it is *not* weak, because we know that there is strength in being able to make concessions *even when it has not worked before*" (August 9).

No amount of military might can rescue Israel from a peace-making policy as suicidal as that. It's no wonder God says in Leviticus 26:20 that Israel's strength shall be spent IN VAIN. ■

The Trumpet's Accuracy in Forecasting

A FEW WEEKS after the Oslo accords were officially signed at the White House, my father wrote this in his "Personal": "Yitzhak Rabin has stated publicly that Israel must come to terms with the Palestinians sooner rather than later. Why?"

Because Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise! Surely we must see a certain desperation in this treaty" (November 1993). Rabin and Arafat came together, he went on to write, "because of the same radical Islamic movement." Commenting further on the impact this radicalization was having on the Middle East, my father wrote, "Today the radical Islamic movement is causing other nations to fear—even motivating peace treaties. But these treaties are destined to fail. . . . The deadly delusion that 'all problems can be solved by negotiation' is going to lead Israel and the U.S. to disaster!"

The spread of fundamentalist Islam would indeed become a force to be reckoned with, we predicted. But the deadliest delusion of all, the *Trumpet* warned 14 years ago, was in trying to negotiate peace with terrorists like Yasser Arafat!

"Why would the Israelis trust the greatest terrorist in the Middle East, Yasser Arafat, to protect them from terrorism?" my father asked in April 1996. "They have more than enough power to protect themselves. But they lack the will to use it! That is because God has broken their will" (see Leviticus 26:17-19).

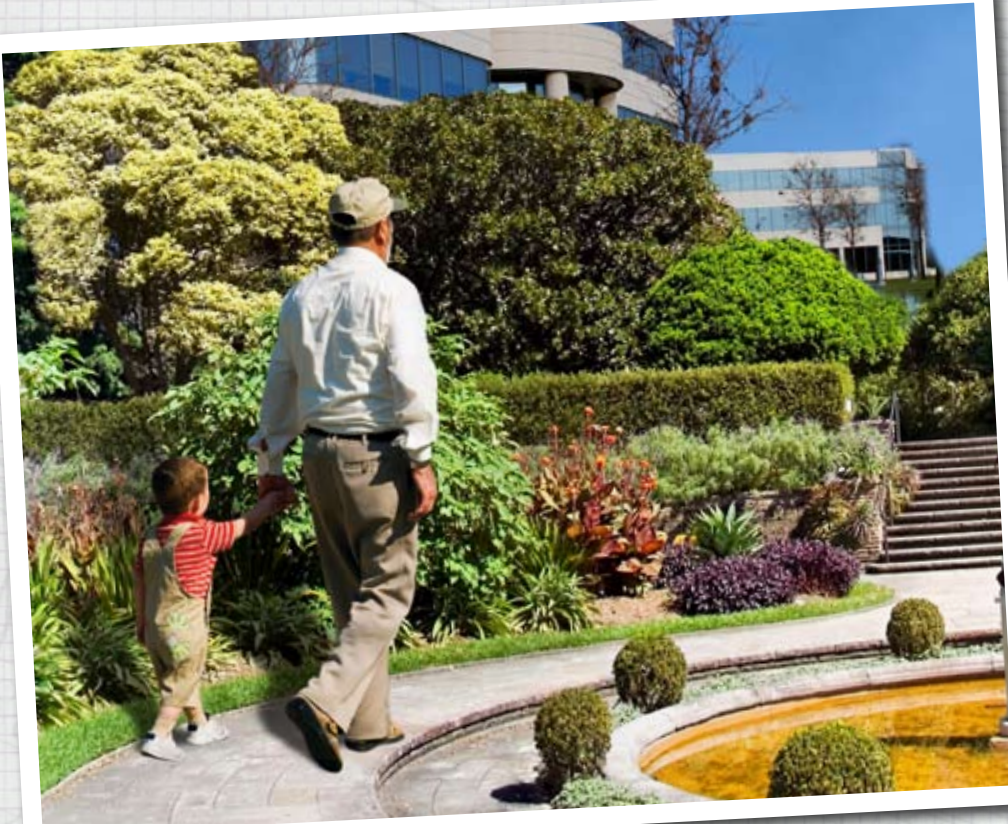
Now meditate on what has happened since the *Trumpet* made those predictions, based on the sure word of Bible prophecy. Look at what negotiating with Yasser Arafat has brought upon Israel. Giving the Palestinian Authority self-governing powers in the West Bank led to the second intifada, in response to which Israel began constructing a 465-mile security barrier. The Lebanon withdrawal triggered the Second Lebanon War and Israel's embarrassing retreat last summer. And pulling out of Gaza cleared the way for the violent emergence of "Hamastan."

Is it any wonder that God refers to the "peace" process as Israel's deadly "wound" in Hosea 5:13? "The Middle East has gotten itself tied into such an impossible knot," Thomas Friedman wrote in the *New York Times*, "that biblical references or Shakespearian quotations simply don't suffice anymore to describe how impossibly tangled politics has become here" (June 6).

The collapse of Oslo has left Israel in a position far more dangerous than it ever was before 1993. Through negotiation, Israel has willingly retreated from strategic territories even as radical Islam has begun its rapid march right into Israel's neighboring territories. **STEPHEN FLURRY**

The Cities of the FUTURE

Prepare to be inspired by these imminent advancements in urban living! BY JOEL HILLIKER



GREAT CITIES BUZZ WITH LIFE. They brim with opportunities. They stimulate culture, communication and creativity. They connect people. Concerts, theaters, sporting events, shopping centers, museums, art galleries, restaurants, libraries, clubs—the kinds of endeavors that can only exist where you have enough people—these are benefits that attract people to cities in droves.

A historic threshold is about to be crossed: By next year, more than half the world's population—3.3 billion people—

will live in a city. In China alone, 300 million people are expected to emigrate from the country to the city in the next decade or so. The nation estimates it will have to build 40 *new* cities over that period just to accommodate them.

“In human history we have never seen urban growth like this. It is unprecedented,” said Thoraya Obaid, the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund. “The shift from rural to urban changes a balance that has lasted for millennia.”

The trouble is, as all human history

testifies, cities also create problems. Some are new: the smog produced by concentrated use of certain modern technologies, for example, or the sterility and dinginess created by pervasive use of concrete and steel. Many, however, are as old as cities themselves: crime, poverty, unemployment, corruption. Most cities around the globe have pressing problems with infrastructure, sanitation, crime or lack of clean water. Many, particularly in the Second and Third World, are also saddled with sprawling, poverty-stricken and lawless shanty towns.

Officials working to alleviate these problems score some admirable successes in reducing pollution, increasing safety and reviving dilapidated districts. But it is generally the nature of the modern city—complex, big and boisterous, teeming with people of all stripes—to resist their efforts. The city has a life all its own; it cannot be tamed.

Famous Dutch architect and urbanist Remment Koolhaas accepts this reality. Of his industry's efforts to renovate, plan and make cities, he says whimsically, “The certainty of failure has to be our laughing gas/oxygen.” Aware of the history of impressive ideas that failed, Koolhaas suggests that those who seek to build a better city view themselves “not as its makers but as its mere subjects.”

Are the cities of today the best we will ever see? Thankfully, the answer is no. And it comes from a surprising source.

City Planning With a Real Future

Reading the plans of great city designers can be stirring. Their descriptions of attractive parks, safe streets, bustling commerce, smartly situated industry, comfortable homes, quality schools, and lively public spaces kindle the imagina-

tion with how inviting a properly designed city could be. As they work to improve the quality of city life, politicians, architects, designers and sociologists join Plato, Leonardo da Vinci, and other sharp minds throughout history that have drafted their own plans for urban utopias.

But one also can't help but notice the yawning gap between these abstract ideals and the reality of the cities we inhabit. In the real world, the "perfect city" remains an impossible dream. When planners move to implement their designs, they encounter a maze of obstacles: stubborn pre-existing conditions, political red tape, pressure groups, and of course, economic limitations. Environmental, aesthetic and ergonomic ideals must all yield to the fact that, in a city, space is at a premium, and many people concern themselves primarily with *how much revenue* that space will produce.

The most significant factor working against even the best blueprints is the unpredictability of *people*. A lovely plaza becomes a lonely hole if people decide not to use it. A new apartment complex for low-income residents becomes an unlivable slum if people trash it. A good neighborhood can become a drug haven if people allow it.

And the *choices* that determine the difference between a thriving community and a ghetto—made day after day by thousands or even millions of individuals—are an outgrowth of something far less concrete: the *character* of those people. The most perfectly engineered of surroundings, when inhabited by people of low character, still make for a botch of a city.

That is why there is only *one place* that you can read descriptions of cities that truly do inspire. This source isn't speaking about untested theories, pipe dreams, or faint hopes that will only be crushed under the weight of reality. This source portrays great cities that, believe it or not, *are about to be established*. It includes spectacular details regarding design, functionality, government, food production, landscape, social and family life—and it *starts* by showing how to resolve the *people* issue in a way that will really *work*.

Amazing as it may sound, that source is the Bible. Spectacular prophecies about the cities of the future—cities that offer all the benefits people seek with none of the problems—*abound* in Scripture.

Imagine

Imagine quality city life being affordable. Imagine a city providing enough stable, decent jobs that unemployment is next to nil, and *everyone* enjoys affluence. "... Thus says the Lord of hosts: *My cities shall again overflow with prosperity...*" (Zechariah 1:17, Revised Standard Version). Imagine a city devoid of run-down, impoverished slums and ghettos.

Imagine cities being crime-free. The FBI reports that 8,701,578 crimes were committed in U.S. cities last year. Including statistics for every city with at least 100,000 people, the bureau counted over 9,000 murders, 29,000 forcible rapes, 369,000 aggravated assaults, and 600,000 violent crimes—in *one year*. Statistics in many cities outside the U.S. are far worse.

Imagine such numbers becoming outdated. Imagine being able to walk the streets, even back alleys, at any time of day or night without fear. "[T]hey shall *dwell safely*, and none shall make them afraid" (Ezekiel 34:28). Imagine thievery, muggings, assaults and gang warfare

a restaurant where fresh produce grows *on site*. Imagine land being allocated efficiently enough that areas exist for local animal husbandry. "[I]n all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing their flocks to lie down" (Jeremiah 33:12). Imagine the pastoral serenity enjoyed only by country folk today being common in the city as well.

Widespread prosperity, secure streets, nutritious food, outdoor activity in clean air—these benefits will dramatically increase the health of the residents of tomorrow's cities!

But how will such a metro-revolution be possible?

Solving the Source of Problems

Biblical prophecy is clear that our present civilization is about to be replaced by a far better world. Though today's cities will be destroyed (e.g. Ezekiel 6:6; 12:20), the positive upshot is that the builders of tomorrow's cities won't have to compromise in order to work around what already exists; they will be able to start from the ground up. "For thou shalt ...

Reading the plans of great city designers kindles the imagination with how inviting a properly designed city could be.

no longer being a concern. "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise" (Isaiah 60:18).

Imagine a *healthy* city environment. Studies show that living in today's cities shaves years off your life. *Three* years to be precise, according to the General Register Office for Scotland. Ultra-fine pollution particles have been linked to respiratory problems, asthma and lung disease; the risk of lung cancer grows by up to 30 percent with increased exposure to burning diesel. Scientists in Washington found that pollution almost *doubles* the risk of dying from heart disease or stroke. Australian health officials calculate that the foul air in Sydney contributes to between 600 and 1,600 deaths each year.

Imagine city life without these drawbacks. Imagine lovely, productive gardens right in the midst of the city. "[T]hey shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them" (Amos 9:14). Imagine eating at

make the desolate cities to be inhabited. ... And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall *repair the waste cities*, the desolations of many generations" (Isaiah 54:3; 61:4).

Scripture reveals the extraordinary circumstances in which these cities will appear. After human misrule causes great tribulation that almost wipes out civilization, Jesus Christ will return to Earth to establish His rule. Before any rebuilding occurs, Christ will first resolve the problem of *unconquered human nature* sabotaging creative efforts. How?

Through the Prophet Ezekiel, God answers: "A new heart also will I give you ... And I will put *my spirit* within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. ... In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities *I will also cause you to dwell in the cities*, and the wastes shall be builded" (Ezekiel 36:26-27, 33).

Yes—God will *change* the hard hearts of men and women, eliminating hostility, competitiveness, aggression and selfishness, and replacing it with *His own*

“There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets ... 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



nature—a basic desire to follow His law of love. The Ten Commandments will be widely observed, wiping out violence, burglary, vandalism, immorality, drug use, broken families, and a host of other social ills.

Thus, in the cities of the future, people will resist the tendency to degenerate. Instead, they will care for their families and their surroundings, take pride in their homes and their work, and treat others with respect and courtesy.

And who will preside over these cities? It would be a significant revolution just to have leaders who truly served people and refrained from corruption, bribery, cheating and imposing burdensome taxes. But God promises to do even better: Tomorrow’s cities will be ruled by *spirit beings*—the glorified saints of God made perfect! Read in Luke 19:12-19 and Revelation 2:26-27 Christ’s promise to appoint

individuals who have already proven themselves by overcoming their human nature, and have been *transformed* into an immortal spiritual state. These beings will have the authority and power to enforce God’s law in order to prevent problems and to ensure that business in the

rected to spirit life.

Once this fundamental issue is resolved, and society is composed of godly leaders ruling over a human populace unified in their desire to build harmonious, attractive communities, the real work of creating utopian cities will proceed.

Equitable property distribution will create widespread security and fulfillment for all families.

Social Communities

One of the biggest puzzles facing city planners is the question of getting the size right. People tend to like

city is conducted in an ethical, fair, organized manner that benefits everyone.

If you have never proven this truth from Scripture, you owe it to yourself to order a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. It describes in vivid detail, supported by ample biblical proof, how a great many of the administrative positions in God’s coming Kingdom will likely be filled by the men and women of the Bible, resur-

urban opportunities and *rural peace*. A city needs to be a certain size to provide those opportunities—but too big, and it can become overwhelming and stressful.

The late James Rouse, the visionary developer behind Columbia, Maryland, whom *Time* magazine once called “the man who made cities fun again,” believed cities should fundamentally contribute to the betterment of their residents. He let that be his guiding principle when weigh-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ETHAN AMOS

uniquely describes as being “compact together,” probably referring to some kind of high-rises—they will likely be somewhat small, more like today’s towns than megacities like Tokyo, New York or Shanghai. They will support the kind of balanced, moderate living and personal growth that Rouse advocated. Massive skyscrapers will be unnecessary because

opening the door for these extraordinary intergenerational experiences. (The existence of superhighways in this world, as depicted in Isaiah 19:23, implies there being cars or something like them; they just won’t be allowed in certain urban areas.) This is a picture of attractive boulevards, with storefronts on the sidewalk, rather than being pushed away from the

Tomorrow, cities will be designed to nurture a sense of community and belonging.

property will be plentiful. Scripture describes a vigorous land-renewal program: mountains being lowered, deserts being reclaimed, underwater land being raised. Leviticus 25 details a homesteading system whereby every family will own land. Micah 4:4 says, “[T]hey shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid” Equitable property distribution will create widespread security and fulfillment for all families.

However, don’t expect tomorrow’s cities to follow the pattern of today’s suburbs, which come with several problems: homogenous neighborhoods, automobile dependency, commuting and traffic nightmares (which decrease family time and increase pollution and auto accidents), social fragmentation, and poor health for lack of exercise, to name a few.

Biblical accounts show that future city design will avoid these traps. There will be vibrant, heavily used community spaces. The Bible describes tomorrow’s cities as being very social—“filled with flocks of men” (read Ezekiel 36:34-38). Today, cities are packed with anonymous strangers who rub shoulders but don’t interact, who then commute home to their private suburban bunkers where they remain isolated from neighbors. Tomorrow, cities will be designed to nurture a sense of community and belonging.

Notice this beautiful picture: “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). All cities will likely pattern *certain* elements after Jerusalem. Clearly, some quarters will be closed to traffic,

street and out of walking distance behind enormous parking lots. It suggests the existence of smart, efficient public transportation that people of all ages can easily use to get to the city center.

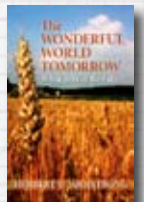
The Prophet Isaiah described this social atmosphere perfectly when he wrote, “joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isaiah 51:3). Jeremiah got even more eloquent: “Thus saith the Lord; Again there shall be heard in this place ... even in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem ... 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).

These prophecies are *promises* from the same God who richly designed and created this exquisite planet and universe. They are *certain* to come to pass!

It can be difficult—though enjoyable—for our minds to conceive of a world where transportation doesn’t pollute; where families can easily access the city and yet live in their own homes on their own land; where industry operates smartly and cleanly without dominating or besmirching the landscape; where urban life is just as healthy and safe as country life. But we can rest assured that this world *will soon be here*. God has spoken it, and He is not one to go back on His word (Isaiah 55:11).

The question is, will you be there to enjoy it? Turn to God now, and you can do even better: You can be there to help *govern* it! ■

For more information about this soon-coming world, request [The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like](#).



ing in on this question. “People grow best in small communities,” he said. “A broader range of friendships and relationships occur in a village or small town than in a city; there is a greater sense of responsibility for one’s neighbor and a greater sense of support by one’s fellow man.”

Though the bustle and energy of a huge city can be exciting, studies indicate that most people tend to agree with Rouse, preferring to live in a less frenetic environment. Heavy population density has also been proven to increase aggression, which increases crime and other anti-social behavior. Today, we see a near-universal effort to escape population-dense cities in favor of suburbia. In his 2005 book *Sprawl*, Robert Bruegmann documented this trend; he wrote, “Polls consistently confirm that most Europeans, like most Americans, and indeed most people worldwide, would prefer to live in single-family houses on their own piece of land rather than in apartment buildings.”

The cities of the future will accommodate that desire. With one notable exception—Jerusalem, the headquarters city on Earth (which Psalm 122:3

Surviving Our Lov

The heart of man has grown cold.

Here's how to protect your family from a world callous to brutality. BY BRAD MACDONALD

“**W**HEN I PICKED HIM UP HE put his arms around me. He was staring at me for a minute with big eyes, then he went limp.” That was Sasha Glenn’s gut-wrenching testimony about the death of Malakai, her 18-month-old son.

Malakai slipped into a coma on June 27 and died four days later from injuries sustained when he was forcefully and repeatedly swung against a wall by Derris Smith, his mother’s 17-year-old boyfriend. During her testimony, Sasha described how her son’s skull was bashed so hard against the wall that it cracked a wooden door and left shreds of drywall on his head.

Malakai’s crime: The innocent toddler was taking too long to learn how to use the toilet.

Our world is filled with grisly stories like this. Stories of helpless children tormented at the hands of emotionally unstable, lust-ridden, rage-filled, out-of-control parents and adults smear the pages of newspapers and websites daily. Unthinkable crimes—gruesome slayings, mass murders, child molestation, rape, and a host of other vicious evils—occur frequently in every Western society.

Brutality has been accepted as a black patch on the tapestry of human existence—and not just for soldiers on bloody battlefields, inner-city gangs or hospital emergency rooms. Today, brutality camps in the living rooms and on computer screens in nearly every household, toying with our children and courting the minds of our teens, all under the often unsuspecting eyes of parents. Though most of us may never experience such calamity, we are all subject to its influence.

Tear-jerking stories of unimaginable cruelty fill the news: babies killed by their mothers and buried in the backyard; children drowned in the bathtub; in-

fant’s ripped from their mothers’ wombs; children exploited as sex slaves; adults tortured and shot by their own sons or daughters—the list of tragedies is endless. In fact, we have come to accept this sad state of affairs as normal, another ghastly reality of life. Millions have grown immune to human suffering, even when it’s of the most atrocious and unimaginable kind. The heart of man has grown hard, unforgiving and emotionless. Many no longer appreciate, respect and value human life other than their own.

Sure, when most people hear stories like the one about Malakai, they probably have trouble understanding how it can happen. What kind of mind grips a toddler by the front of his shirt, lifts him from the ground, and smashes his head against a wall? *Human beings are not supposed to act that way*, we may think. But after a while our thoughts probably shift to the next episode of *American Idol* that follows the nightly news.

How have men’s hearts grown so cold, so callous and hard, that we are scarcely impacted by gruesome news of horrific crimes? In a world gone berserk on brutality, how can we rear our children to be warm, loving, compassionate human beings with a healthy respect and appreciation for the preciousness of human life?

Without Natural Affection

Some might say that history is stained with aggression and cruelty, and people today are no more callous than at any other time in history. But read what the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3: “[U]nderstand this, that *in the last days* will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and

inhuman) ... uncontrolled and fierce ...” (verses 1-3, Amplified Bible). The term “last days” refers to human society just prior to the return of Jesus Christ—the time we live in now.

Our planet has never been as perilous, as dangerous, as it is today. Consider the terms Paul used to describe the way people would be in our time: *lovers of self, self-centered, lacking natural affection, callous, inhuman, uncontrolled and fierce*. There simply are no better terms to describe the gut-wrenching state of mankind today. The minds of millions, including children, are steadily degenerating to the point where they are void of natural affection. Our Western culture desensitizes people to violence and cruelty, to human suffering and pain, to death. If you read newspapers or watch the news, you know that this is precisely the mental state of too many.

In light of Paul’s prophecy, consider the following stories, gleaned from mainstream news sources *in July alone*.

In Australia, an 11-year-old boy was taken into custody after he pressured two preschool-age girls into having sex with him and infected both with sexually transmitted diseases.

In Britain, a 67-year-old man who was playing cricket with his son died of a heart attack after he was stoned by a gang of children. The youngest offender was 10 years old.

In America, a 13-year-old girl killed her father by shooting him in the face with a 12-gauge shotgun as he slept.

Stories of children and teens beating the elderly and homeless are common. *Strong’s Concordance* defines the word *fierce* in 2 Timothy 3 as “not tame” and “savage.” In many ways, Western societies are devolving into cesspools of uncouth, uneducated, emotionless pits of savagery.

eless World

Gang warfare occurs in nearly every major city. In California, a woman was prosecuted for driving her 14-year-old son and his gang friends to a skate park where they beat and stabbed another boy to death. Astoundingly, the mother had known exactly what the boys were planning.

In San Francisco, two teenage girls were prosecuted for animal cruelty after they poured gasoline on a kitten, ignited it on fire, and then laughed as the cat screeched in pain. Proverbs 12:10 says a person's nature is revealed by the way he or she treats animals. What kind of society produces teenagers that enjoy burning animals alive?

Clarke's Commentary describes the term *without natural affection* as, "Without that affection which parents bear to their young, and which the young bear to their parents. An affection which is common to every class of animals" In these perilous times, there are many cases where familial love—that natural warmth between parents and children—has grown cold.

In Reno, Nevada, Michael and Iana Straw were prosecuted for child neglect after authorities found their 22-month-old son and 11-month-old daughter severely malnourished and on the verge of starvation. "Police said hospital staff had to shave the head of the girl because her hair was matted with cat urine. The 10-pound girl also had a mouth infection, dry skin and severe dehydration. Her brother had to be treated for starvation and a genital infection. His lack of muscle development caused him difficulty in walking ..." (Associated Press, July 15).

The reason for Mr. and Mrs. Straw's neglect? Both were obsessed with online role-playing games. "They had food; they just chose not to give it to their kids because they were too busy playing video games" (ibid.). Some animals travel miles to find food for their young; this couple couldn't set down their game controllers and walk to the pantry!

In South Carolina, authorities found the dead bodies of two toddlers in trash bags under a kitchen sink. The children, a 1-year-old girl and 4-year-old boy, had died when their mother had left them in the car all day while she was at work.

In Maryland, police searching the home of a mother accused of killing her baby discovered the remains of three additional fetuses on the property.

In Phoenix, Arizona, a man died after being shot by policemen with a stun gun. Police had been called in as the 49-year-old man was performing an exorcism on his 3-year-old granddaughter. When the police arrived and opened the door of the bedroom, they saw the man "choking his bloodied granddaughter, who was crying in pain and gasping" (ibid., July 29).

In Florida, a woman was prosecuted after authorities found she had bound, starved and abused a total of 11 adopted children. The woman had adopted the children in order to receive as much as \$2 million in welfare payments.

In another instance, authorities arrested a man from Ohio who attempted to rent two girls, ages 9 and 12, to abuse them sexually.

Again—all these stories occurred *in July of this year*.

Such atrocities occur frequently. The reality is, brutality and callousness are spreading. Most of us, when we hear such stories, turn the page or switch channels and never really *think* about what is happening. This failure to confront reality reflects a certain heartlessness toward the suffering of our fellow human beings.

Why are so few asking how parents are simply falling out of love with their children? What is the *cause*? Only when this is understood can brutality be eradicated. Only by knowing the *cause* can we learn how to protect our families from being besieged by such tragedy.

Idolizing Brutality

The causes for this pervasive spirit of cal-

lousness are both physical and spiritual in nature. On the physical level, Western culture and society devalues life and worships violence and death.

Consider the television shows, movies, music and video games that comprise the mental diet of millions. Hardcore violence, sexual deviancy and macabre murders form the plotlines of the most popular television shows. Shows like *CSI* and *Law and Order* are built around violence so graphic and ghoulish that it's beyond the imagination of most people—until it's sitting in their living room at prime time. A sort of justice is often served, but the road to it is strewn with decapitated heads, decomposing bodies and heinous sexual deviancy including rape, incest and bestiality. A generation ago it would have been unthinkable to show such scenes on television; today they plaster every network.

These shows not only desensitize viewers to senseless and lurid violence, human pain and suffering and odious images of death—they also *gradually whittle down the viewers' respect and appreciation for the preciousness of human life*.

Consider the programming designed for our children. Some cartoons contain even more acts of violence than adult programming. Could the repeated killings and acts of senseless butchery on television and the big screen have any connection with the younger generation's increasing loss of respect for human life? What are these images doing to our children's minds, to their understanding of the sanctity of life?

Consider popular music. Rap and hip-hop singers frequently boast about killing police, engaging in gang warfare and practicing perverted sex. Look at the tidal wave of video games deluging society; they are charged with unspeakable blood and gore, sexual innuendos and images, graphic sadism and violence, death and destruction. Callousness toward human

See **LOVELESS** page 29 ▶

DREAMSTIME

TERRORISM

Plot Uncovers Al Qaeda in U.S.

EVIDENCE FOUND IN the failed London and Glasgow bombings at the end of June indicates that al Qaeda terrorists, and perhaps operational cells, are functioning inside the United States. The news surfaced in early August, at the same time that an American-born al Qaeda spokesman threatened to attack U.S. targets in the homeland and abroad.

Following the bombing attempts in London and Glasgow, investigators established that the perpetrators' e-mail chains used to communicate with al Qaeda

operatives in Europe also included e-mail addresses belonging to Americans, according to the *New York Sun* (August 6).

At one point, two of the British plotters attempted to travel to the U.S. for an unknown purpose.

"Because of the London and Glasgow plot, we now know communications have been made from al Qaeda to operatives in the United States," a counterterrorism official told the newspaper.

The source added that no specific names, targets or timelines were uncovered regarding an imminent attack



FINGER-POINTING This al Qaeda broadcast featured a statement from a U.S.-born Muslim.

on the American homeland.

"I believe there are cells in the United States, or at

least people who aspire to create cells in the United States," Northern Command Air Force General Victor Renuart said. "To assume that there are not those cells is naive, and so we have to take that threat seriously" (ibid.).

Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff has said he has a "gut feeling" about an increased risk of attack.

Also in early August, al Qaeda released an Internet video threatening to strike American embassies and interests overseas. Adam Gadahn, a California native and now an al Qaeda member, appears in the video, stating, "We shall continue to target you, at home and abroad, just as you target us, at home and abroad . . ."

Terrorism continues to spread throughout the West in spite of the war on terror. Many believe it is only a matter of time before the next cataclysmic attack. To learn more about this subject, visit theTrumpet.com to read "Why We Cannot Win the War Against Terrorism," by Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry in our November 2003 issue.

One in Six Prisoners Resumes Terrorist Activities



FREE RADICALS Palestinian prisoners wait their turn before being released July 20.

ON JULY 18, TWO DAYS BEFORE ISRAEL released more than 250 Palestinian prisoners, a senior Israeli Justice Ministry official told the press that about 17 percent of convicted Palestinian terrorists who had been freed by Israel in the past later resumed their terrorist activities (*Jerusalem Post*, July 18).

On July 20, Israel released 256 Palestinian prisoners in a "confidence-building measure" that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert hopes will bolster the position of Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas.

Emmy Palmor, head of the Pardons Department, admitted there were security

risks associated with the releases, stressing that it was a *political* decision made by the government.

That political decision, however, will undoubtedly be paid for in Israeli blood. In the past seven years, 179 Israelis have been killed by Palestinians released in previous such deals, according to the Almagor Terror Victims Association.

Though none of the prisoners released in July officially had "blood on their hands," meaning they were not known to have actually killed any Israelis, Palmor pointed out that they did include prisoners who *intended* to kill Israelis but failed in their attempt.

It seems the Israeli government considers the hope of a stable Palestinian government a higher priority than the safety of its own citizens—even when past deals with the Palestinians have only resulted in further terrorism.

With no indication anything will be any different this time around—and no corresponding concessions being made by the Palestinians—the recklessness of putting convicted terrorists back on the street should be obvious.

Such unilateral gestures by the Jews demonstrate the futility of Israel's attempts at peace. The peace process is indeed a deadly wound for Israel.

Global Stock Markets Plunge

THE END OF JULY AND beginning of August saw huge drops in financial markets worldwide, with the United States leading the fall.

In New York, the last full week of July was the worst week in nearly five years. The S&P 500 Index plummeted almost 5 percent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged more than 440 points in one day, close to its biggest drop since 9/11.

The same week, in London, the FTSE 100 Index suffered through its worst week since 2003, finishing down 5.6 percent. The July 26 trading session registered as the most volatile in UK history.

Heavy losses also occurred in Asia; markets in Europe were lower as well.

In Israel, Tel Aviv stocks (TA 25 Index) dropped 7 percent over two days of trading at the end of July.

Then on August 1, Australia's stock market suffered its largest one-day fall since September 2001—shedding more than 3 percent of its value in a matter of hours.

This plunge sent shock waves throughout Asia. Hong Kong lost 3.15 percent, South Korea tumbled 3.97 percent, Tokyo fell 2.19 percent, and Singapore lost 3.27 percent.

“The stock market correction is turning out to be more serious than expected. We may take longer to recover from this ... blow,” said Phillip Securities managing director Loh Hoon Sun (*Straits Times*, August 2).

The bottom line: Major markets are moving in unison more than ever before.

The recent cascade in stock markets is the result of new worries concerning a looming global credit crunch,

according to BBC News. “In past years, financial markets, companies and consumers have all benefited from low interest rates and easy access to money, helping fuel a boom in spending, house price inflation and corporate takeovers” (July 27).

Trouble may continue as



TAKING STOCK Unpredictable stock markets have traders worried.

many central banks raise interest rates to alleviate inflation worries. Higher

How Weak Dollar Affects OPEC

WHEN OIL PRICE SPIKES HAVE OCCURRED IN THE past, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has quickly increased supply, taking advantage of the high U.S. dollar selling price, but also thereby eventually driving down the oil price, making Americans and everyone else who uses oil happy.

But now, even with oil prices nearing a record high, OPEC is not stepping up production. Why?

The answer partly has to do with the weakening U.S. dollar. Today, even when the price-per-barrel goes up for Americans, OPEC makes less of a killing than it has in the past because the real value of the dollar is falling and, thus, so are OPEC's *real* profits.

On July 23, the dollar fell to an all-time low against the euro and to a 26-year low against the pound. On the U.S. Dollar Index, the dollar has fallen below 80 and to the lowest levels since the index's creation by the Federal Reserve Bank 34 years ago. This makes it hard on OPEC since it gets paid in *dollars* for its oil.

Despite prices being near all-time highs for Americans, OPEC calculations show that its oil prices have *FALLEN* over the past year when inflation and the weakening dollar are factored in.

“The adjusted ‘OPEC basket price’ averaged only \$43.60 a barrel in June compared with \$44.30 a barrel in the same month last year, according to the organization's latest monthly report” (*Financial Times*, July 23).

Three months ago, OPEC President Mohamed Bin Dhaen al Hamli said that OPEC countries were “concerned about the continuing weakness of the U.S. dollar” because it was “having a significant effect on the purchasing power of oil-producing countries” (*ibid.*). Much of OPEC's trade is with Europe, denominated in euros and pounds, which have rapidly risen in value against the dollar.

Although oil prices may be near records in America, the rest of the world has not seen the prices rise as dramatically in their own currencies. Since OPEC maintains that in real terms its oil prices are actually falling, it has no economic incentive to increase oil production, which would only lower oil prices further.

As long as the U.S. dollar continues to fall, OPEC members will see their real profits fall. Lack of meaningful action by OPEC may be the smallest of America's dire oil-supply problems.

rates mean the cost of borrowing also rises, affecting access to credit as well as prices investors are willing to pay for assets.

However, a bigger threat to credit markets, especially in the U.S. and Britain,

is the housing bubble. In America especially, huge investor losses in the sub-prime mortgage market have caused a re-pricing of risk across the industry. Investors are now less keen to buy any kind of risky loan from banks, and banks are stuck holding the loans on their books—reducing the amount of money available to lend.

With tightening credit markets, the worry is that the takeover boom may be ending, since there will be less fuel for investors and corporations to continue to drive up share prices through corporate mergers and acquisitions.

“We've had this massive change in investor expectations in terms of new deal flow,” Fred Dickson of D.A. Davidson & Co. said. “The lifeguards have shouted, and investors are now starting to heed their warnings and head back to shore” (*ibid.*).

Does recent stock market action foreshadow a coming global crash? As worldwide stock index figures show, investor confidence in the global economy as a whole is falling.

Signs of a global economic crisis continue to appear on the horizon. A stock market crash is ahead, and global economic leadership is about to pass from the U.S. to Europe. To see how this is already happening in terms of global confidence and reserve currency status, read “New Global Trend: Dump a Dollar, Buy a Euro” in our March issue.

EUROPE

Britain Leads Cocaine Market

BRITAIN NOW HAS Europe's biggest cocaine market, according to an annual survey from the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime.



The "World Drug Report 2007" reveals that Britons in the market for cocaine last year totaled over 900,000 people—more

than any other European nation. Prevalence rates showed 2.3 percent of the British population between the ages of 16 and 59 use the narcotic. That represents a fourfold increase in the prevalence of the drug in 10 years.

In addition, the report revealed there are 350,000 people in the market for opiates (mostly heroin) in the UK, the largest number in Western Europe.

For whatever reasons, much of the rest of the world's cocaine use is either stabilizing or declining, which makes Britain's increase in drug use more noticeable.

According to the report, Europe accounted for most of the global increase in use of cocaine. The highest number of users came from North America (with the U.S. leading the region), followed by Western and Central Europe. In other words, most of the global drug demand comes from the Western world.

It is a paradox that the population of the world's richest nations, with the best standards of living and the healthiest conditions, is also the population most prone to use heavy drugs. A discussion on why this paradox exists can be found in our free booklet *No Freedom Without Law*.

Europe Is an "Empire": Barroso

THE EUROPEAN UNION is an empire, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso announced on June 10 in a press conference where he lauded the new EU reform treaty.

"We are a very special construction unique in the history of mankind," said Barroso. "Sometimes I like to compare the EU as a creation to the organization of empire. We have the dimension of empire" (*Telegraph*, July 11).

Barroso, however, went on to make an important distinction between this European empire and any previous empire: "Empires were usually made with force with a center imposing *diktat*, a will on the others. Now what we have is the first non-imperial empire" (EUreferendum.com, July 10).

It is somewhat baffling that Barroso could say the EU is an empire that does not impose its will on its subjects when just a few weeks earlier the EU agreed to force upon its populace a renamed constitution that had already been *rejected* by French and Dutch voters.

In their bid to force their will on EU member nations, framers of the new treaty deliberately disguised it. "The long but relatively readable constitution," reported Reuters, "was turned into a short but complex document ... *designed to be incomprehensible to citizens*" (June 26; emphasis ours). So it would not *look* like a constitution, one senior negotiator admitted, "We made a real effort to be opaque."

It is no wonder Barroso doesn't want people to compare the two treaties. "What is the point in comparing the reform treaty with the draft constitution?" he said in his press conference. "We believe the new text is better than the old one, so why

bother comparing the two?" (TheParliament.com, July 11). In other words, let us just impose our will on you.

In the same vein, Barroso warned Britain not to renege on Tony Blair's commitment to the new constitutional treaty. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was "honor bound" by the agreement signed at the June 23 summit, said Barroso. "There is a principle of good faith. For me it is as important as any legal commitment," he said. "It is inconceivable that an agreement that was agreed unanimously in June is reopened now" (*Telegraph*, op. cit.).

Perhaps Barroso was simply confirming what many already acknowledge and fear—that the EU is an empire with expanding powers—but he wasn't doing Prime Minister Brown any favors. The new PM is getting much flak for denying the British public a referendum on the new EU treaty based on the argument that it does *not* have constitutional implications.

Mark Francois, Britain's Conservative shadow Europe minister, pointed out: "The British public will be surprised to hear that we are now part of an EU empire. For the president of the Commission to say this is quite startling and anyone who thinks that we have been exaggerating in calling for a referendum on a revived constitution only has to look at what Mr. Barroso has said to realize the scale of what is now being contemplated" (*Times*, July 11).

It is likely that Barroso's comments will indeed push the British, the majority of whom already want a referendum on the new treaty, to become even more wary of greater involvement in the EU. This could easily edge



JOHN THYS/AF/GETTY IMAGES
WORDS European Commission President José Manuel Barroso speaks to the press.

Britain further away from—and eventually out of—the European Union.

The powerful Brussels bureaucrat's admission is, in fact, confirmation of a prophecy that the *Trumpet* often refers to—which is in the midst of being fulfilled. That prophecy is about the final resurrection of the *Holy Roman Empire*, an event which will powerfully impact this globe.

Zimbabwe's Mass

ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe's disastrous policies are not only causing citizens to suffer, they are making many leave the country altogether.

Faced with hyper-inflation estimated in the 10,000 percent range, people across the country have seen their life savings erode into worthlessness before their eyes. Compounding the economic catastrophe now plaguing the nation is famine and widespread food shortages, which are due largely to Mugabe's forced land redistribution policies in which government troops have seized productive farmland from white owners and given it to Mugabe supporters and others not familiar with farming. It is a bitter irony for citizens of Africa's once-

Joint Exercises for Asian Alliance

THOUSANDS OF RUSSIAN and Chinese soldiers amassed for military exercises in early August. The exercises, organized by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), took place in Russia's Volga-Urals military district, and are regarded by some as the symbolic emergence of a military bloc that could eventually rival NATO.

The 10-day operation—which began August 7 with Russian and Chinese fighter, gun-ship, helicopter and air-transport maneuvers—involved about 6,500 troops and 500 combat vehicles. It was the SCO's largest exercise in its six-year history and the first military exercises to include all six members of the SCO: Russia, China, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan,

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Named "Peace Mission 2007," the exercises were conducted under the auspices of anti-terrorism exercises.

According to Times Online, the maneuvers are regarded as a significant extension of the SCO's capabilities (August 6). The organization, which was originally founded in 2001 as a non-military partnership for the purpose of fighting drugs, weapons smuggling, terrorism and separatism, is now regarded by some as a potential challenger to NATO.

"This is the first time all six members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are taking part in a military exercise together," Qian Lihua, deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office of China's Ministry of Defense, said. "It's



VYACHESLAV OSELEDOVA/GETTY IMAGES

UP AND RUNNING The SCO runs military exercises.

also a first for the People's Liberation Army to send so many soldiers and weapons to such a remote place" (China Central Television, July 25). China sent many of its units via air transport, with troops and equipment also being transported by rail: a 6,000-mile trip one way.

This is not the first time Russian and Chinese forces have gathered to conduct joint military exercises. Past missions include "Peace Mission 2005," a geopolitical saber-rattling event designed to intimidate Taiwan. That mission involved a simulated large-scale amphibious assault

on the Yellow Sea coastline.

The latest military exercises came as Russian leaders proposed combining the burgeoning power of the SCO with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which represents most of the former Soviet Union. The previous week, the CSTO secretary general called for the alliance to hold joint military exercises with the SCO.

Watch for Asian nations, whether through the SCO or another alliance, to form a powerful bloc to rival NATO and, eventually, European Union forces. For more, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

Exodus

wealthiest nation.

Prices are rising so swiftly in Zimbabwe that on June 25 Mugabe ordered all businesses to cut prices for their goods and services by half. Thousands of businessmen who have failed to comply have been fined or thrown in jail. The result has been even more shortages of basic goods as more businesses are forced into bankruptcy. Mugabe is threatening to nationalize all the companies that have had to shut down production.

Political violence has also increased now that next year's elections are just



DESMOND KWANDEA/GETTY IMAGES

FLEEING THE SCENE Students of Zimbabwe University leave campus after they protested at the weekend against a decision to deny them food for not paying their fees.

around the corner.

The result, as one border official called it, is a "human tsunami" of people fleeing the nation (*Independent*, July 18).

A testament to the desperation of Zimbabweans attempting to leave the country is the state of the 200-mile, triple-perimeter border fence along the South African border. Near the official border

station, the fence remains relatively intact, but a few miles away, it has been shredded to pieces.

Although South African President Thabo Mbeki, a supporter of Mugabe, refuses to publicly acknowledge any surge in Zimbabwean

refugees, some estimate that at least 100,000 people are crossing into South Africa each month. Official South African estimates put the figure at a much lower 20,000 per month.

According to recent population estimates, Zimbabwe may be down to 7 million citizens—a sharp drop from 11 million in 2000.

The migration situation is "unbelievable," according to Maggie Sotyru, a South African National Congress MP (*ibid.*).

President Mugabe, who celebrated his 83rd birthday this year, has been in power since Zimbabwe's independence from Britain in 1980, and has announced his intention to stand for reelection again next year.

Zimbabweans, once residents of the most productive and wealthy nation in Africa, once blessed with widespread agricultural, mineral and economic bounty, are suffering under the rule of Robert Mugabe to an ever-worsening degree. For a wider perspective, visit theTrumpet.com to read our September-October 2001 article "Hondo!" in Zimbabwe."

CHRISTIANITY
**Confused About
Creation**

How did you come to be on the Earth? Are you here by the act of a living God, or the result of a lifeless process of evolution? Religion should be able to give us the answer. **BY DENNIS LEAP**



WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO get *one* answer to the question, how did human life begin on Earth?

Think about it. Our prosperous and well-educated Western societies, founded on Judeo-Christian principles—meaning religious values—cannot come to a satisfying conclusion as to whether human life originated as a planned, purposeful act of a supreme, all-powerful being, or as the result of a random, gradual process called evolution. There can *only* be one answer to this very important question. Yet examining the beliefs people embrace on the subject is like standing in foaming stormy seas—massive confusion.

Religion ought to give us a definite, truthful answer. It has not and does not. In fact, the predominant religion of the Western world—Christianity—has only added to the confusion.

Mixed Signals

Since taking office in 2005, the current pope has been accused of sending mixed signals on the theory of evolution.

In November 2005, the head of the Pontifical Council for Culture, Cardinal Paul Poupard, said, in the words of the British Times Online, “that the *Genesis* account of creation and Darwin’s theory of evolution were ‘perfectly compatible’ if the Bible was read correctly” (April 12). Besides being a priest and a cardinal, Paul Poupard is a scientist. He is powerfully influential within the Catholic hierarchy. Benedict XVI would have full understanding of his views. There was no *public* attempt to correct what Poupard said.

However, in 2006, the pope fired his chief astronomer, George Coyne, “after the American Jesuit priest made similar comments in the *Tablet*,” the *Times* reported. “The sacking was interpreted by commentators as a clear endorsement for intelligent design” (ibid.). Intelligent design refers to the belief that the origin of the universe and living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not by an undirected process such as natural selection.

Coyne, director of the Vatican Observatory, had openly criticized intelligent design. In a lecture at Palm Beach Atlantic University last year, Coyne stated, “Religious believers must move away from the notion of a dictator God, a Newtonian God who made the universe as a watch that ticks along regularly.” He directly criticized Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn for an attack he had made on neo-Darwinism and for supporting in-

telligent design. Coyne emphasized that intelligent design diminishes God into “an engineer who designs systems rather than a lover.” He explained, “God in his infinite freedom continuously creates a world which reflects that freedom at all levels of the evolutionary process to greater and greater complexity. ... God lets the world be what it will be in its continuous evolution. He does not intervene, but rather allows, participates, loves.” Coyne supported his comments by pointing out that John Paul II’s declaration that “evolution is no longer a mere hypothesis” is “a fundamental church teaching.”

The *Times* observation that the pope firing Coyne was an endorsement of intelligent design may not be totally accurate. It is more likely that he was fired as a show of support for Schonborn—a fellow Teuton and personal friend of Benedict—rather than a support for intelligent design. Putting any interpersonal conflicts aside, it is still clear that there is major disagreement within the ranks of Catholic leadership on the subject of origins.

Pope on Origins

The pope definitely holds his own views on origins. In April, he made international headlines with the publication of *Creation and Evolution*. The book, published in German, features this pope’s (and other Catholic theologians’) comprehensive thinking on creation, Darwin, faith and the role of science. The work is the result of a meeting conducted by the pope at the papal summer estate, Castel Gandolfo, in September 2006. What this pope has to say is quite revealing.

The *Times* reported that, referring to the origins of human life, the pope has written for the record that “Evolution has not been ‘scientifically’ proven and science has unnecessarily narrowed humanity’s view of creation” (op. cit.).

On the surface it appears the pope wants to put science in its place—to give all scientists a good spanking. Scientists have been working feverishly to prove evolution in the laboratory; yet the pope says, “We cannot haul 10,000 generations into the laboratory.” Associated Press reporter Melissa Eddy explained, “Benedict added that the immense time span that evolution covers made it impossible to conduct experiments in a controlled environment to finally verify or disprove the theory” (April 11).

If evolution is impossible to prove, is the pope saying science should stop its useless effort?

Reflecting on the differing views of his predecessor, Benedict stated, “[John Paul] had his reasons for saying this. But it is also true that the theory of evolution is not a complete, scientifically proven theory.” It could appear that the pope has committed himself to an anti-evolution position, but careful analysis tells us otherwise.

Relying on Human Reason

It is interesting to note that the pope’s book was released while American conservative Protestants do battle with science educators over the teaching of evolution in public schools. The pope is fully aware of what is taking place in the United States. Protestant leaders have fought hard and *failed* to win the legal right to have *intelligent design* taught alongside evolution in secondary schools. Some commentators understood the pope’s views as an aid to keep the fight going in the United States. But the pope has not actually given his spiritual cousins much support.

Eddy reported, “He stopped short of endorsing intelligent design, but said scientific and philosophical reason must work together in a way that does not exclude faith” (ibid.). The pope may have had conservative Protestants drooling over his anti-evolution statements. Yet, in effect, the pope let the Protestants know that they are going to have to cook their own meal. Essentially, he wants creationists and evolutionists to work together—as long as evolutionists don’t hurt people’s faith!

The pope stated, “The question is not to either make a decision for a creationism that fundamentally excludes science, or for an evolutionary theory that covers over its own gaps and does not want to see the questions that reach beyond the methodological possibilities of natural science.”

Isn’t it impossible to understand what the pope is actually saying? Is he truly opposed to evolution? Is he for creationism? He is throwing his support toward both. Let’s be honest. The pope is guilty of classic fence-straddling.

His solution to soothe the debate between creationism and evolution reveals his true position on the whole matter. The *Times* reported that the pope advised Catholic theologians “not to choose between creationism and evolutionary theory but to adopt an ‘interaction of various dimensions of reason’” (op. cit.). This may sound good to the scholarly, but where is the clear direction from the leader of the largest Christian denomination?

When we cut through the rhetoric, we must conclude that this pope gives his

full support to the Renaissance theme that human beings must look to *human reason* to finally decide the issue.

Supports Theistic Evolution

Here is how the *Times* summed up what the pope is teaching: “The comments of this pope, like those of John Paul II, best adhere to the doctrine of theistic evolution, which sees God creating by a process of evolution. This is accepted—openly or tacitly—by Roman Catholicism and the mainstream Protestant denominations” (ibid.). In essence, this pope is sticking to traditional Catholic thinking that has been established for decades—that God used the process of evolution to create life. As the *Times* noted, traditional Protestant denominations embrace the same doctrine.

Here is the point. Any person who believes in theistic evolution is still an evolutionist. Theistic evolution basically states that God was not directly involved in the origin of life. Those who accept this belief may think God created the building blocks. God may have established the natural laws that govern life. God may have even considered that organic life would emerge from inorganic matter, but at some point God withdrew His hand and let evolution take over. Some theistic evolutionists may believe that God stepped in miraculously at certain points, but Darwin’s view of the path life took from the primordial simple to the current complex stands firm.

Essentially, the pope—the supposed vicar of Christ—leaves the door wide open for evolutionary science to proceed unchallenged. Could it be that Benedict, with all of his seemingly strong anti-evolution words, is simply working the crowd—appealing to as many as possible?

The Missing Dimension

How should religious leaders speak on the subject of creation and the origin of human life? A religious leader should be able to give a clear, easily understood answer on the subject. It is not a difficult question if human beings go to the correct source. Human reason alone will never be able to deliver the answer. Here is the crux of the problem.

Theistic evolutionists view the Genesis account of creation including Adam and Eve as *allegory*. This means that they downright *exclude* the Bible as the source of knowledge on the subject.

We should not be surprised that the pope embraces theistic evolution. Catholic doctrine dictates that the Bible takes a back seat to the authority of the ruling

body of the church when it comes to doctrine. Catholic theologians as far back as Thomas Aquinas warned “against the danger of literal interpretation of the Bible” (*Time*, March 12, 1984).

This is why the pope put so much emphasis on human reason. Without the Bible, that is all one has left to rely on.

Yet human reason cannot answer the question. In fact, the very nature of the question of origins requires that the answer be *revealed* by a source from outside of human experience. Human beings can dig in the dirt and gaze at the stars for lifetimes on end but still cannot come up with more than supposition, speculation or superstition. Only the Bible can give the answer all humans want to know. The Bible alone holds the missing dimension in knowledge men desire most. It tells us clearly how God created the universe, the Earth and human life—and why.

No Compromise

In our time, a religious leader has given us clear and inspiring answers to the questions related to creation and the origins of human life. Herbert W. Armstrong thoroughly investigated the subject. He took a two-pronged approach—viewing *all* the facts. He studied both the scientific works on evolution *and* the Bible account of creation. In his *Autobiography*, he wrote: “The two subjects—or, rather, the two sides of the same subject of origins—should be unprejudicially and objectively studied together, yet seldom are!”

Mr. Armstrong knew most people accept blindly what they are taught without proving it. To prove the truth takes hard work. Mankind is known for preferring the easy way. He stated: “Most believers in the Bible and in the existence of God have probably just grown up believing it, because they were reared in an atmosphere where it was believed. ... [F]ew ever studied into it deeply enough to obtain irrefutable *PROOF*” (ibid.). He saw great danger in this kind of attitude. Lacking real understanding and proof of what the Bible actually says opens the door to become easily biased against it when it is challenged.

In a similar vein, he stated: “Likewise, the educated ... have, in the main, been taught the theory of evolution as a belief. They have accepted it ... without having given any serious or thorough study of the biblical claims” (ibid.).

The Bible is the most important textbook written during the age of man—yet it is purposely cut out of public education. Mr. Armstrong recognized at the very be-

ginning of his ministry that college- and university-trained men and women had succumbed to the intellectual notion that study of the Bible is a sign of ignorance. This has been and still is the greatest and *gravest* error in modern education. Mr. Armstrong knew there could be no compromise with evolution. Why? Evolution makes it impossible to believe the Bible.

Let’s get this straight. When a religious leader sets out to harmonize a work on evolution with the Bible, the Bible will always be thrown out!

Religion’s Failure

For over 50 years, Herbert Armstrong challenged millions to truly educate themselves and prove the Bible. This incredible book gives us the only *authoritative* answer on the question of origins. We must prove the Bible to be the reliable Word of God.

In his booklet *The Proof of the Bible*, Mr. Armstrong wrote: “Isn’t it about time—and the point of rational wisdom—that you *PROVE* this important question once and for all? Because *IF* the Bible is in fact the inspired, authentic Word of a living, all-knowing, all-powerful God, then your eternity will be judged by it.” Please write for this free, easy-to-read and extremely important booklet.

When we study the press’s coverage of Benedict XVI’s comments on creation, evolution, science and faith, *we cannot find even the slightest reference to the Bible! That fact should be telling, shocking and alarming!*

Mr. Armstrong recognized religion’s failure to see the dangers of evolution. He wrote: “We have simply failed to realize the deep-rooted nature of the doctrine of evolution. And so we left wide open the door of our own children’s minds to an easy acceptance of evolution as truth—and a consequent rejection of fundamental [meaning true] Christianity” (*Tomorrow’s World*, October 1969).

Let us be frank. Religion, of all things, has paved the way for the easy acceptance of evolution as truth. Let’s not be naive; evolution is true religion’s greatest enemy.

No one needs to fall victim to weak or failed religion. Jesus Christ promised those hungering for satisfying truth, “[You] shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). You do not need to be confused about creation. Now is the time to invest the time to search for and prove the answer to the all-important question, how did human life begin on Earth? ■

Terrorism on Parade

Canadian politicians kowtow to supporters of terrorist groups. Why?

BY ROBERT MORLEY

PROVINCIAL POLITICIANS IN Canada gave their support to banned terrorist organizations on this year's Sikh holiday commemorating Vaisakhi Day. One such organization is responsible for murdering hundreds of Canadians.

Canada's Sikh community organizes parades marking Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the founding of the religion. However, this year's parade on April 7 in Surrey was littered with insignias of terrorist organizations, clothing bearing terrorist logos, floats promoting individuals listed as terrorists by the Canadian government.

The parade also featured Canadian politicians from the three main parties, none of whom condemned any of it.

The lack of political condemnation "shocked the Indian government and moderate Sikhs across Canada," according to CBC News (June 28).

Some of the Sikh "martyrs" pictured on the floats belonged to Babbar Khalsa, a group dedicated to establishing the independent country of Khalistan in the Indian state of Punjab—and considered a terrorist organization by Canada, the U.S., the European Union and India.

Babbar Khalsa founder and Khalistan separatist Talwinder Parmar was the mastermind behind the 1985 Air India bombing that killed 329 people, mostly Canadians. Those murders made Parmar, in the words of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, "the worst mass murderer in Canadian history." Parmar was also known for publicly urging attacks on Indian targets, saying, "Indian planes will fall from the sky," and telling his followers to "kill 50,000 Hindus."

Talwinder Parmar was portrayed as a hero on two parade floats.

British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell, Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts and various other federal and provincial politicians attended the march. During

the stage ceremony, these politicians appeared alongside Sikh parade officials wearing jackets with Khalistan logos. Also on stage was Satinderpal Singh Gill, a former senior leader of the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF). Canada labeled the ISYF a terrorist organization in 2003.

When Jim Abbott, the Conservative member of parliament representing Prime Minister Stephen Harper, was asked if he would have attended the event had he known of the terrorist displays, he said no, and that he was "flabbergasted" to hear about them.

But his opinion quickly flip-flopped. Four days later he said, "I will vigorously defend this event along with thousands of Canadians of Sikh faith who won't tolerate such a linkage."

Later, the Canadian multiculturalism secretary said the Conservatives probably would not have attended had they known the extremism would be on display.

Liberal MP attendee Sukh Dhaliwal felt that nothing at the parade was problematic, saying, "I don't know why we're making a fuss about Surrey" (ibid.).

New Democratic Party MP Penny Priddy said that she did not regret going, and was simply "disappointed" at what had happened.

B.C. Premier Campbell refrained from criticizing the parade, saying that

they were afraid if they spoke out against it they would anger too many members of the community.

"They are being afraid to speak out, and they choose consciously to not speak out," he said. "I have not heard any denunciation from any of the politicians from any of the political parties that went to that parade that found out that you had the glorification of Parmar and others who were killers. And nothing was said. And they were given the opportunity to say something" (ibid.).

Liberal provincial assembly member Dave Hayer skipped the parade as well, even though he is a Sikh politician from Surrey. To him, it was obvious what was coming. "It is different to celebrate your culture versus celebrating the terrorist," he said (ibid.).

The big question is, why didn't more Canadian leaders speak out? Tarek Fahah, an outspoken critic of extremism in Canadian politics, put it bluntly: It is because politicians want votes and don't want to offend anyone. "These guys have figured out Canadian politics," he said. "It takes one guy with an exotic-looking dress, a big beard or a huge headdress to say, 'Mr. Member of Parliament, we will work to defeat you, or we will deliver you 10,000 votes'" (ibid.).

There is also another reason: fear of political incorrectness.

The two most outspoken critics against the deification of convicted Sikh terrorists were Sikhs themselves. The reason Canada's non-Sikh leaders seemingly chose to pretend nothing was wrong was likely that they were afraid of being tarred as racists.

Political correctness is turning supposed leaders into lap dogs afraid of the remotest possibility

of alienating people of a different religion or culture. Extreme political correctness is taking over Canada, as well as America and other Western countries. This bodes ill for effective, just governance. ■



ON THE MARCH Sikhs in Vancouver publicly supported known terrorist figures.

he would continue to attend such events. Later, a spokesman said he was "upset" by the parade.

Why such reticence by Canada's politicians to condemn blatant displays of support for terrorism?

Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh, who himself stayed away from the parade, said the other politicians attended because

Visit theTrumpet.com to read our July article, "How Political Correctness Protects the Bad Guys," for more analysis on this danger.

From the
News Bureau

RON FRASER



Germany on the Rise, Merkel on the Wane

FOOTBALL FEVER FOCUSED GLOBAL ATTENTION ON Germany during the first half of last year as the nation hosted the soccer World Cup tournament. This year it was the double whammy of Germany's dual presidencies of the European Union and the G-8 (group of eight major world economies) that have placed that nation in the world spotlight. These three events have combined to strengthen a renewed national self-confidence in Germany.

Commenting on Germany's hosting of the 2006 World Cup, the German team coach Jürgen Klinsmann declared in a television interview, "This World Cup was a huge success for the team and for all of Germany. We showed the world another face of Germany" (*Spiegel*, July 5, 2006). Endorsing Klinsmann's comment, the German tabloid *Bild* stated, "[T]he party must go on! We have to keep up the sense of renewal, the self-confidence, the good mood for our everyday lives. This was just the momentum we so urgently need to face the tough tasks ahead."

Well, it seems the party did go on. Renewed confidence in business investment has powered the German economy forward this year, substantially reducing unemployment, producing a rise in consumer spending and, despite the comparative strength of the euro, leading to a surge in sales of German products overseas.

Strutting the World Stage

From January to June, Germany strutted the world stage with its presidencies of the EU and the G-8. Despite achieving results far short of Chancellor Merkel's declared expectations, the EU's 50th anniversary celebrations in March, followed by the G-8 and EU summits in June, did give Germany widespread international media publicity.

In the foreign-policy arena, through some deft maneuvering by Chancellor Angela Merkel—including cuddling up to the United States and standing up to Russia's President Vladimir Putin—Germany's star rose to heights unprecedented since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

But there is an element currently on the rise in European politics that has historically proven dangerous for Europe and the rest of the world. Europe is once again swinging right politically. As Stratfor recently observed, "The right has yet to grasp power in Europe, but it will not be long before the conservatives consolidate their hold on the Continent" (June 8).

The danger that looms as a specter from Europe's war-torn past is that, as Stratfor continued, "A *right-leaning Europe could be united under one leader*, particularly since the states are brought closer together by common problems such as immigration and economic reform. But *it remains to be seen which state will emerge to lead, and in what direction*" (emphasis mine throughout).

The most obvious contender is Germany.

Regarding this possibility, Stratfor wrote, "[A] recent economic renaissance has given the country the opportunity to forge a consensus in Europe and to further its own agenda. For the first time in decades, Germany is a full and powerful member of the European community. *More important, for the*

Seventeen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany is the leading power in Europe. Is its current government strong enough to hold that position?

first time in centuries, there is no established political regime in Europe to counter German ambitions" (ibid.).

Germany Speaks—Europe Reacts

Stratfor has a longer memory than most of our foreign-policy merchants. Note this crucial observation of a unique fact of European history: "For now, [Germany and the U.S.] are more or less on the same page But do not confuse the temporary alignment of interests with a permanent state of affairs. Sure, the United States currently sees Russia as a rival and Germany as an ally. Yet this situation is an aberration in both U.S. and European affairs. *All of European history is a tale of Germany either expanding or being contained*" (ibid.).

The big difference this time, in its third attempt within a century to achieve pan-European dominance, is that Germany has used economics, international trade and finance as the main weapons of choice, rather than force of arms. Recent examples of this are two political/economic initiatives enacted over past months and a third currently being discussed—all German ideas—that should further bind Europe together, economically and financially, under Berlin's aegis.

The first was a move by Merkel (showing more political courage than the previous chancellor, Schröder, who failed on this point) to initiate a long-overdue restructuring of Germany's corporate tax base. The law, which significantly cut corporate taxes, passed on March 14. Stratfor called it "the latest in a string of planned and coincidental developments [most predating Merkel's chancellorship] laying a lasting foundation for Germany's geopolitical renaissance" (March 15).

The second initiative builds on the effect of the German-instigated European means of exchange, the euro, which continues to gain strength in international trade. Further consolidating the German idea of centralized financial control, Berlin has engineered the introduction of an EU-wide unified payments system, the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA). Beginning in January of next year, all electronic payments throughout the EU and the European Free Trade Association will be considered *domestic*, saving the European economy an estimated 2 to 3 percent of its gross domestic product. "In terms of its dimension and significance, this revolution in European payments is comparable only to the introduction of the euro," said Hans-Joachim Massenber, deputy CEO of the Association of German Banks.

Germany's centralizing economic and financial agenda,

through forced implementation of the single European currency, the euro, combined now with SEPA, is speeding the death of the long-cherished individual national sovereignty of EU member nations.

But the third initiative may be the most significant, particularly because of the manner in which it entered political discussion.

The European Commission announced in July that it intends to take a hard look at threats from external sources—notably Russia and China—moving to buy up slices of European businesses. Stratfor commented, “A public musing last week by German Chancellor Angela Merkel was what prompted the Commission decision” (July 20).

What was particularly startling about this was, as Stratfor observed, “the fact that the Commission so quickly took up Merkel’s idea. Merkel’s term as EU president expired June 30, yet here we are three weeks later and her off-the-cuff comments are still setting the agenda Fifty years later, Germany has found its voice—and possesses the gravitas to set policy without even making a request. That has got to make a few stiff European upper lips unconsciously quiver” (ibid.).

Note that Stratfor speaks of Germany finding its voice. It’s not so much that Chancellor Merkel made these remarks that triggered the European Commission’s response. In fact, the signs are that Angela Merkel’s leadership of her coalition government may soon be under threat. But it was the fact that Germany spoke that moved the Commission to respond!

Merkel on the Wane

The chancellorship of Angela Merkel has reached its peak. Riding the wave of popularity courtesy of a sequence of foreign-policy opportunities that fell to her advantage, the German chancellor is currently one of the most popular leaders on the world scene.

Her presiding over the EU and G-8 presidencies thrust her into the limelight during the first half of the year. But since mid-year, Merkel has returned to a more mundane agenda—that of keeping her coalition partners under control and her nation’s population content.

Merkel set herself what many thought was an unachievable agenda for her EU presidency. It largely proved to be the case, with her almost sole success being in the area of energy policy, and the prospect of such an agreement was already a given. The energy-strapped EU is between a rock and a hard place, trying to balance its dependence on Russia’s energy sources on one hand against finding reliable sources of supply from the volatile Middle East and unreliable Africa on the other. So reaching general agreement to do something about seeking alternative sources of energy was an easy romp for Merkel.

In terms of economic and social policy, Merkel was blessed with a resurgent German economy during her term as EU president, reducing discontent in both capital and labor. This permitted the chancellor the luxury of seeing much of the



PEAKED Angela Merkel’s chancellorship has reached its zenith, but Germany is still on the rise.

rest of the EU seemingly benefit from her government’s economic and social policies.

When it came to obtaining a common agreement and seeking the signatures of the 27-nation EU membership on a declaration of its key values, Merkel was in for a real struggle. The wheels really started to fall off as the 50-year anniversary of the European Union drew near and no such agreement was in sight. All Merkel could achieve was a bland document, the Berlin Declaration, crafted behind closed doors by the chancellor, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and EU Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering, with these three as sole signatories. Hardly a satisfactory result!

Merkel’s next grand opportunity to demonstrate her foreign-policy panache came just over two months later, with Germany’s host-

ing of the annual G-8 summit. Dovetailing her G-8 presidency with the European Union presidency gave the German leader the opportunity to influence a number of major challenges under consideration by those eight countries which together combine 65 percent of the total world economy. The U.S., Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia met under Merkel’s leadership in the German coastal resort of Heiligendamm in early June. Also present were representatives of the European Commission and five African nations.

This was the type of forum at which Chancellor Merkel’s foreign-policy skills were supposed to shine. However, the results of the conference, though hailed as a success by Merkel, failed to impress many observers. A Swiss daily reported, “Angela Merkel wanted to fight poverty, give globalization a human face and stem climate change. She succeeded in none of these” (*Basler Zeitung*, June 8).

In late June came the European Union summit that would bring to a conclusion Germany’s six-month presidency. This presented a final opportunity for Chancellor Merkel to produce a success that would place the stamp of approval on her period in the presidential office.

Even before they arrived in Brussels, the contentious leaders of this unwieldy EU monolith were sounding warning bells about the disputes that would pepper this summit. The summit turned out to be a predictable debacle in many respects, especially with Poland reminding Germany that its Nazi past had reduced its population by a third, so a population-based voting system under the reform treaty would most certainly unfairly favor Germany!

Frau Merkel is now back in her own national domain. And, given the fact that she topped the crest of her wave of popularity mid-year, she has now but one way to go. “Merkel is at the peak of her power but it can’t get any better for her,” said Gerd Langguth, a political scientist at Bonn University and author of a biography of Merkel. ‘Germans are happy with her foreign policy but less than enthused about her performance at home, and that could be a real problem.’ With

memories of her government's unpopular health-care reform still alive in the minds of many Germans, polls show half the population disapproves of Merkel's domestic performance—a weakness the struggling [Social Democrats] will try to exploit" (Reuters, June 25).

Coalition governments in Germany historically do not last very long. If Merkel's coalition lasts the remaining two years of its tenure, given the rumbles that already are coming from within its ranks, it will be a wonder to behold. History simply argues against it.

Waiting in the Wings

In the event of the Merkel coalition collapsing, there is a highly successful, politically polished, conservative Catholic premier from Bavaria whom it appears will have time on his hands following his retirement at the end of September: one Edmund Stoiber.

Earlier this year in Berlin, I interviewed one of the six Bundestag vice presidents, Gerda Hasselfeldt, a member of Stoiber's Christian Social Union (CSU). I asked her about the future of a retired Stoiber. "A return to the present functions or related functions is hard for me to visualize," she responded. "On the other hand, I also cannot imagine that he will occupy himself only with his hobby, namely soccer. ... What is he really going to do afterward?"

"Perhaps a European Union post?" I offered. Frau Hasselfeldt responded, "I don't exclude that there are also interesting positions in the national or international arena to which he may bring his rich experience and also his ready vitality."

Hasselfeldt's musings are interesting in light of a report from the *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, which, commenting on Stoiber's July visit to Russia's President Putin, observed, "Apparently, Stoiber seeks to ascend to international status as a mediator of sorts, following his scheduled retirement in September 2007 after 14 years in office" (July 9).

Of special interest in regard to Stoiber mulling his future was his outspoken statements made in Moscow concerning German foreign policy. These statements publicly placed him at odds with Merkel on the issue of America's desire to place an anti-missile defense structure in Poland and the Czech Republic. In a sign of possible things to come, the Bavarian premier declared, "The position of Germany, of its government, in any case my [Bavarian] government's and my party's position, is entirely clear: We are in favor of the [Russian] solution." However, as the *Monitor* pointed out, "Stoiber is not known to have been authorized by the German government or by the CSU to speak on their behalf, and the Bavarian government is not authorized to conduct foreign policy" (ibid.).

Obviously Stoiber was not fazed by such details.

His outspokenness in Moscow certainly does not indicate that retirement is on the mind of the "pit bull" of German politics! Stoiber would have loved to have had the foreign affairs post in Merkel's coalition government, but all that was on offer from the chancellor was the sticky economics portfolio. Stoiber declined, and his domestic political star has been sinking ever since. Yet perhaps he has his eye on a

higher office: the job of leading the entire European Union!

"Putin coyly remarked that his secret services could not figure out why Stoiber was retiring. However, it is common knowledge that the Bavarian leader is losing his rivalry with Merkel within the main governing party and is sometimes playing spoiler against her. Apparently, Putin hopes to play on such rivalries, both within the CDU/CSU and between the latter and its junior coalition partner, the Social Democrats, where Schröder-era holdovers retain a strong influence on foreign policy" (ibid.).

It just so happens that the EU reform treaty that has emerged for debate from the German presidency of the EU has created two new positions, each of which may be of interest to Stoiber: an EU foreign minister, and a permanent EU president. Should Stoiber be offered the foreign minister post, it could provide an ideal platform for him to place some runs on the board to then tout for the top job of EU president at a later date. Then again, perhaps this highly successful Bavarian politician, cast in the mold of his mentor, Franz Josef Strauss, intends to take nothing less than the top job.

Will Chancellor Merkel's lasting legacy be the creation of the very office that will empower the prophesied leader of a globally dominant European power? The indications are that we may not have to wait long to find out!

In the meantime, Germany's foreign-policy initiatives are clearer as each month goes by, especially with the government signaling that it will strengthen Germany's role in the Middle East peace process, recent moves to intervene in the dispute between Russia and the West over Kosovo, and intentions to increase German involvement in Africa. Then there's the increasing deployment of German military forces in both combat and support roles on foreign soil. Germany's fighting forces, contained within Germany's borders up to the time of the Balkan wars, are now deployed in numerous theaters throughout Europe, Eurasia, the Mediterranean and Africa, not to mention their training bases in Canada and the U.S. The German High Command—which was once supposedly banished by post-World War II leaders, never to rise again—has been reactivated. Voices within the German government are now calling for the nation to drastically increase the size of its military as a major contributor to a European armed force.

All of this newfound power behind Germany's increasingly strident political voice reminds us of an observation made by Stratfor earlier this year, at the mid-point of Germany's presidency of the EU. Commenting on the achievements of Germany's reconstruction since unification in 1991, Stratfor's European analyst declared, "Taken together, these structural changes are creating a new Germany that is geographically and economically united, and politically confident—something that Europe has not seen in decades. That just leaves Germany without one other thing it has not seen in decades: a robust military" (March 15).

Given the bloody history of past German "robust military" forces, much more than just stiff upper lips may quiver at the prospect of a revival of such an institution! ■

"Taken together, these structural changes are creating a new Germany that is geographically and economically united, and politically confident—something that Europe has not seen in decades. That just leaves Germany without one other thing it has not seen in decades: a robust military."

— STRATFOR

misery is epitomized in these games, just as in many of the most popular television shows and music genres.

The point is, Western culture idolizes brutality and violence. Human suffering has become a source of entertainment rather than something that saddens and disgusts us. Horror movies with disturbing plotlines and grisly death scenes are among the most popular for teens. TV and movie producers behave as if the more gross the scene, the more captivating it will be.

Protect Your Family From Murderers

To protect ourselves and our family members, we must make a stand against these psychological assaults. We must build a virtual wall around our homes; monitor what travels in and out of our children's minds, turn off violent television shows, discard graphic video games.

Proper education will also help protect our families. As children mature, they do need to come to understand the reality of the world they live in; they should be taught that violence, brutal crimes and horrible events do occur. But this kind of knowledge should be given in stages, as the child grows in the mental and emotional maturity to handle it. Young children do not need gruesome details swimming around in their heads.

If we're not careful, television and video games will program our children to consider human suffering as no big deal. Counter this influence by explaining that violence and death should not be taken casually. Introduce children to the realities of this world in a manner that will arouse their compassion and empathy, not sear their minds. Teach them that nothing justifies violent retribution or the embracing of cruelty, and that grisly crimes should never be glorified as the media tends to do. Educate your children to respect and value life.

Most importantly, we must educate our families on God's perspective on human life. We must teach that God has a great purpose for mankind and deeply values every human life. Show children that a godly mind is repulsed by brutality and saddened by suffering.

Request a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential*. It will prove an ideal textbook in this education.

The Ultimate Cause

The ultimate cause of the brutality pervading our society is *spiritual* in nature.

It's easy to accept that those commit-

ting these unspeakable acts have mental, emotional and spiritual voids—but what about the societies that have produced such people and grown callous to barbarism?

Any person who doesn't cherish and respect the sanctity of life, any mind not *repulsed* by cruelty and sickened by suffering, also suffers a desperate spiritual and mental void.

Put simply, the cause for the loss of natural affection is disobedience to God's spiritual and physical laws of love.

The same God who created mankind created law. His laws, both physical and spiritual, were designed to protect His creation. God designed law to ensure that we value, respect, enhance and nurture that creation—especially human life.

Today, man despises law. We complain that it infringes on our freedom to live the way we want. But the Bible tells us that the law God created is *good* (1 Timothy 1:8). It shows that submission to God's law brings the excellent, profitable and blessed results God intended for human beings.

What happens when God's law is rejected, despised, ridiculed and trampled on? Well, look around. The state of mankind today—the wars and violence, greed and vanity, sexual perversion, broken families, plagues and diseases, economic calamity, depression—is all the product of broken laws. Disobedience drives a person inward; it propels one to become self-absorbed, entirely devoted to satisfying selfish desires and lusts.

This is why millions are unaffected by the suffering occurring around them. Selfishness is the mental state of mankind, just as the Apostle Paul said: Most men are "lovers of self" and "utterly self-centered"—everything they do revolves around pleasing themselves. The more intense a person's self-absorption, the more he or she neglects the needs, cares and sufferings of others.

This is against the law—God's law!

If people obeyed God's commandments, the tragic incidents so common in our daily news would never occur. If all men obeyed the spiritual intent of God's law—if they valued the welfare of others above their own—crime would cease; child abuse would end; there would be no violence, no murders.

People who are obedient to God's law are striving to be selfless; they are more concerned about pleasing God and respecting and loving fellow man than about pleasing themselves. This is why

the Apostle James called God's law "the law of liberty" (James 1:25). It *frees* people from the fruits of selfishness.

Obedience will protect you. It will prevent you from growing heartless to human suffering. It will guarantee that you and your children develop into loving, warm, caring individuals. Obedience to God's law will help you become more kind and compassionate.

Millions of people claim they possess love today. But how does their claim measure against what the Apostle Paul wrote about God's love? "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. ... Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8, 10). Love and obedience to God's law walk side by side. In order to be a loving person, to be a person overflowing with right emotion and an outward focus, you must fulfill, or obey, the law of God.

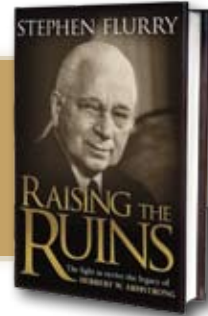
Herbert W. Armstrong explained the connection between love and obedience further. "The whole law of God is summed up in one word—LOVE! And it requires love *expressed in action* to fulfill the law. But this law-principle of love is subdivided into the two Great Commandments—love toward God, and love toward neighbor. The first four of the Ten Commandments define love toward God. The last six tell us *how* to love neighbor. ... 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Of course that is a *lot of love!*" (*The Missing Dimension in Sex*).

Though mankind despises God's commandments, the fact is that they are the *ultimate* solution to this callous, loveless world! If Derris Smith obeyed God's law, little Malakai Glenn would still be alive today. It is that simple.

Are you prepared to confront the *cause* of the tragic realities in this world? Are you willing to ask *why* human suffering is so widespread, *how* the planet has gone berserk on brutality and *what* will the ultimate solution be? Answering these questions will demand you realize some harsh and horrible truths about the state of this world. But the *answers* will open up knowledge that will bring joy, excitement, happiness and hope. They will provide a personal sense of fulfillment and inner peace. ■

Learn the glorious solution to this crisis. Begin learning about God's rare but inspiring and perfect way of life by studying *Mystery of the Ages*.

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



S T E P H E N F L U R R Y

Stewardship

P A R T O N E

“You shall know them by their fruits.”

—Jesus Christ

JOSEPH TKACH JR. INTRODUCED THE FINAL CHAPTER of his book, “The Enigma of Herbert W. Armstrong,” with an “advisory” addressed to former and current members of the Worldwide Church of God. He said, “This chapter is not written to attack or belittle Herbert Armstrong in any way.” He then proceeded to attack Mr. Armstrong and to imply that all the allegations of critics were true.

The “enigma” chapter is where he quotes Mr. Armstrong as supposedly saying, “I am Elijah.” It’s where he made the “absolute power corrupts absolutely” comment and then followed up by saying “there weren’t many who would challenge” Mr. Armstrong. He said, “As the Worldwide Church of God has been dramatically changed and as we have faced the emotional upheaval of finding out much of what we believed was wrong, we have also had to FACE allegations about Herbert W. Armstrong *and his son*.”

Allegations? Garner Ted was suspended from the church more than once during the 1970s for his sexual improprieties and later disfellowshipped for attempting to overthrow his father. But why would Tkach Jr. lump *Herbert Armstrong* in with his son throughout the “enigma” chapter? To assign GUILT BY ASSOCIATION—that’s why. According to Tkach, because of these allegations about Mr. Armstrong *and his son*, “I felt the need to apologize and ask forgiveness about our past unbiblical teaching *and behavior*.” It wasn’t just Garner Ted’s behavior he felt he needed to apologize for—*Herbert Armstrong’s too*.

And all this is not meant to be an attack against Mr. Armstrong in *any way*? “God has not asked us to be the judge of Mr. Armstrong,” Tkach said right before leveling the same judgmental charge against Mr. Armstrong that Garner Ted did in 1979.

“We neither have nor promote an extravagant lifestyle,” Tkach wrote. “We have divested ourselves, and continue to, of those things that are opulent and do not befit a church.”

And so the Tkaches sold off all the festival sites used by church brethren. They sold the campsites Mr. Armstrong built for teenagers. They shut down the college campuses Mr. Armstrong raised up for the work and for the young people. They sold the property and all the buildings used for preaching the gospel to the world. They sold the airplane

Mr. Armstrong used to visit the brethren and world leaders. They auctioned off equipment, paintings, sculptures and personal gifts world leaders had given to Mr. Armstrong. They sold literature, libraries, instruments, pianos, chandeliers, candelabra and furniture.

And now Tkach Jr. points to their financial demise as proof of how sincere their intent was to transform the church. “At any time in the past several years we could have called a halt to the changes, turned back the clock, confessed that we were wrong, and tried to woo back disaffected members (along with their pocketbooks).” They counted the cost, he says, and were willing to abolish Mr. Armstrong’s ministry and work, even when they knew it would result in steep financial losses.

The facts, figures and time frame, however, paint a completely different picture.

■ A SHOCKING DIFFERENCE IN PRIORITIES

As we have already seen in this volume, Tkachism’s intent to change major doctrines began just as soon as Mr. Armstrong died—even before. Together with the deceitful way they introduced changes, they also acted swiftly to slash several successful programs Mr. Armstrong had started.

For example, in September 1986, Tkach Sr. capped *Plain Truth* circulation at 7 million. So within *eight months* of Mr. Armstrong’s death, Mr. Tkach decided to slash the magazine’s reach by more than 16 percent. Mr. Tkach explained, “We could very easily have a worldwide *Plain Truth* circulation of 15 million by this time next year. But would that be wise stewardship?” He wrote, “Now maybe there are some in God’s church who think I should just let the *Plain Truth* magazine circulation increase as fast as we can possibly make it do so, and then trust God to send us the money to back that up. Maybe some think we should just go on more and more television stations, any time a new opportunity comes available.”

How RADICALLY different that line of thinking was from his predecessor’s. Eight months before he died, Mr. Armstrong said “the way is now open to increase the *Plain Truth* circulation past 8 million and upward to 20 or more million subscribers” Yet he was realistic and wise in his

stewardship. He said the church “could not afford to take advantage of these doors” *unless the income increased*—which is *precisely* what happened after he died.

But Tkach made it clear from the very beginning that they weren’t about to put additional income toward the church’s first commission. Spending money on the work of the church—a work it had been doing for *decades*—in their view, was a huge waste.

■ DOWNSIZE

Three months after he put a ceiling on *Plain Truth* circulation, in December 1986, Mr. Tkach decided to reduce the *Good News* and *Youth* magazines to six issues per year, instead of 10. The church’s newspaper, the *Worldwide News*, would continue to be published every two weeks, but at eight pages per issue, as opposed to 12.

Mr. Tkach offered this odd explanation for the reduction in the church’s periodic literature: “I have been quite concerned for some time that many of God’s people simply are not reading the *Good News* as they should and as a result are missing a wealth of the spiritual, Christian-living instruction about the application of God’s law of love in their lives that they vitally need!”

Four years later, Mr. Tkach discontinued the *Good News* altogether, making it even easier for members to keep up with their reading.

But back to 1986. Tkach cut *Good News* and *Youth* production by 40 percent, *Worldwide News* content by one third, and *Plain Truth* circulation by 16 percent—*all in his first year*. “God’s Word is filled with principles about living within our means,” he wrote, “of counting the cost and of careful consideration of a matter in prayer before making a decision.”

Yet even as Tkach was slashing programs, the residual impact of Mr. Armstrong’s work was still making its mark on Pasadena. For example, nearly 2 million people telephoned the WCG in 1986, which was a 78 percent increase over 1985. The church’s income also grew, finishing 11.2 percent above 1985—at just over \$182 million.

In 1987, this same dual theme played out—cutting programs even as revenues increased. In May, Larry Salyer told ministers that “Mr. Tkach continues to review and evaluate the procedures and techniques we use in doing God’s work. ... Under his leadership and with the improved communication and cooperation of the operation managers, the work is moving forward on many fronts.” Mr. Salyer went on to explain how they were working on a five-year plan that would facilitate “greater efficiency and productivity” in the work.

Yet that same month, *Plain Truth* circulation slipped to 6.9 million. The following month, in June, they stopped printing the circulation figure in the table of contents. In its place, it said, “Over 20,000,000 readers in seven languages.” By the end of the year, even that line disappeared.

They also made a number of “design changes” in the *Plain Truth* over the last half of 1987. These changes, suppos-

edly intended to give the magazine a “more modern, up-to-date appearance,” also happened to “cut costs significantly.” In other words, they downgraded the quality.

At the end of 1987, Mr. Tkach wrote, “I have often said that we should strive to work smarter, not just harder. As faithful stewards, we should always be on the lookout for a better way—a wiser, more efficient or more productive way—to get any job done.” We heard a lot about *five-year plans*, *working smarter* and being *wise stewards* during the late 1980s—all of it implying that Mr. Armstrong mismanaged the church’s revenue.

Mr. Tkach, we were told, was an expert when it came to management and working with employees. One WCG minister even remarked, “Mr. Tkach is a manager. Mr. Armstrong was not a manager. Mr. Armstrong was an entrepreneur—traveled all the time. He didn’t like big meetings. Mr. Tkach thrives on them, meeting after meeting after meeting, day after day.”

Due to his management skills, Mr. Tkach supposedly saved tons of money during those years. In actual fact, the membership and revenue increased during those years, mainly due to the fruit from Mr. Armstrong’s labor. By the end of 1987, church membership had climbed to 88,455 and the income increased another 5.5 percent to a record-high \$192 million.

The following year, at a regional directors’ conference in Pasadena in June 1988, Mr. Tkach told the leading minis-

ters in the church that he was “trimming the fat” in the work in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

The thing is, in 1988 the church’s revenue topped out at \$201 million. It was the first time ever to exceed \$200 million and represented 4.8 percent growth over 1987. According to the church’s treasurer, Leroy Neff, during 1988 they had “almost eliminated all long-term debt” and were on course to “pay as you go.”

Yet, by the end of 1988, Mr. Armstrong’s three major books—*Mystery of the Ages*, *The Incredible Human Potential* and *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*—had all disappeared from circulation. The *Plain Truth* circulation had been pared down to about 6.5 million, even though the church’s worldwide membership had grown to 91,685 and its revenue was 23 percent higher than it was three years earlier, during Mr. Armstrong’s last full year at the helm.

■ THE ENTOURAGE

Tkachism began 1989 by selling off the church’s airplane, the Gulfstream III, for \$12.5 million. The year before, Tkach chartered a Boeing 727 for a trip to Australasia in order to see if it would be feasible to fly in a less-expensive aircraft. He wrote, “As I have often explained, we are continually looking for ways to make the various operations of the work more streamlined and efficient. It appears that there may be a significant financial advantage to selling the G-III and buying a used, but well-maintained Boeing 727.”

Later in 1988, unsuccessful in locating a 727 he liked, Mr. Tkach settled for the British-made BAC 1-11. It was only \$3.4 million, a price tag he said would immediately “benefit” God’s

Tkach made it clear from the very beginning that they weren’t about to put additional income toward the church’s first commission.

work. He wrote, “Also, the BAC 1-11 has room for all our necessary TV equipment and personnel, as well as any additional necessary personnel. The G-III, as many of you know, was extremely limited in seating and storage capacity.” But for an administration determined to “trim the fat,” it seems like the smaller, more fuel-efficient G-III would have better suited their needs—especially since it was already paid for.

In looking at the size of Mr. Tkach’s entourage, however, it’s no wonder they needed to “save” money by purchasing a used, gas-guzzling commercial airliner with about four times the cabin space as the G-III. For the Australasian trip, when they chartered the 727, Mr. Tkach’s traveling party included:

Joseph Locke, his personal assistant; James Peoples, operation manager of the computer information systems, purchasing and travel departments, and his wife, Linda; Ellen Escat, the pastor general’s administrative assistant; Michael Rasmussen, executive office aide, and his wife, Juli; Julie Stocker, an administrative assistant in Communications & Public Affairs; and Ross Jutsum, director of the music department in Pasadena, his wife, Tammara, and daughters, Heidi and Lisa.

Also traveling on the 727 were Mr. Tkach’s Gulfstream III crew: Captain Ken Hopke, co-captain Lawrence Dietrich, maintenance chief Dean Mohr and steward Jay Brothers.

The church’s television crew included Mr. Halford and his wife, Patricia; cameraman Gary Werings and his wife, Gloria; and Steve Bergstrom, cameraman and remote operations engineer.

Counting Mr. Tkach, *that’s 21 people*, for a 21-day tour through Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Sri Lanka—to *visit church areas*. After their first stop in Melbourne, the entourage picked up another four adults and two children to accompany them for the next leg of the trip. *Might as well*—there was plenty of room on the airliner.

Compare that with Mr. Armstrong’s six-day trip to Japan in March of 1985. He took Ellis La Ravia and Aaron Dean, their wives and his personal nurse, as well as the two pilots. Mr. Armstrong was 92 years old at the time—and blind. He had been pastor general of the church for more than 50 years. And on one of the last international trips of his ministry, he took *seven people* with him, counting the pilots.

It is also interesting to note that during the trip, Mr. Armstrong completed Chapter Five of *Mystery of the Ages*, as well as a letter to the church membership. He met with the president of an advertising agency working on behalf of the church in Asia. He met with the church’s regional director over Australia and Asia. He had a private meeting with the Japanese foreign minister and later hosted a banquet for 200 government officials, diplomats and Japanese business people. The night after the banquet, Mr. Armstrong addressed the managers at Japan Life, whose chairman had visited Ambassador College earlier that year. Before ending the trip, Mr. Armstrong discussed with a number of Japanese government officials the prospect of supporting a project in China.

Compare that with Mr. Tkach’s first trip aboard the used BAC 1-11—a three-day trip to Washington, D.C., in early December 1988. He attended two services on the Sabbath of December 3, giving the *announcements* at both the north and south churches in Washington. The two sermons were given by evangelists who accompanied Mr. Tkach on the trip. On Sunday, Mr. Tkach attended the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony and toured some of the sites in D.C. with

his entourage. Traveling with Mr. Tkach over the weekend were the five-man flight crew, including a steward and a chef, Michael Rasmussen, David Albert and his wife, Richard Ames and his wife, Dibar Apartian and his wife, Leroy Neff and his wife and Wayne Shilkret.

It seems like plenty of “fat” could have been trimmed from that weekend trip.

Eight days after returning from Washington, D.C., Mr.

Tkach took the BAC 1-11 on a 13-day trip to the Philippines, Hong Kong and Malaysia. Besides visiting church congregations, Mr. Tkach and his entourage toured war memorials, museums, shopping districts and a floating village. Traveling with Mr. Tkach were the five-man flight crew, the three-man TV crew and Michael Rasmussen, Ellen Escat and Esther Apperson.

In July of 1989, for a 13-day trip through England, Belgium, Italy and Greece, Mr. Tkach took Michael Feazell, Joseph Locke, Michael Rasmussen, Julie Stocker, Mr. and Mrs. Apartian, Mr. and Mrs. Hulme, the three-man television crew and the five-man flight crew—17 in all.

To spend that much money for his traveling entourage—for hotel reservations, limousine rentals, food and incidentals—even as he repeatedly stressed trimming the fat and working more efficiently, didn’t seem to phase Mr. Tkach. The way he saw it, he saved the work millions by trading the G-III for the BAC 1-11.

Tkach Jr. said the book was a financial drain and implied that their income was not sufficient to sustain the project. Yet they announced the book’s removal right as the church had reached its financial peak.

■ THE 1989 INCOME “DIP”

Three months before the European trip, Mr. Tkach excitedly told the brethren about the church’s new five-year plan, which had been completed in April 1989. After highlighting key points from the plan in a *Worldwide News* article, Tkach wrote, “Our current income dip would be even more difficult for us if we hadn’t already been putting into effect cost-saving measures planned last year.” Who knows *what* would have happened to the work without Tkachism’s financial model.

He told members that if the dip continued, “severe cut-backs” would have to be made, perhaps in television. He said that if stations in their area stopped carrying *The World Tomorrow*, their pastor could arrange for video cassettes to be mailed to the congregation for a local viewing.

“We must avoid waste,” he wrote. Then finally, “At this point normal reserves have disappeared to take up the slack, and we have now begun to dip into the reserves from the sale

of the G-III aircraft.” They sold the G-III in *January* and by April they were already dipping into proceeds from the sale!

That’s how bad the “crisis” was in 1989.

In May, Mr. Tkach wrote, “With an annual budget of \$160 million, a shortfall of even a few percent is significant.” Then later, “I was disappointed to learn of some few who had simply become complacent and careless about tithing, not seeming to realize that one who is careless about tithing is robbing God.”

I’m not sure why he would have used the 1985 budget figure. Income the year before Mr. Tkach addressed the “shortfall” was actually \$201 million. At any rate, he kept pounding away at the budget “crisis” throughout 1989.

Later in May, Tkach wrote, “I know we’d all rather see growth than cutbacks. But as I’ve said many times, God does expect us to live within our means, and we will certainly do that.” It was beginning to sound like a broken record.

Later that year, in September, Mr. Tkach admonished the brethren to brace themselves for additional cuts. “If God wanted us to step out in faith in order to grow as fast as possible, there would never be a need to count the cost, or to worry about being prepared to handle the growth,” he wrote. “The church has done that occasionally in the past, but we have always ended up having to slash severely because the budget simply could not keep up. Like anyone, we should be able to learn from our past experience.”

It was yet another way to put down Mr. Armstrong and his supposedly poor managerial practices.

“I wish we could have a 10 or 12 million *Plain Truth* circulation right now!” Tkach exclaimed. “But I have to realize that we just can’t afford it now. I am instead having to face the fact that we may need to trim the circulation slightly to afford what God has given us.”

By the end of the year, the total “dip” for 1989 actually amounted to another all-time high: \$211,777,000. True, that only represented a 5.2 percent increase over 1988. But as Mr. Tkach himself admitted, with a budget as large as the WCG’s, “even a few percent is significant.”

That same year, Larry Salyer told the church that *Mystery of the Ages* was “among the most expensive pieces of literature” the church had produced. Years later, Tkach Jr. said the book was a financial drain and implied that their income was not sufficient to sustain the project. Yet they announced the book’s removal right as the church had reached its financial peak!

■ MORE MASSIVE CUTS

The 1989 budget “crisis” triggered many more cutbacks in programs Mr. Armstrong established. In January 1990, Mr. Tkach announced the decision to remove the toll-free number from the television program, which would save the work \$3.2 million per year. Besides the cost savings, Mr. Tkach said the work would benefit from the decision in other ways too: “The small amount of extra effort that it takes to write instead of to call means that the seed (in this case, the *Plain Truth* subscription)

will be falling on more fertile ground. This would mean a somewhat smaller *Plain Truth* circulation, but a higher-quality one.” Impeccable logic!

In March, the *Worldwide News* reported that the number of stations airing *The World Tomorrow* had fallen to 123. Just one year earlier, according to the article, the program had aired on 232 stations. At the time Mr. Armstrong died, the number of stations totaled 382.

In July, Mr. Tkach told the membership, “*Plain Truth* circulation, which we have had to trim from last year’s level to stay within budget, stands at a strong 5 million!” The year before, it was over 6 million.

In September, Mr. Tkach announced that it was time for *The World Tomorrow* and the *Plain Truth* to take on a more religious tone. He had come to see that with the old “more secular tone,” the church may have been fishing in waters “where the fish have stopped biting.” And since the *Plain Truth* would now be more religious, he explained, they no longer needed the *Good News* magazine! “The new *Plain Truth*,” he explained, “will replace both the current *Plain Truth* and the *Good News* (which will no longer be needed with the new *Plain Truth* format). ... This revised approach will enable us to maximize effectiveness with less expense in the publishing, editorial and mailing areas of the work.”

Since Mr. Armstrong believed his God-given commission was twofold, he established the *Good News* in 1939 in support of the church’s secondary mission—to “feed the flock” spiritual meat. While the *Plain Truth* was primarily used to preach the gospel of the Kingdom to the world as a witness (the church’s first mission), the *Good News* was intended more for church members and co-workers, although

later in his ministry, Mr. Armstrong made it available to anyone who wanted to study God’s Word in greater depth.

But when the Tkaches changed the commission after Mr. Armstrong died, they lost interest in the whole concept of proclaiming a message to the world. So they made the *Plain Truth* more like the *Good*

News and then nixed the *Good News* altogether, describing the move as a better, more efficient way to do the work.

By the end of 1990, Mr. Tkach reported, “We have reduced the circulation of the *Plain Truth* by changing its format to a more clearly religious, gospel-oriented approach.” The worldwide circulation had dwindled to 2.7 million.

Thus, 1990 began with a *Plain Truth* circulation around 6 million and the *Good News* at 1.1 million. By the end of that year, the *Plain Truth* had been cut by more than half and the *Good News* eliminated altogether.

Yet, despite this staggering series of cuts, the church had a worldwide membership of 97,000 in 1990 and finished the year with virtually the same amount of revenue as it did the year before: \$211,243,000. That amounted to 29 percent more than Mr. Armstrong’s best year—and at a time when they were making a staggering series of cuts.

One wonders, where did all that money go? ■

When the Tkaches changed the commission after Mr. Armstrong died, they lost interest in the whole concept of proclaiming a message to the world.

delivered from their darkness' and converted to Catholicism. ...

"However, the older rite's prayers calling on God to 'lift the veil from the eyes' of the Jews and to end 'the blindness of that people so that they may acknowledge the light of your truth, which is Christ'—used just once a year during the Good Friday service—have sparked outrage.

"Yesterday the Anti-Defamation League, the American-based Jewish advocacy group, called the papal decision a 'body blow to Catholic-Jewish relations.'" Still, the Vatican continues to allow use of the ceremony, and Jewish criticism is becoming muted. The Vatican is certain that it sees Jewish blindness, but what about its own blindness?

We all remember that the Nazis killed 6 million Jews in World War II. There is an abundance of proof that the Vatican helped more Nazis escape at the end of the war than any other institution by far!

How could that happen if the Vatican hadn't been allied with Adolf Hitler? Is that history a prophetic insight, showing that history is about to repeat itself? Is this the kind of "light" the Vatican wants to give the Jews? Does the Vatican think it was following Christ in those evil deeds?

"The pope also sparked bewilderment when he made no mention of anti-Semitism, or the fact that the Nazis killed millions of people because they were Jewish, in a speech last year at Auschwitz. He also failed to acknowledge that there might be some degree of collective responsibility of the German people" (ibid.).

Is this the voice of a church that has repented of its sins? THESE ARE MIND-NUMBING FACTS THAT WE CAN'T IGNORE! And yet the Vatican goes around castigating all other religions and acting like it is the repository of all righteousness. IT IS A DEADLY SIGN OF WHERE THE EUROPEAN UNION IS HEADED!

The Catholic Church has over a billion members and wields frightening power within the European Union and in this world. (For a thorough understanding, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

Where are these events leading? If people knew, and just understood their history books, they would be deeply disturbed. ■



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

Dish Network 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 WBDO 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMV 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KWBX 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KWFA 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KWJA 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona Cox Channel 7, 10:00 am

Arizona, Yuma KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville 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 WBAU 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun

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

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan.

52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

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

Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

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

Illinois, Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Terra Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 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 WBAN 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPO 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri;

WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 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 WBL 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBMK 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KWBD 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 WBSP 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 WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Quincy WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KWMB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KWXB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KWGF 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KWHA 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KIDW 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Hastings KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KWVB 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
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 WBWT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00
 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri

North Carolina, New Bern WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00
 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WGWB 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 WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WBOH 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 KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KZWB 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 WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 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 KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Pasco KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KWYP 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS
 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WBB 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Bluefield WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 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 8:30am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,
 Tue/Thu
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias
 TV 47 11:00 am, Fri
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

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 6:00 pm, Tue

New stations are added often.

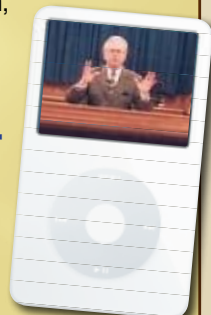
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Goodbye, Blair

A VERY PERCEPTIVE ARTICLE, AND IN some ways true (“Why Britain Booted Blair,” August-September). But as a Brit, can I tell you that I do *NOT* accept that it was Iraq that “did it for Blair.” Only two years into Blair’s third election win, we the voters did not have a say in this. We were just handed Brown on a plate by his party, whether we wanted him or not. And, if opinion polls are anything to go by, we did *not*. Even just before he left office, Blair was still rating higher than Brown in the polls. ... Blair, in my opinion, has been hounded from office by his own party and the “feral” attacks of the liberal intelligentsia press in the UK. Both of these have much to answer for.

First, his party: Brown will do nothing, or little of immediate consequence, over Iraq despite his evident surgical separation from Bush. And yet his party *says* they wanted Brown in, to show they had been listening to public unease over Blair, and to take us away from Bush as well as from Iraq. What rubbish! ... Withdrawal had already started under Blair and would have continued slowly. If Brown thinks he can take our troops out *before* the time is right to pander to the voter, he is despicable, and there is a good chance that he will be seen as such. No, the Labor Party wanted Blair out because of other issues: the health service, education, Europe ... and the fact that Blair’s telling it like it is about terrorism and the growing threat of Islamists within British mosques was threatening Labor seats at the next election.

Secondly, the press—or the “feral beasts” as Blair recently called them, and with good reason; he most probably has their fang marks on his throat—have maliciously and with malice aforethought gone for Blair personally over the last year or two, some of them since 2003. The “disappointed”—to whom he, by the way, handed much of what they

wanted on a plate—decided that he, and he alone, was Public Enemy Number One. ... And in his efforts to make us aware of the terror threats inside some British mosques, he was derided as a liar, dangerous to social cohesion and of robbing us of our civil rights! They have been listened to as though they had a direct line to the Truth. Even Blair, Teflon Tony, had no chance after so much of the nonsense came from the right-wing (*Daily Mail*) and even the left-wing press (*The Independent*). ...

Blair supporter—UNITED KINGDOM

Political Correctness

THE ARTICLE “ILLEGALS SET FIRE TO Border” in the *Trumpet*, August-September 2007, is yet another example of the failure of our national leadership to bring this illegal flood to an end. If we do not find leaders who are real Americans, who wish to preserve this nation for future generations, we are lost. ...

Ian A. Millar—KERNERSVILLE, N.C.

AS AN EXPAT SOUTH AFRICAN IN CANADA, I want to thank you for stating the truth about diehard terrorist and Communist Nelson Mandela in your July 2007 article “How Political Correctness Protects the Bad Guys.” It is the first time I’ve ever seen this truth stated in a Western publication. I enjoy reading your magazine very much and appreciate the frankness with which you tackle many “sensitive” issues troubling our world.

Subscriber’s mother—CANADA

Psychiatric Drugs

I CAN’T EMPHASIZE HOW MUCH TRUTH there is in the article “Psych Illnesses Lack Scientific Basis” (July). Noted psychiatrist Robert Spitzer now admits that many children are being falsely labeled with psychiatric disorders like Bipolar, ADD/ADHD, depression, etc. The profitable but dangerous psychiatric drugs increasingly being given to kids are often prescribed “off-label,” meaning they are not approved by the FDA for children but doctors are free to prescribe them anyway. Apart from the many physical and mental side effects that psychiatric drugs cause, perhaps the most important one for anyone of faith to consider is that psychiatric drugs paralyze the soul. They put kids in a zombie-like state in which they often are unable to

tell right from wrong and have no fear of consequences. ... People on psychiatric drugs are very often involved in violence, criminal acts, suicide and homicide. Most every major school shooting involved a kid on psychiatric drugs. ...

Ernest Ryan—TEMPERANCE, MICH.

Daddy’s Girl

YOUR ISSUE FOR JUNE 2007 WAS VERY inspirational, particularly the cover story “Daddy’s Girl.” I strongly agree that every individual has a duty toward humanity—and where is a better place to start than the nuclear family unit? The world today is flooded with sexually explicit and insulting messages either through sounds, images or written mediums. Such is corrupting the very fabric of our society, which is the future: our young. This has resulted in immorality consuming the innocence of youth The society continues into moral decay only because the majority is ignorant and lazy while the minority oppressor takes advantage of such for short-term gains. Both are effective players, contributing toward their respective doom. Life is not meant to be as hard as most perceive it to be. God, our Creator, has given us a map, the Bible, to ensure that our journey here on Earth is smooth All we have to do is consult it and follow His instructions. ...

Jeffrey Kennedy—PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Looking for a Church

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR the magazines and the books I have received from you. A friend showed me some of your magazines last year. I admit, I was a bit skeptical at first. However, after comparing your views with my Bible, I found I had to agree with most everything. ... I have yet to find a church I am completely comfortable with. ... I have prayed to God about your church. I believe I received my answer with the book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Everything I read was complete with chapter and verse, and it answers so many questions, and even makes reading the Old Testament more interesting for me.

Robert C. Reilly—COMSTOCK, N.Y.

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
 or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
 Edmond, OK 73083

CORRECTION In “Twilight for Britannia” (July 2007), we stated that Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne of England on June 2, 1953. This was in fact the date of her coronation; the date of her accession was Feb. 6, 1952, the day her father died. Also, in the same article, we stated that the Queen declared 1992 her most horrible year during her annual Christmas speech. She actually made that comment in a speech on November 24 of that year.

Rare Leadership

Is Australia's John Howard the last of the West's true statesmen? BY RON FRASER

IN THE MAY 13 *SPECTATOR*, THE FEISTY MELANIE PHILLIPS asked, “Just what was that ghostly and unfamiliar noise we heard over the weekend?” She answered her own question, “[I]t was the sound of a country’s political leader actually exercising leadership.”

The subject was Australian Prime Minister John Howard. The occasion was his declaring a daring, politically incorrect stance against one of this world’s most rapacious dictators. The field of interest was one of Australia’s most beloved and entrenched institutions: the hallowed sport of cricket.

“The Australian prime minister, John Howard, ordered his nation’s cricket team to pull out of a scheduled tour of Zimbabwe in September, and even threatened to suspend the players’ passports if the sport’s governing body did not abide by his decision,” Phillips explained. “His reason was that the proposed tour would be an ‘enormous propaganda boost’ to Zimbabwe’s president, Robert Mugabe, a ‘grubby dictator’ who was behaving ‘like the Gestapo towards its political opponents.’”

Writing during a visit to Australia for an earlier edition of the *Spectator*, Phillips declared, “Coming from Britain to Canberra to interview members of the Australian government is like leaving a fetid malarial swamp to be doused with fresh cold water from a mountain spring.” She praised these politicians for simply being “on-side in the great fight for civilization against barbarism” (March 15).

True to form, Melanie Phillips places her finger right on the button when it comes to the real cause of today’s weak, ineffectual political leadership in the West. “Throughout the West, ... [t]he political class is incapable of disinterested statesmanship because it is no longer sure in what—if anything—it still believes” (op. cit.).

Phillips noted, “Mr. Howard, in sharp contrast [to today’s British leaders], is entirely free of such absurd and crippling cultural cringe. He believes in Australia and its Western values. He thinks these values are superior to any alternatives. And it is this total absence of equivocation in upholding the national interest which explains his robust defense of both Australian identity and Western civilization against attack” (ibid.).

Some consider Australians a hard-bitten bunch. But there’s no doubt that, despite liberal socialist opposition within the country, such strength of leadership as that demonstrated by John Howard does give a country real backbone.

Take the case of the Australian troops, caught in a situation similar to the one in which 15 British marines simply gave

in to Iranian militia earlier this year. Not for the Aussies the white flag of surrender! When Iranians tried to intercept them, the Australians simply pointed their weapons at their would-be attackers and told them in no uncertain terms to get packing! They knew their prime minister was the type of man who, when confronted with the news that certain nations had pulled out of the alliance against terror, simply announced immediately that he would commit *more* Australian troops to the war.

Is John Howard literally the last of the true statesmen among the English-speaking peoples? It appears so.

While the British are busy apologizing for their great colonial past; while so much of the rest of the Western world is busy apologizing for the richness of its Judeo-Christian heritage and how this has contributed to possessing every blessing under the sun compared to all other cultures; while the Anglo-Americans are busy appeasing a “peaceful” Islamic religion under whose banner innocent

men, women and children are blown to bits daily, the world’s largest island and smallest continent, Australia, thumbs its nose at bleeding-heart, politically correct liberalism and stakes a claim for the fundamental biblical values on which the nation was founded! Beauty bottler, mate!

Oh, that Britain and America would only look south for some refreshing inspiration to motivate their political leaders to break the hold of their continuing, demoralizing surrender to the destructive voice of foreign peoples intent on stealing their nations’ wealth and destroying their traditional values!

But they won’t.

And the odds are stacked even against Australia continuing on its current courageous course once John Howard leaves the scene. For the prophecies declare this present era of global disorder as the God-ordained “time of the Gentiles.” These prophecies in your Bible speak of a time when the great blessings of the English-speaking peoples will be overtaken and plundered by a foreign people, people of a strange tongue: non-English-speaking people. People unfamiliar with the great biblically based values upon which the English-speaking peoples built an empire that was literally gifted to them by the Creator Himself.

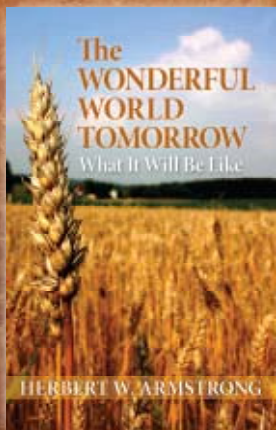
You need to know this reality!

What’s more, you need to know the outcome of this present crisis of the English-speaking peoples. Request your own copy of our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, and we will send it to you for free. Not only will you find it enlightening, but it will arm you with knowledge guaranteed to give you real, genuine hope in the tumultuous months and years ahead. ■



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