Origin of Music

A SPECIAL REPORT ON CHINA

THIS MEANS WAR!

DECEMBER 2010

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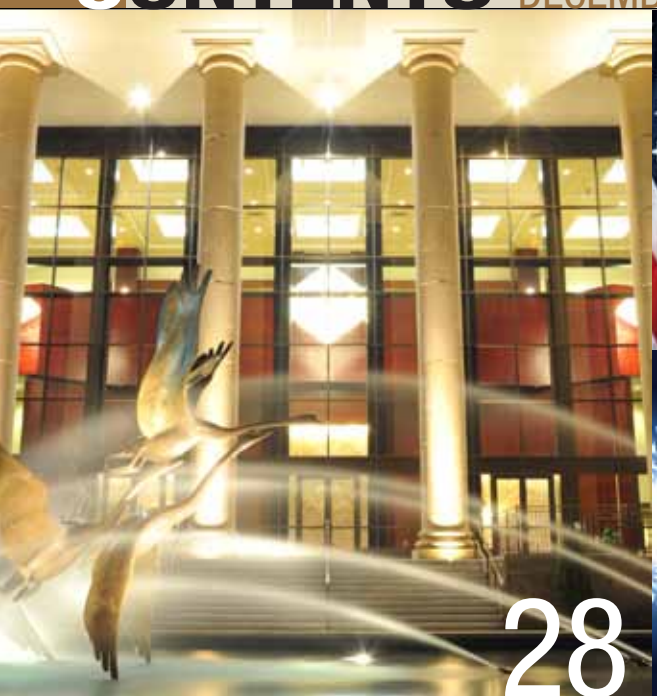

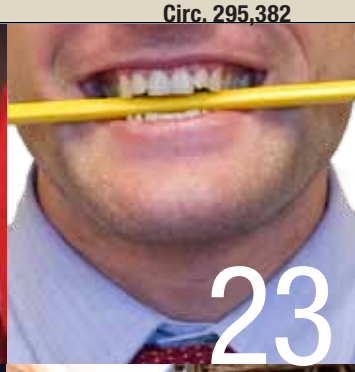

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COVER Armstrong Auditorium at night (*Trumpet* photo by Aubrey Mercado)

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Pope Meets the Queen—
Insight Into Man's Magnificent Future!

The pope sits on a throne. So does the queen of Britain. If people understood only the true history of those two thrones, they would know where this world is headed and how it is about to be filled with happiness and joy—after some terrible suffering.

Most Catholics don't understand the true history of their own church. And most of the British people don't understand the true history of the Queen's throne.

In September, the pope visited Britain and the Queen. It was the first visit by a pope since the Reformation. Earth-shaking changes are occurring in Europe and in Britain! The Reformation is being reversed. The Catholic Church is gaining unparalleled power.

What does that mean to you?

The pope's visit was a historic moment in the Catholic Church, Britain and the world!

HISTORIC Queen Elizabeth hosted the pope in September.

Most of the world is asleep to what is happening in Europe. But people are about to be struck by lightning that will bring them out of their stupor.

The Bible tells us that God is going to save most of humanity. That includes Catholics, Protestants, Muslims and all other religious people, but in His time frame and in His way.

God's hand is even behind the rising power of the Catholic Church today. But you need to read our material to understand why.

Pope Benedict xvi said this to the Queen and the British people: "Even in our own lifetime, we can recall how Britain and her leaders stood against a *Nazi tyranny that wished to eradicate God from society* and denied our common humanity to many, especially the Jews, who were thought unfit to live. I also recall the regime's attitude to Christian pastors and religious who spoke the truth in love, opposed the Nazis and paid for that opposition with their lives. As we reflect on the sobering lessons of *the atheist extremism* of the 20th century, let us never forget how *the exclusion of God,* religion and virtue from public life leads ultimately to a truncated vision of man and of society and thus to a 'reductive vision of the person and his destiny' (*Caritas in Veritate,* 29)" (emphasis mine throughout). The Catholic Church in most of Europe is very different from the one in the U.S.

GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Any truth-seeking historian knows the pope has grossly distorted that Nazi history!

Were the Nazis *atheistic* extremists who *excluded God?* It was actually the *inclusion* of "God" and religious ideology that provided the Nazi regime its greatest source of inspiration. Adolf Hitler himself was a deeply religious man (a Catholic) and wanted to be seen as a religious figure.

"We are not a movement—rather we are a religion," Hitler said about his regime (Robert G.L. Waite, *The Psychopathic God: Adolf Hitler*).

"Christ was the greatest early fighter in the battle against the world enemy, the Jews," Hitler said in 1926. "The work that Christ started but could not finish, I—Adolf Hitler—will conclude" (John Toland, *Adolf Hitler*). Hitler even said he learned from the Jesuit order "above all."

Were the Catholic priests in general opposed to the Nazis? On the contrary, they were generally united with them! If not, why did the Vatican, at the end of World War ii, help more Nazis escape than any other institution? Nobody else even came close!

Historians have documented the infamous *ratlines* that ran through the Vatican and helped the defeated Nazis escape. They will forever remain a bloody stain on its history.

The Catholic Church was so dedicated to the Nazis that it helped thousands escape even *AFTER* Germany was defeated! That historical fact indicates the strongest kind of loyalty to the Nazis!

If people realized where all this is leading, they would be deeply frightened. But how many leaders do you see challenging the pope's distorted view of history? That gives you a good idea of how many leaders fear the Catholic Church. And that fear is growing!

The Queen's Speech

Here is one statement the Queen made to the pope: "I am pleased that your visit will also provide an opportunity to deepen the

➤ See **QUEEN** page 33

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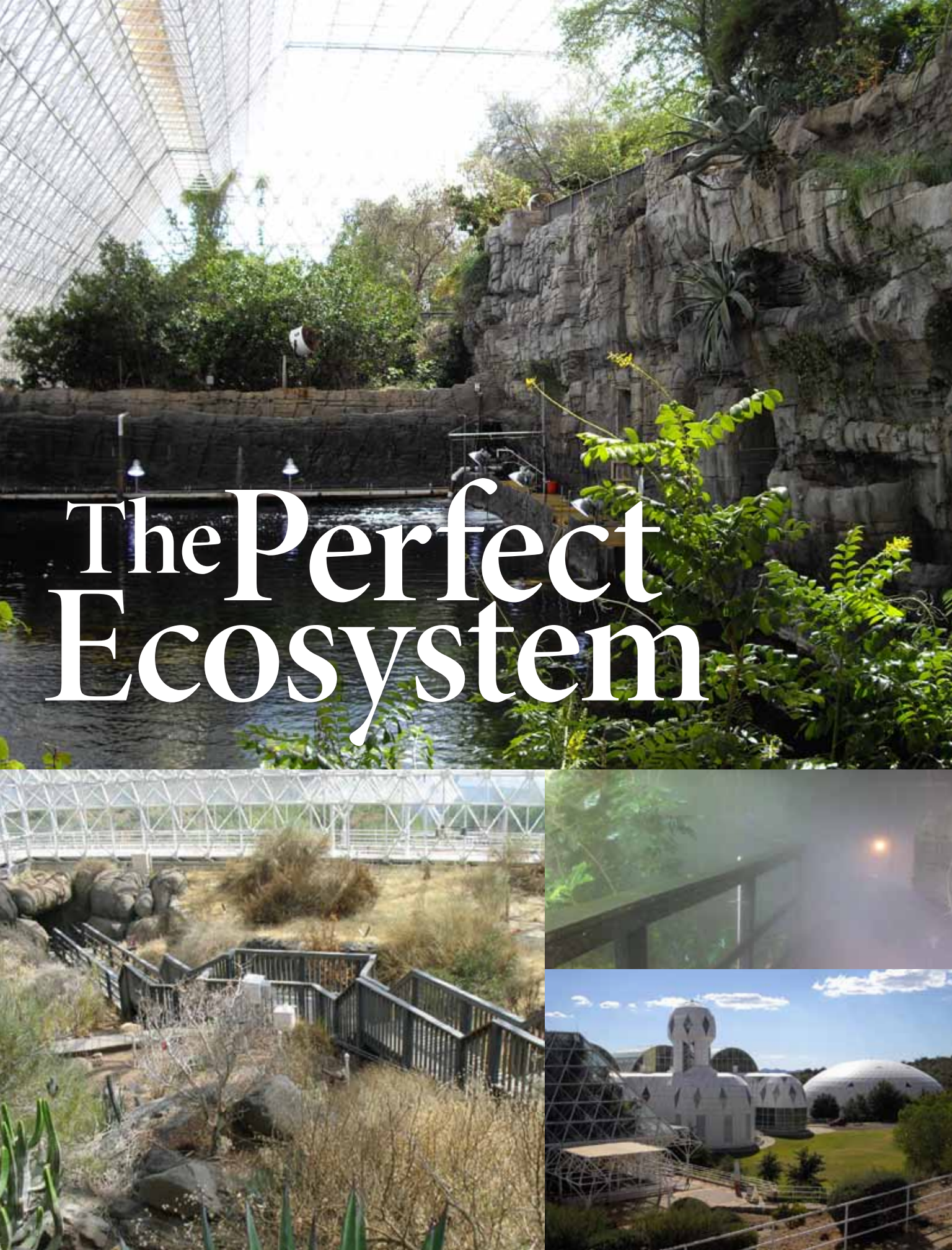
The Perfect Ecosystem



Man's best attempt at creating a life-sustaining ecosystem—would it work?

BY MICHAEL DATTOLO

In 1991, eight people voluntarily sealed themselves inside a three-acre collection of domes for two years, cutting off air, water and food from the outside world.

The volunteers planned to receive everything they needed to survive from inside the glass domes, collectively called Biosphere 2. They grew fruits and vegetables and raised goats and chickens for food. They recycled every drop of water they used—condensing water from the air and reusing waste water for the plants. They didn't want to take oxygen from the outside world, so Biosphere 2 was totally sealed. It was *more* airtight than the space shuttle. In order to keep the air inside oxygenated, plants grew everywhere, especially in the rainforest area; the abundant plant life soaked up carbon dioxide.

It was an experiment unprecedented in scope and ingenious in design. It was expensive too—construction alone cost over $150 million. No one had attempted to create a complete, separate ecosystem like this before. Like Earth, which draws energy from the sun, the only thing Biosphere 2 would draw in from outside was power.

In September 1991, the eight inhabitants ("biospherians") began the first of what was to be 50 two-year missions.

And Through Here, the Desert Room

Located just north of Tucson, Arizona, Biosphere 2 looks like a giant greenhouse. It is now open to visitors, and I took a guided tour there in September. No one lives in it now—but I saw the trees the biospherians had planted as saplings 20 years ago, and learned the story of the experiment's thrilling conception and painful demise.

Walking through the Biosphere is like walking into new worlds again and again. Stepping through the living quarters, we entered the first "biome," a lush savanna that flourished atop a steep, three-story cliff. Peering off the cliff, we watched gentle waves roll across a million-gallon ocean, complete with an ecosystem of fish and coral. We learned that the fish there are not fed—they feed off each other, as in the wild.

From the savanna, we passed through two sets of plastic curtains and instantly began sweating. We had entered a desert, as brown and hot as the savanna was green and cool. Here, the biospherians had studied the effects of drought.

From the scorching desert, we passed through two more sets of curtains and encountered a heavy mist we could barely see through. We had entered the oxygen factory, the rainforest. Trees and vines grew to the top of the 60-foot ceiling.

We then headed downstairs into what was called the technosphere. To support the three acres of land inside Biosphere 2 above, there were over two acres of supporting machines in the basement.

The technosphere distinctly contrasted the natural beauty of the biomes above. Here, stiff concrete walls surrounded us. Massive mechanical water pumps circulated and treated water. Giant fans pushed air through the corridors and up above.

There was even a 158-foot-diameter circular room called the lung. At the top of the lung was a massive metal sphere, affixed to the walls by a flexible rubber sheet. At night, when Biosphere 2 was cool, the metal hung only a few feet above the floor. Then, as the sun rose and the air inside the biomes heated and expanded, the pressure would push the metal sphere up. It was awesome and frightening to stand under the 16-ton metal sphere that was suspended only by air pressure. Without this lung, the pressure changes inside Biosphere 2 would have caused the glass structure to explode.

Impressive, But …

No doubt, Biosphere 2 was an incredible achievement. But for all the brilliance of the design, for all the money poured into the structure, for all the high hopes and diligent work of those involved, it didn't quite work right.

It was meant to be completely sealed for two years. Sixteen months in, however, the biospherians were losing too much oxygen. The balance of plant life had not been correct, and carbon in the atmosphere was rising to dangerous levels. Though the cause was eventually discovered, there was no way to reverse it. The team either had to pump in extra oxygen from outside, or end the experiment. They pumped in the oxygen.

Other unforeseen complications arose. Food was more difficult to grow than expected, and after one year the biospherians had lost 10 to 18 percent of their body weight. Eventually, extra food had to be imported. Partly because of these problems, the scientific community wouldn't take the project seriously. Shortly after the first experiment ended in 1993, funding dried up, and Biosphere 2 was put up for sale.

As we concluded our tour, our guide remarked on the abundance of machinery in the basement necessary to sustain life in the biomes. "It just makes you realize," he said, "how much we take for granted what Mother Nature has provided for us here on Earth."

Mother Nature. I laughed to myself at that.

Biosphere 2 represents the pinnacle of human achievement in creating a life-sustaining ecosystem. Hundreds of brilliant minds—scientists, engineers, builders—considered and discussed thousands of technical details needed to sustain life. The biospherians were extremely careful to care for their environment, avoiding all chemicals and pollutants (nothing from perfume to chemical fertilizers was allowed in). And still, Biosphere 2 couldn't quite sustain life on its own.

Yet here we live on Biosphere 1—Earth—which functions flawlessly, despite man's lack of care in its stewardship. Could this remarkable life-supporting planet have happened by accident?

I left Biosphere 2 with, more than anything, wonder and gratitude for the remarkable intelligence of the Being who conceived, planned and built the remarkable ecosystem we live on, draw breath from, and survive in without thought every day—Planet Earth. ■

BRAVE NEW WORLD

Clockwise from top: The savanna biome sits atop a three-story cliff overlooking a million-gallon ocean; dense mist fills the rainforest biome; Biosphere 2 includes multiple biome structures and living quarters; a path winds through the desert biome.

ASPERSIONS AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WIKIPEDIA, TRUMPET PHOTOS

THIS MEANS WA

Where global trade disputes are leading—and how they will upend your life

BY BRAD MACDONALD AND ROBERT MORLEY

Is China waging war on the United States? Many would say the notion that Beijing is actively trying to topple the U.S. is preposterous. But is it?

Sun Tzu, the fifth-century Chinese military general, taught that "all war is based on deception." What if China has managed to blind America to its true motive? The thing about deception is that the deceived have no clue they have been deceived.

Is it even possible to discern China's true ambitions?

It is. First, we must look past the politically correct words being uttered by politicians on both sides. We must see beyond platitudes and promises, and look squarely at the incontrovertible facts.

Among those facts are China's unscrupulous land grabs in Australia, New Zealand and across the continents of Africa and South America. The fervor with which it seeks to gratify its insatiable appetite for raw materials. Its near monopoly over vital and strategic rare earth minerals. Its aggressive, unrelenting acquisition of foreign companies and businesses. Its insidious relationships with anti-American, anti-democratic states and tyrants. The brash confidence with which its leaders operate in international relations. Its striking military aggrandizement and growing appetite for military provocation.

Perhaps the most significant fact, especially for Americans, is the enormous leverage China has over the U.S. economy—and the fact that China's leaders appear ready to use it as a weapon!

If we look at the facts, it's hard to deny that the United States and China—even now—are at war!

Presently, it is a financial war. Moreover, the globalized nature of our world means this trade and currency war is not confined to just these two economies. In fact, the increasingly radical actions of these two behemoths have set off *global* trade and currency wars—wars that history and Bible prophecy say precede a tumultuous and terrifying future.

Race to the Bottom

Around the world, national economies, especially those of industrialized states, con-

tinue to suffer the aftershocks of the global financial crisis set off in the United States in September 2008. In Europe, North and South America and Asia, economies are stagnant, or only growing at a snail's pace. National debt is soaring, industry is seizing up, and unemployment is rocketing.

Governments are looking at their stalling economies and becoming desperate.

A new trend is emerging. In an effort to kickstart their economies, more and more countries are enacting beggar-thy-neighbor fiscal policies to *devalue* their currencies. When the currency of a nation loses value, it becomes cheaper to foreign countries and investors. Foreign nations and investors are motivated to buy more goods, causing an increase in exports, which means more industry and manufacturing, and eventually lower unemployment. Sounds like a great way to help an economy, right?

The problem is, it amounts to an act of war against other nations.

In our globalized world, when one country devalues its currency to boost exports (and the broader economy), other national economies are significantly disadvantaged. The exports of the disadvantaged economies become uncompetitive. The result? Manufacturing and industry slump, unemployment rises and consumer spending drops. To remain competitive, the disadvantaged must react by devaluing their *own* currency.

If it persists, this race to the bottom threatens to paralyze global trade and destabilize the entire financial system! It would wreak particular havoc on the most debt-laden national economies.

This is precisely what experts fear is now happening.

In September, Brazil's Finance Minister Guido Mantega declared that "we're in the midst of an international currency war." Billionaire investor and financial guru George Soros agrees. "I share the growing concern about the misalignment of currencies," he wrote in the *Financial Times*. "Brazil's finance minister speaks of a latent currency war, and *he is not far off the mark*" (October 7; emphasis ours throughout).

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), warned that in governments the world over the idea is beginning to "circulate that currencies can be used as a policy weapon." "With almost no country wanting a strong currency … as they try to stimulate economic recovery, and with the U.S. and the EU pushing for a yuan revaluation, *the big theme in 2011 is shaping up to be some sort of currency wars,*" warned Chris Weafer, chief strategist at Russian investment firm Uralsib.

In October, Robert Kuttner, co-founder of the *American Prospect,* wrote, "Trade war is here—and we've disarmed."

China vs. America

The two actors at the center of this global drama are China and the United States. In an effort to sustain high exports, China's government has for years intervened to keep the yuan low compared to the U.S. dollar. Although this has long frustrated Washington, it was able to put up with Beijing's currency manipulation as long as the U.S. economy chugged along at 3 to 5 percent growth per year.

But as the U.S. economy slows, Washington is searching for ways to boost manufacturing and, along with it, employment and consumer spending. To increase exports, the Federal Reserve has driven the dollar low. During September *alone,* the dollar tanked 4.5 percent against a basket of major currencies contained in the U.S. Dollar Index—by historical standards, a huge drop.

But economic growth remains slow, for a number of reasons. One primary reason: China. As long as Beijing keeps the yuan lower than the dollar, goods manufactured in the U.S. remain uncompetitive. How bad are the consequences? So bad that the White House—hardly a confrontational administration—now appears willing to confront Beijing on the issue.

WATCH 2011
The IMF's Dominique Strauss-Kahn warns of currency wars.

"Currencies can be used as a policy weapon."

In October, for example, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act. Under this new law (which has yet to pass in the Senate), punitive tariffs would be imposed on Chinese exports as long as Beijing intentionally devalues the yuan to promote its own economic growth.

Of course, America was accused of using this law to start a trade war with China. Truth is, as Democrat Rep. Linda Sanchez stated before Congress, "We are already in a trade war. And China is using cannons and we're standing here shooting [air-gun] pellets."

Whichever way you look at it, the consensus is the same: Trade war is starting between China and the United States!

This is deeply alarming, especially for Americans! Why? Because if a full-scale trade and currency war erupts, China has

ISTOCKPHOTO, KAREN BLEIER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

decisive leverage over the United States.

This fact is becoming increasingly evident. In March 2009, the Pentagon conducted its first ever series of economic war games. "The soldiers were Wall Street traders and executives, economists and academics," reported Eric Weiner in the *Los Angeles Times*. "The weapons were stocks, bonds and currencies. The participants were divided into teams: the U.S., China, Russia, Japan, the European Union and so on" (October 6).

"What the exercises showed was that the U.S. consistently lost to China in economic warfare," Weiner noted.

In September, when U.S. President Barack Obama met with China's Premier Wen Jiabao on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, he demanded that China stop manipulating its currency. Wen, aware he was operating from a position of power, responded in a ho-hum manner—in essence saying, *Just how much money do you owe us again?*

China's leaders, wrote Weiner, "know what our leaders are only beginning to understand—that China would probably win a global trade war."

This past summer, Ding Yifan, a chief official at China's Development Research Center, said that if America became too belligerent, China could not only refuse to lend more money, but could also dump its current holdings of U.S. government debt. His comments came during a conference where Chinese officials questioned the creditworthiness and reliability of the dollar. Since then, the question of the dollar's value has emerged as a serious topic of discussion in government halls around the world.

The Threat Is Real

Too many people don't take this threat seriously enough. Many analysts say that if China were to dump its dollar holdings it could cause interest rates to soar, and that would hurt China as much as it would America because it would destroy its best customer. Additionally, the U.S. Federal Reserve could simply print up whatever money was needed to cover government spending and push interest rates back down. Thus China would lose the most in any trade war, goes the argument.

These views are woefully simplistic. Those people are deceived.

First, if the Federal Reserve began widespread dollar printing—on the scale required to redeem China's vast holdings—it would send the dollar's value plummeting and destroy its place as the world's reserve currency. The importance of reserve currency status cannot be overstated. Since the world uses dollars to conduct international trade, there is a built-in demand for dollars that supports their value even when the government runs gargantuan budget deficits. If demand for the dollar stops, the money Washington uses to pay its bills and fund its social programs vanishes. America sinks.

Just think, if America's biggest creditor, which is also the world's biggest exporter, pulled the plug on America, would the world even want dollars anymore? And even if America could survive China's "nuclear" dollar option, what would happen if just one other major country—like Germany, Japan or Saudi Arabia—took China's side and got rid of its dollars?

This scenario may sound extreme, but it's one that pundits are beginning to realize could happen!

Second, what if China and the rest of the world found another currency to replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency? Even now, as fear of trade and currency war increases, a growing number of world leaders and finance gurus are entertaining the idea. Calls are going out—and not just from the likes of Iran or Russia—for the end of the dollar's reign. Other powers and emerging powers, like France and Brazil, have also called for a new global currency.

The IMF is already making a move. Last year, it began issuing a type of currency called SDRs (Special Drawing Rights), based upon a basket of major currencies. In effect, the IMF began acting like a global central bank—even selling bonds denominated in SDRs. China and Russia have invested billions in them. According to Omnis analyst James Rickards, the shift away from dollars has already started and will accelerate. SDRs could replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency in two to five years, he told the *New American*. "It's not speculation, it's actually happening" (September 15).

In case you are wondering, the IMF is dominated by European countries.

The movement away from the dollar is supported by the United Nations too. "A new global reserve system could be created, one that no longer relies on the United States dollar as the single major reserve currency," said the UN's *World Economic and Social Survey* for 2010. "The dollar has proved not to be a stable store of value, which is a requisite for a stable reserve currency."

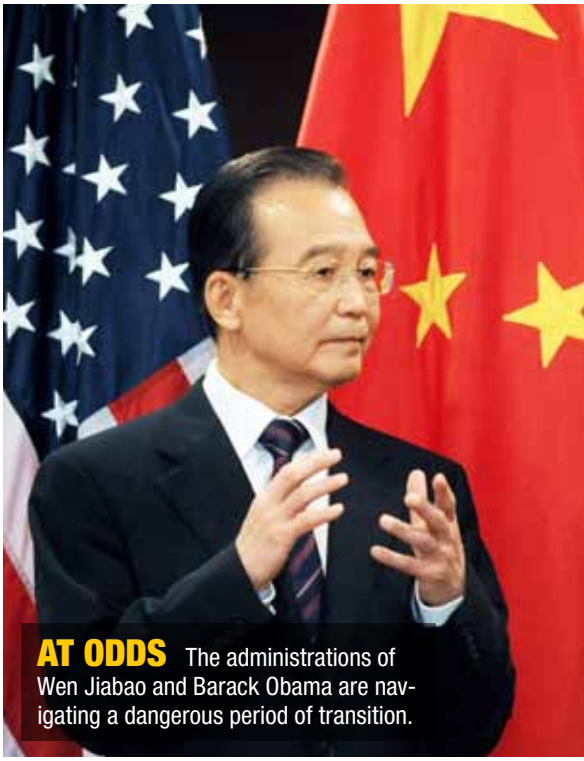
Watch closely: If America gets too testy, Beijing has the leverage to up the ante and draw even more countries into a concerted attack on the dollar. If a legitimate alternative to the dollar emerges and is embraced globally, this would mark the death knell of the American economy!

A Global Phenomenon

It is not just China and America engaging in currency manipulation and trade war.

As the *Telegraph*'s Ambrose Evans-Pritchard reported in September, "Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Korea, Taiwan, South Africa, Russia and even Poland are either intervening directly in the exchange markets to prevent their currencies rising too far, or examining what options they have to stem disruptive inflows" (September 29).

On October 5, the Bank of Japan announced it would cut its key interest rate and institute a ¥35 trillion (US$418 billion) monetary easing program. By forcing the yen down, Tokyo is trying to help its largest companies (and employers), such as Toyota, Sharp and Sony, remain competitive in the global market.



AT ODDS The administrations of Wen Jiabao and Barack Obama are navigating a dangerous period of transition.

Grasp what is happening here: NATIONALISM is emerging as a powerful and dangerous force in global finances!

The decision by the likes of China, America and Japan to devalue their cur-

rencies comes with disastrous consequences for the world's smaller currencies and economies. As advanced economies devalue their currencies, the currencies of smaller economies, such as the Brazilian real, tend to rise, especially as investors seek higher yields and better returns. This, as Brazil's finance minister lamented in September, "threatens us because it takes away our competitiveness."

Similar trends have occurred with the Canadian dollar and Swiss franc. Also, the Australian dollar rose in October to its highest level against the U.S. dollar since 1983.

As Germany's *Der Spiegel* declared in October, "*The whole global currency system is in a state of jeopardy*. It seems as if the world has been turned upside down—AND HAS BECOME VERY DANGEROUS. Indeed, for better or worse, the well-being of entire countries depend on the value of these currencies, meaning that instability on the currency markets *also threatens the structure of the global economy*" (October 5).

Global economic chaos looks imminent!

GETTY IMAGES

First Trade War, Then …

Ultimately, trade and currency wars carry with them a greater danger than tanking economies and collapsing financial systems: They are a sign of the RESURGENCE OF NATIONALISM!

As national economies and the global economy flounder, national governments are turning inward. They are becoming more protectionist. And the longer national economies wallow, the more inclined world governments will be to embrace *nationalist* financial policies—even if it means arousing the ire of other countries!

A dangerous scenario is now developing.

History shows that trade and currency wars have a nasty tendency to snowball out of control. Remember the Great Depression. During the four years after the 1929 stock market crash, America regressed like at no other time in its history. Forty-two percent of America's banks folded. Production at the nation's factories, mines and utilities fell by more than half. People's real disposable incomes collapsed by 28 percent. Stock prices cascaded to one tenth of their pre-crash height. Unemployment rose from 1.6 million in 1929 to a whopping 12.8 million by 1933—leaving one out of every four workers jobless. People lost their savings, their homes, their health and their hope.

Such conditions are starting to sound familiar once again. But what made the 1929 crash turn so much more deadly than the previous, short-lived crashes of 1920 and earlier? Many economists say it was unique because just months later, a trade war began that quickly engulfed the world.

Post-World War I industrial America, reeling from the effects of the stock market crash and subsequent job losses, erupted into protectionist fervor. Riding a populist wave, U.S. politicians imposed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act—one of the most draconian protectionist policies in America's history. Historian Richard Hofstadter, with the benefit of hindsight, described the tariff act as "a virtual declaration of economic war on the rest of the world."

That is just how the rest of the world saw it. Foreign nations were outraged. Within two years, 25 countries had retaliated; U.S. and foreign trade took massive losses. America exported $5.24 billion in goods in 1929; by 1932 the total had fallen to just $1.6 billion. Overall, world trade had declined some 66 percent by 1934.

If America gets too tough on China, Beijing has the leverage to up the ante and draw even more countries into a concerted attack on the dollar.

In the 1930s, countries around the world defended and furthered their own interests even when it meant undermining the economies of other nations. Before long, the economic malady began to have dramatic social and political consequences. Populations became frustrated. Extremist ideologies and policies entered the mainstream. In some instances, like Germany, radical leaders tapped the mass frustration to gain political leadership.

By the end of the decade, the mass frustration had begun to boil over: The Second World War erupted!

Of course, trade and currency wars were not the sole cause of World War II. But historians agree that economic chaos in the global financial system (and in national economies) played a central role in preparing the world for war.

Today, many prominent, *mainstream* figures are describing the global economy using military terms. Study World War II and you'll notice historians employing the same terms—"trade *war*" and "currency *war*," the use of economic policy as a "*weapon*"—in their explanations of what led up to the Second World War.

To the question "What comes after global trade war?" history has a simple and terrifying answer: MILITARY CONFLICT ON A GLOBAL SCALE!

An Apostle's Warning

Throughout his 53-year work, Herbert Armstrong often described the conditions that would precede the biblically prophesied collapse of the United States. Despite being the most stable currency in the world, the American dollar would one day be in "jeopardy of being devalued," he once wrote. When the dollar plummets, he warned, inflation would erupt and this would lead to "eventual economic collapse for the United States."

So strong was Mr. Armstrong's faith in Bible prophecy, he warned as early as the 1960s that World War III had already gotten underway, and that it was "*ECONOMIC in nature*." About America and Britain in particular, Mr. Armstrong stated, "God prophesied a virtual trade war will get under way against the United States and Britain—and [that] our national economics will falter, and then collapse!"

He delivered that forecast in March … *1968!*

Forty-two years later, it is now evident that the trade war that will end in the col-

lapse of America and Britain is here.

Are you ready for global financial chaos? It doesn't matter if you live in America or Europe, South America or Africa—the economic bedlam that Bible prophecy says precedes global political and military conflict has begun.

China is waging economic war on the U.S., a war that is intensifying and will soon precipitate America's collapse. As a means to this end, China is forming an economic axis with Germany and Europe (more about this pivotal development on page 12, "The Silk Superhighway").

Scripture says this China-Europe economic axis will be responsible for *besieging* America and causing its final economic downfall. "And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (Deuteronomy 28:52).

As America falls, prophecies in Revelation 17 and 18 show that this European empire will replace the U.S. as the nucleus of global trade and commerce. In the end time, the Apostle John wrote in Revelation 18, the "merchants of the earth" will be "waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" (verse 3). (For more information about this prophecy, request a free copy of *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*.)

Why should you be concerned by trade and currency wars? Because these financial crises are creating the biblically prophesied conditions that precede World War III!

Don't remain ignorant of these developments. Take these crises seriously. More importantly, make it a goal to educate yourself on how to prepare for this imminent period of global chaos and carnage.

If you are willing to embrace God's law and lifestyle, the Bible reveals that God mercifully provides a way to escape the impending turmoil. When the global tribulation strikes, God says that those who follow His law and support His work on Earth will "flee into the wilderness, where [they] have a place prepared by God" (Revelation 12:6, Revised Standard Version).

To learn more about this place of safety, and how you can find solace there during the soon-coming tribulation, request and study our free booklet *Repentance Toward God*. ■

WHY CHINESE MINERS ARE SMILING

Whoops! Right under everyone's noses, they scored a monopoly on a rare resource we all use. In a swoop, this could bring the world to its knees. BY RICHARD PALMER

Imagine if Walmart sold 97 percent of the world's potatoes. It would have complete control over the sale of fries, chips and potato salad. There would be an outcry.

Think of the power it would have. If a district raised taxes or passed labor laws that Walmart didn't like—bam: no potatoes. McDonald's would be selling a Big Mac and fries without the fries.

China has this type of monopoly. Not on potatoes, but on rare earth metals, the vital ingredients of the technological revolution. These minerals are used in small quantities in a host of products from iPods to hard drives, guided missiles to smart bombs. And China is using its control of 97 percent of the industry to hold the world to ransom.

Its ownership of these metals is just a part of its wider plan to gain security by controlling the world's resources. On October 18, China cut off exports of rare earth minerals to Europe and the United States.

This is economic war.

China had cut Japan off over a month earlier, using rare earths to force Japan into a humiliating surrender. On September 8, a Chinese fishing boat rammed two Japanese coast guard ships near islands claimed by both China and Japan. The skipper, Zhan Qixiong, was arrested. The Chinese were livid. They arrested four Japanese citizens, cut off all cabinet-level contact with Japan, and instructed travel agents not to offer holidays in Japan. More importantly, according to the Japanese government, they cut off all shipments of rare earth minerals.

Japan gave in and released Zhan unconditionally.

Now it may be America's turn. The *New York Times* published a story on October 19 quoting three anonymous industry officials saying that China had quietly stopped all rare earths shipments to the U.S. and Europe. "The embargo is expanding" beyond Japan, said one official. China has denied there being any embargo. The spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington claimed that his country is just implementing tougher environmental standards on the rare earth mining industry.

This cutoff may be China's response to an investigation, launched by the U.S. in October, into whether China is breaking World Trade Organization rules by restricting clean energy imports and subsidizing its clean energy exports.

Will America be the next nation forced by China into a humiliating climb-down?

How to Get a Monopoly

For years, China has been laying the foundations for control of rare earth minerals—elements with an atomic number between 57 and 71, plus scandium and yttrium. China woke up to their usefulness long before any other government. In the 1960s, it started trying to get all the rare earths it could out of mines in Inner Mongolia.

During the 1980s the government offered subsidized loans to rare earth miners and similar industries. Production increased by 40 percent during the decade. The Chinese Society of Rare Earths was founded, the organization that, to

this day, publishes the only two scientific journals dedicated to rare earth elements. As China gains a foothold in this field of research, interest in the U.S. has waned, according to Prof. Karl Gschneidner Jr. of Iowa State University.

In 1992 Deng Xiaoping, the late leader of China, said, "There is oil in the Middle East; there is rare earth in China." His successor, Jiang Zemin, went even further, saying China must "improve the development and applications of rare earth, and change the resource advantage into economic superiority."

In the 1990s, then, China *quadrupled* its rare earths production. Many mining firms ran at a loss, but with unlimited subsidized loans they kept running. In addition, a large number of illegal rare earth mines sprang up, cutting costs by ignoring worker safety. As a result, rare earth prices plummeted. On average, rare earth minerals cost only 5 percent of what they did before China got involved.

The low prices were a boon for the growing high-tech industry. But no other country could compete. Western rare earth companies shut down.

Now China's control of 97 percent of the rare earth market gives it tremendous power. Over the past year, it has reduced its exports of rare earths, shrinking them from 50,000 tons per year to 30,000 tons. Then in July, the government announced it would export only 8,000 tons for the rest of the year. At the same time, it has raised export taxes for the minerals. Other countries are feeling the pinch.

Fixing the Problem?

Governments around the world are only just starting to address the problem. But solving it won't be quick or easy. In July, the U.S. Congressional Research Service said that developing new rare earth mining projects could take 10 years.

Mining rare earth elements produces radioactive waste, which means that mining companies have to dig through a mountain of paperwork before they can even make a dent in the ground. In Western nations, they face stiff opposition from the environmental lobby. In both the U.S. and Australia—which have some of the biggest rare earth deposits—the governments are changing mining laws, though they haven't yet released details. The uncertainty is making mining firms reluctant to start new projects in these areas.

Once a rare earth mineral is dug from the ground and separated from the rock and other minerals—a complicated process in itself—it is still only an oxide compound. It must be refined in order to get a pure metal. And China also happens to have a stranglehold on rare earth refining. Since no one else has been doing much refining for 25 to 30 years, China holds a clear technological edge in this area.

Even with determined effort, it would take several years to pry the rare earth industry out of China's control.

Not Just Rare Earths

Nations worldwide are waking up to the need for security in the supply of a whole host of resources. A recent EU report warned that land grabs could erupt as nations scramble for minerals globally. South Korea has revealed plans to use its pension and sovereign funds to secure access to rare metals; it says it will even direct its foreign aid monies to countries that can return the favor with access to the precious resource.

The need for security goes beyond even metals and minerals. The Oakland Institute, an American think tank, says that China is "seeking to acquire land as part of a long-term strategy for food security." It says Japan and South Korea, as well as Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, are doing the same.

Australia and New Zealand are especially worried about China's appetite for farmland. In June, a Tasmanian real estate agent reported that China had a strong interest in dairy farms in the north of the island. Bright Food Group, a firm controlled by the Chinese government, bought New Zealand's third-largest dairy processing company and owner of 15 farms, Synlait.

Prof. Zhangyue Zhou of James Cook University's School of Business said that China is buying up land overseas in order to secure a food supply for the nation. He warned that the farms China is buying will start sending food back to the home country rather than selling it to locals.

"Chinese vultures circle Australian farms," Australian state MP Robert Brokenshire has warned. In fact, Chinese investment interest in Australia's farms grew tenfold in the six months before this past April, according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia.

Foreign investment in Australia's agricultural land is causing many to demand that the government intervene to regulate the purchase. China is also buying up farmland in Africa.

But farmland isn't the only aspect of agricultural production that China is interested in. A consortium of government-owned Chinese companies is vying to take over Potash Corporation, based in Saskatchewan, Canada. Potash Corp. produces 20 percent of the world's fertilizer and sells 45 percent of its goods to North American farmers. Experts worry that should China buy it, the fertilizer would be redirected to China.

Potash, a key component in fertilizer manufacture, is becoming scarcer. Some warn that the modern era of cheap food is coming to an end. China is expected to spend $15 million a year looking for domestic potash supplies.

"We Are at Economic War"

China is buying up the production of raw materials the world over, from food to rubber to iron and steel. It may not own anywhere close to 97 percent of the world's steel or rubber production capacity, but it appears to be aiming at self-sufficiency in all essential resources. Most other countries have nowhere near that capability.

ISTOCKPHOTO (3); DAVID BECKER/REUTERS

CONQUERING THE

China is also purchasing foreign firms to gain access to new technologies. For example, in August PetroChina allied with Royal Dutch Shell to take over Australia's Arrow Energy. Arrow Energy specializes in mining unconventional energy deposits. Its technology may allow China to begin tapping its estimated 30 trillion cubic meters of unconventional gas reserves.

At the same time, Beijing is working hard to increase its naval power. After all, if it owns natural resources around the world, it has to be able to keep shipping lanes open during a crisis.

This kind of self-sufficiency puts China in a strong position in the event of a trade war—or even a hot war. The U.S., by contrast, cannot even produce important armaments without China's cooperation.

Of course, China isn't the only nation seeking natural resources. Middle Eastern and other Asian nations are scouring the Earth for them, and Europe is joining in the fray.

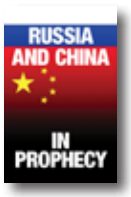
Even staunchly free-market Japan is getting involved. Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada spent the last year visiting heads of state in mineral-producing countries to secure a supply of minerals for his country. "Until recently, the government took the attitude that this was something best left to market forces," he said, "but the world has changed dramatically and the government cannot just sit back anymore."

"We are at economic war," said Jack Lifton, an expert on rare minerals. "The world where you could get everything for a price is history. And the West has been sound asleep on this. The level of ignorance about the upstream of mineral supply … is just out of this world."

It seems the whole world—apart from the U.S., Britain and its daughter nations—has woken up to this reality.

China is prophesied to play a key role in end-time events. By securing so many strategic resources, it is ensuring that it can remain a great power even when the world falls apart. ■

For more about China's future, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



ALBERTA, CANADA

China has many millions invested in oil projects in Canada. Sinopec owns a 9 percent stake in Syncrude and 50 percent of Total's planned Northern Lights Project. PetroChina owns a 60 percent stake in Athabasca Oil Sands Corp.'s Mackay and Dover projects. China Investment Corp. owns 20 percent of Suncor Energy Inc.'s Fort Hills oil sands project.

SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

A consortium led by Sinochem Corp. is rumored to be interested in buying Potash Corp., the world's largest producer of fertilizer.

TEXAS, USA

CNOOC is offering up to $2.2 billion for a 1/3 stake in Chesapeake Energy assets. This may give it access to American knowledge on drilling in areas that have dense shale rock.

VENEZUELA

China's CNPC paid $900 million for access to oil deposits in Venezuela's Orinoco region. China has lent Venezuela $4 billion so far, and has offered to lend up to $20 billion.

ECUADOR

Andes Petroleum Corporation, a joint venture by Chinese oil firms, bought all of Canadian oil firm EnCana's shares in subsidiary companies based in Ecuador for $1.42 billion in 2005.

BRAZIL

Chinese oil companies have made many deals in Brazil. Sinopec invested $7.1 billion in the Brazilian arm of Spain's Repsol oil companies; this gave it a 40 percent stake in Repsol's Brazilian venture. The Chinese Development Bank lent $10 billion to Brazil's Petrobas; in return, Petrobas agreed to sell Sinopec 200,000 barrels of oil per day (10 percent of its total production) for 10 years. Sinochem bought a 40 percent stake in Brazil's offshore Peregrino oil field from a Norwegian firm for $3.07 billion.

PERU

China's Aluminum Corporation bought Peru's Copper Inc. for $792 million. Chinese firms have invested $1.4 billion in the nation.

BOLIVIA

China's Development Bank offered to lend Bolivia $15 billion to develop an iron ore deposit. Most of the loan would be paid back using iron produced from the deposit.

CHILE

China's Minmetals established a joint venture with Chile's CODELCO to mine over 55,000 tons of copper ore.

ARGENTINA

CNOOC bought a 50 percent stake in Argentina's Bridas Corp. for $3.1 billion. It is also negotiating buying a 60 percent stake in Argentina's Pan American Energy for around $10 billion. China also has $10 billion in railway contracts.

Reach Out to Your Neig

As China rises, it is cementing relations with the rest of the region.

Warming relations with Myanmar were underlined on September 8 when Myanmar's junta leader, Than Shwe, visited Beijing, marking the 60th anniversary of cooperation between the two nations. Official Chinese data says the two countries did $2.9 billion in business last year, but analysts believe the actual figures are higher.

Beijing's investment in Myanmar, which is centered on the country's energy resources, sharply outweighs trade between the two countries, but China's interest in Myanmar goes beyond resources. Beijing is developing numerous ports along the Myanmar coast in the Bay of Bengal, which affords Chinese access to the Indian Ocean and extends its naval capability.

Warming ties with Russia were highlighted when, on September 26 to 28, Beijing hosted President Dmitry Medvedev. Speaking to Russian and Chinese war veterans on the trip, Medvedev said Moscow's friendship with Beijing "was sealed by blood years ago," and that the "friendship between Russian and Chinese peoples cemented by the military events will be indestructible and do good for our future generations."

The nations issued a joint statement in which Moscow supported China's

WORLD ONE CONTRACT AT A TIME

A glance at some of China's strategic acquisitions worldwide

CHINA

SWITZERLAND

Sinopec bought Switerland's Addax Petroleum Corp. for $7.2 billion, gaining access to oil fields in the Kurdistan region in Iraq and in West Africa.

GREECE

China has taken control of Greece's largest port. It has agreed with Greece to spend $700 million modernizing the facility. It has also promised to buy Greek bonds at the next bond auction.

SUDAN

China has invested $4 billion in oil production and port development in the nation.

DEM. REP. OF THE CONGO

China lent the country $5 billion in exchange for the right to mine resources including cobalt, copper and timber.

NIGERIA

Nigeria paid China's CCECC $8.3 billion to update the nation's railways.

ZAMBIA

CNMC has hundred of millions invested in Zambia's copper mining and smelting industries. It plans to invest $600 million more.

MOZAMBIQUE

The Chinese government has invested $800 million to modernize the country.

ANGOLA

Angola exports more oil to China than Saudi Arabia does. In 2004, Angola allowed Sinopec to buy a 50 percent stake in a deep-water oil field called Bloc 18.

ZIMBABWE

China International Water and Electric Corp. has received rights to grow a quarter million acres of corn. China bought that amount of land in June 2008.

LAOS AND MYANMAR (BURMA)

Several Chinese rubber firms have contracts to farm rubber.

RUSSIA

Russia sends 200,000 barrels a day of oil to China. China just opened its section of the East Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline, where 300,000 more barrels a day of oil are expected to flow. China has lent $25 billion to the project. CNPC is working with a Russian energy company to build a $5 billion refinery. They should sign an agreement with LUKoil to export Uzbek gas to China. Russia may soon export natural gas to China.

AUSTRALIA

PetroChina allied with Royal Dutch Shell to take over Arrow Energy in August, and now co-owns the formerly Australian firm that focuses on unconventional energy reserves. China may have up to 30 trillion cubic meters of unconventional natural gas deposits. As well as sending gas back to the mainland, China will use Arrows technology to tap its own gas reserves.

AUSTRALIA

Though Australia has not allowed them to buy its mining giants outright, Chinese firms invested nearly $8 billion in Australian mining between June 2008 and June 2009. In June 2009, Chinese Minmetals bought many of Oz Minerals' assets. China's Angang Steel is working with an Australian mining firm to develop the Karara iron ore project, with most of the funding for the project coming from the China Development Bank. The bank funds several other iron ore projects.

TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

Firms from China and other countries are causing a political stir, as many call for regulations on foreign firms buying Australia's land. A Tasmanian real estate agent reported that China had a strong interest in dairy farms in the north of the island.

NEW ZEALAND

Bright Food Group, owned by the Chinese government, bought Synlait, New Zealand's third-largest dairy processor.

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sovereignty over Tibet, Taiwan and Xinjiang, and Beijing supported Russia's "efforts to promote peace and stability throughout the Caucasian region and the Commonwealth of Independent States."

In September, China and Russia also joined forces with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in joint military exercises. A major 16-day affair in Kazakhstan, "Peace Mission 2010" was officially labeled a counterterrorism drill, but its scale—it involved around 5,000 troops, 1,600 armed vehicles, 100 cannons and mortars, and 50 combat aircraft—suggested an exercise in conventional warfare. The exercise was the seventh joint drill conducted by Shanghai Cooperation Organization member nations, and was the largest of its kind ever held.

And in a sign of China's expanding power and influence over the island nation of Taiwan, the two launched maritime search-and-rescue drills in the Taiwan Strait on September 16. The exercise tested the capacity of maritime personnel on both sides of the Strait to safeguard transport within it. The drill was the first of its kind jointly undertaken by China and Taiwan since the end of 2008.

As China's global clout grows, it will keep building its regional hegemony as it joins forces with Russia to form a military alliance as foretold in end-time prophecy.

■ China is positioned to sign a $2 billion agreement to construct a railway line in Iran as the first step of a broader plan to connect Beijing to Central Asia and the Middle East. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad raised the idea earlier this year, and China's railways minister visited Tehran on September 12 to finalize the contract. The new line—the first step in an entire rail system for Central Asia—will run from Tehran to the town of Khosravi on the Iran-Iraq border. Bible prophecy describes a time when great masses of soldiers from Asia will sweep into the Middle East, and the proposed rail system could help facilitate such an event.

THE SILK SUPER

BY ROBERT MORLEY

Who is China's largest trading partner?

If you guessed the United States, you're wrong. It's the European Union.

If you got the first one right, here is another question: Who are the biggest exporters in the world? First place goes to the European Union. Second goes to China. Third would then go to Germany if it wasn't already included within the EU. America comes in at a distant fourth place, followed by Japan.

The world has changed. Not long ago, America was both the largest exporter of manufactured goods and the world's most important economy.

Change is accelerating elsewhere too. "Patterns of growth" are transforming in China and Germany, reports French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde. There is a "shift and an evolution" in domestic consumption and regional trade hubs, she says.

Yes, a shift is occurring—and it is titanic. Today's global power centers of manufacturing and trade have swung back to Europe and China. The most important and lucrative trade routes are once again between the old world's East and West. The modern Silk Road is swarming with the new merchants.

The Road to Greece

The most recent example of this trend is China's growing partnership with Greece.

Encouraged by government incentives and rock-bottom prices, China is pumping hundreds of millions and on the road to billions of euros into Greece, even as Americans and other investors head for the exits. According to the *Washington Post*, the cornerstone of those plans is the "*transformation of the Mediterranean port of Piraeus into the Rotterdam of the south*" that will create a "modern gateway linking Chinese factories with consumers across Europe and North Africa" (June 9; emphasis mine throughout).

Greece's severe economic woes created an opportunity that China is exploiting. Strapped for cash, the Greek government is privatizing the economy in blitzkrieg fashion—and that has opened the doors to rich Chinese investors. Government-owned utilities, rail and transport networks, even casinos are on the auction block. In June, the giant Chinese shipping company Cosco assumed full control of the primary container dock in Piraeus. In return, this one Chinese company has promised $700 million in infrastructure upgrades. In Athens, the government is pushing China to develop a giant new distribution center in the city's old industrial sector. Beijing is also being courted to build a new monorail line, five-star hotels and theme parks.

Additionally, China is setting up a special $5 billion Greek-Chinese shipping development fund that will offer Greek shipping companies financial support to purchase Chinese-made vessels.

"We have a saying in China, 'Construct the eagle's nest, and the eagle himself will come,'" said Wei Jiafu, a high-ranking member of China's Communist Party and chief executive of Cosco, in a televised interview in June. "We have constructed such a nest in your country to attract such Chinese eagles. This is our contribution to you."

Already, *half of all Chinese merchandise and 60 percent of China's oil imports* are transported on Greek boats, according to Chinese Premier Wen Jaibao.

Yet the Chinese aren't investing in Greece out of the goodness of their hearts. It is part of a well-engineered plan to create a network of rail lines, highways, pipelines and shipping ports to boost East-West trade. The new Silk Road is booming, and China wants to control it.

Gateway to Europe

In early October, at a joint press conference with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, Wen highlighted the growing relationship between Europe and Chi-

na. To emphasize China's commitment to the European Union and the euro, he said that China would continue to support Europe's economy. "China has already bought and is holding Greek bonds and will keep a positive stance in participating and buying bonds that Greece will issue," Wen said. "China will undertake a great effort to support eurozone countries and Greece to overcome the [economic] crisis."

Wen promised to address European concerns over investment rules and copyright violations, but said the EU needed to relax remaining trade barriers with Beijing in return.

So far, the Greeks—at least the upper political and business classes (and those who are not part of the unions)—see Chinese investment as nothing short of a "gift from the gods" (*Washington Post,* op. cit.).

"The Chinese want a gateway into Europe," noted Greece's Deputy Prime Minister Theodoros Pangalos in an interview. "They are not like these Wall Street [expletive] pushing financial investments on paper. The Chinese deal in real things, in merchandise. And they will help the real economy in Greece."

Even Germany—which as a major economic exporter is increasingly in competition with China for market share—seems content to allow the Eastern merchant powerhouse more access to Europe.

Angela Merkel came out in support of China being granted "market status" on October 8. During a joint press conference with Wen, she said, "Germany will continue to *actively support the quick awarding of the market status to China* from the EU. China will intensively continue to dialogue with the EU on this issue." The U.S. and other countries currently use the fact that China is not considered a free market economy by the World Trade Organization as justification to levy tariffs and restrictions on Chinese imports.

Goodwill between Europe and China is growing in other ways too. On October 5, Bloomberg reported that Germany agreed to cede two of Europe's seats on the International Monetary Fund board. One of the seats is all but guaranteed to be given to China.

The Silk Road is becoming a superhighway.

But as much as the increased trade will help Europe over the short term, it will inevitably come at the expense of America.

Anti-American "Mart of Nations"

Already China and Europe are collaborating on joint ventures such as nuclear research and the Galileo satellite system that are specifically designed to be a counterweight to American dominance.

But even more than being a counterbalance, the new alliance will create a multipolar global economy replacing American centricity. This is exactly what your Bible prophesies will happen over the next few short years.

Isaiah 23 warns of an end-time "mart of nations" that acts in economic alliance.

HIGHWAY

This alliance includes the nations of China (Chittim) and Tyre (representing the commercial center of the European Union, also called the king of the north in other prophecies). This chapter, along with other scriptures, makes it evident that these two powerful economies are prophesied to work in confederacy to dominate global trade for a short period of time—at America's expense.

Deuteronomy 28 foretells America being *besieged* by its enemies: "And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (verse 52). Other prophecies reveal that the enemy that besieges the modern nations of Israel will be a German-led European Union (Habakkuk 1:6-17).

Besiege in the above verse means to shut up or tie up, or to be cramped, and has economic connotations. Europe will lead the world in shutting America and its allies out during a global trade war that becomes a hot war. Prophecy tells us America will be "cramped in" to the point where even food can no longer reach its shores.

The Bible contains many prophecies of that European power attacking America—and many other prophecies of America being besieged. Isaiah 23 indicates which nations will join Europe in that economic blockade! "That is where China and the giants of Asia enter the picture," writes Gerald Flurry in his booklet *Isaiah's End-Time Vision* (request a free copy).

"When [the European Union] attacks North America, there will be no help or sympathy from Asia. In fact, considering that China has come to possess most of the world's strategic sea gates (which, ironically, at one time were held by Britain and America), we believe there may be a brief alliance between the German-led [European Union] and certain Asian powers (Russia, China, Japan—the kings of the east). Should Europe … find a way to take advantage—even for a moment—of key resources and strategic holdings of China, Russia and Japan, it would have more than enough power to besiege the Anglo-Saxon nations and enslave them.

"This is why Isaiah's prophecy of an end-time 'mart of nations' that includes both European and Asian powers is so intriguing," writes Mr. Flurry. "And why the trend of collusion between these two great economic blocs is worth watching."

China's new Silk Road to Europe is rerouting the flow of global commerce and finance—and it is skirting America. The early stages of America's economic siege have begun.

"The Chinese deal in real things, in merchandise. And they will help the real economy in Greece."

—Greece's Deputy Prime Minister THEODOROS PANGALOS

Yet despite the bad news, there is great hope for America. "Two great trading blocs are positioning themselves to control the world," says Mr. Flurry in his Isaiah booklet. "Both power conglomerates are discussed in Daniel 11:40-45 and in Isaiah 23. But that trading partnership won't last long. Soon they will clash, just before Jesus Christ returns and destroys both of them."

That's the good news. World events are speeding along the greatest superhighway of all—the one leading to the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of an equitable and just global economic system that is guaranteed to bring prosperity to the whole world. ■

ISTOCK PHOTO

1 Guttenberg on a roll

Just a few months ago, German Defense Minister **Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg** was alone on what one newspaper called a "kamikaze mission": ending conscription in Germany. Now Guttenberg's proposals have been approved, giving him a major political victory.

The biggest U-turn came from the leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU), Guttenberg's own party. Just months ago, Horst Seehofer rejected plans to scrap conscription, saying they would go against a key component of German conservatism. In an interview published in *Spiegel* on September 13 he had completely changed his mind, saying "conscription is a major imposition on the freedom of young people and is only constitutionally justifiable" if the country is in danger.

The *Financial Times* called Seehofer's about-face "a testament to the political cunning of Mr. zu Guttenberg, who at 38 is seen as a possible successor to Mr. Seehofer as CSU leader and future contender to be chancellor" (September 14).

The CDU and Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Social Union formally adopted Guttenberg's position at a joint meeting of their leaders in September. "How quickly times change," wrote Germany's *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Given such spectacular success, Guttenberg seems set to go far. Philipp Missfelder, head of the CDU youth wing, has highly praised the German defense minister, calling him the "best political guarantee of survival for the [conservative] union and defense against the Green zeitgeist. Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, with his great credibility, appeals to many non-voters and former voters, so that in a very short time he has become an indispensable bearer of hope."

Continue to watch Guttenberg.

2 Europe to Islam: Get lost

Germany may have reached a watershed moment over race and immigration.

A prominent former board member of the country's central bank, Thilo Sarrazin, claims Muslim immigrants are destroying Germany's prosperity in his new book, *Abolishing Germany—How We're Putting Our Country in Jeopardy*. In it, Sarrazin details what he calls Germany's "demise," saying that with constant immigration and higher birth rates among immigrants, Germany is "turning Muslim."

An Allensbach Institute poll found that 60 percent of Germans believe Sarrazin said "many things that are correct." A mere 13 percent disagree with him.

Spiegel featured the author on its cover, calling him a "people's hero." A survey conducted by Emnid pollsters for *Bild am Sonntag* revealed that 18 percent of Germans would vote for a political party led by Sarrazin.

Considering the politically restrained atmosphere that has dominated Germany since World War II, the broad support for Sarrazin is significant. Europe has tolerated the steady growth of Islam's presence in society for decades. But that tolerance is rapidly evaporating.

OFFENSIVE The Great Mosque in Paris

Some in the Catholic Church are also starting to speak out against Islam. Piero Gheddo, a Catholic priest from the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, said Europe needs to wake up to the threat. "[T]his challenge of Islam," he said, "sooner or later will conquer the majority in Europe. The fact is that, as a people, we are becoming ever more pagan, and the religious vacuum is inevitably filled by other proposals and religious forces" (Zenit, September 7).

Watch for the Vatican to take the lead as Europe pushes back against Islam.

■ On August 31, just days before peace talks began between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority, Hamas's military wing claimed responsibility for an attack in the West Bank that killed five Israelis—two men and two women, one of whom was pregnant. The al-Qassam Brigades terrorists gunned down the Israelis in an ambush by a Jewish settlement near Hebron. Hamas has also stepped up its rocket attacks on Israel in an apparent attempt to wreck the peace talks.

3 Dear Taliban, please come back!

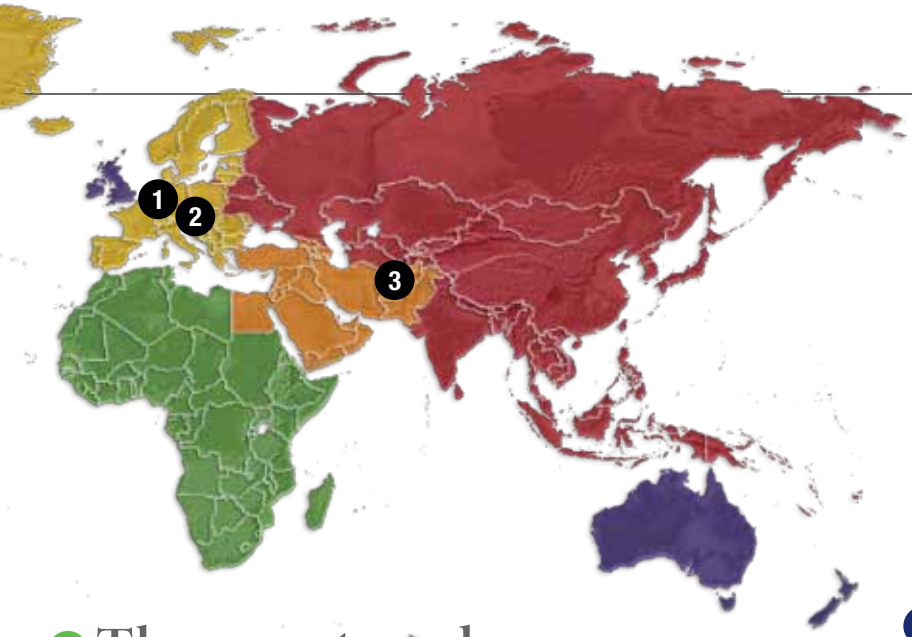
Representatives of the Taliban and the Afghan government have begun high-level, secret talks to negotiate an end to the war in Afghanistan, according to Afghan and Arab sources cited by the *Washington Post* on October 6.

Though the talks are only preliminary, this is the first time that representatives have been given authority to officially negotiate on behalf of the Afghan Taliban organization that remains of the government the U.S. ousted in its 2001 invasion of Afghanistan. It is now based in Pakistan.

The *Post* says the agreement under discussion would place Taliban officials in Afghanistan's government. "What it really boils down to is the Americans both supporting and in some cases maybe even participating in talking with the enemy," a European official said.

The Taliban is in a strong position. It is not being forced to negotiate out of fear of defeat; in fact, it has little to lose. What sorts of concessions would the U.S. and Kabul have to make to bring it to a political settlement?

When similar plans were pursued last year, we wrote on theTrumpet.com, "This policy is a defeat in all but name. The world's greatest military power … cannot defeat the Taliban. This demonstrates what [we have] been forecasting for many years: America has won its last war."



UNJUST A Canadian judge ruled that prostitution should be more widespread.

4 The secret nuclear program at America's back door

Venezuela is "carrying out the first studies" toward building a nuclear energy program, President Hugo Chávez announced September 27.

"BIENVENIDO" Venezuela's Chávez and Iran's Ahmadinejad have become nuclear partners.

"We're taking on the project of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and they aren't going to stop us," Chávez told a news conference.

Venezuela also has a deal with Moscow for Russia to build a nuclear reactor in the country. Yet these are probably not the most concerning of Venezuela's nuclear projects.

At a briefing on September 21, Roger F. Noriega, former assistant secretary at the State Department, unveiled evidence that Venezuela has been working closely to keep Iran supplied with uranium. "Chávez has been developing the program for two years with the collaboration of Iran, a nuclear rogue state," wrote Noriega in *Foreign Policy*. "[T]hese documents suggest that Venezuela is helping Iran obtain uranium and evade international sanctions, all steps that are apparent violations of the UN Security Council resolutions meant to forestall Iran's illegal nuclear weapons program" (October 5).

Noriega says Iranian and Venezuelan officials signed a secret science and technology agreement formalizing nuclear technology cooperation two years ago. "The week after the agreement was signed, Venezuela's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum prepared a presentation for the International Atomic Energy Agency documenting the establishment of a 'nuclear power program' in Venezuela. That presentation, obtained from sources within the Venezuelan government, reveals that an 'Atomic Energy Committee' has been managing the nuclear program since 2007."

Venezuela has strong links with drug smugglers, and it hates America. It is willing to deal with any of America's enemies, be it Russia, China or Iran. This represents a grave danger to the U.S., as it can offer any enemy of the U.S. a foot in America's back door.

5 Making Canada safe for prostitution

Prostitution in Canada got a big legal boost on September 28. Ontario Superior Court Justice Susan Himel struck down three key sections of the Canadian Criminal Code dealing with prostitution, saying the code was "not in accord with the principles of fundamental justice."

The three laws struck down pertain to operating brothels, procuring a prostitute or earning money off prostitution, and communicating in public places for prostitution.

As a result, "sex workers cannot only form guilds, hire bodyguards and pay taxes," noted the *Chronicle Herald*, "but men and women who trade sex for money can better count on police protection, and street prostitutes can conduct their business in less shady spots …" (October 2).

In other words, Ontario's illicit sex trade will likely expand and become more mainstream. And many believe it's only a matter of time before Himel's decision ripples beyond Ontario. If the ruling withstands appeal, the *Calgary Herald* noted on September 29, "the ruling could have implications across the country … and could help set similar precedents in other courts." Many fear the ruling could touch off a national trend whereby prostitution laws across Canada are watered down or repealed.

■ On October 10, Carl Paladino, a candidate for New York governor, said he opposed indoctrinating children with pro-homosexuality views and would veto any same-sex "marriage" legislation. The criticism he received linked to a just-released Pew Research poll: For the first time, fewer than half of all Americans are opposed to homosexual "marriage." In 1995, 65 percent were against the policy and 27 percent supported it. In 2010, just 48 percent are opposed, and 42 percent are in favor.

GETTY IMAGES, LIONEL BONAVENTURE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, ATTA KENARE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, ISTOCKPHOTO

EUROPE

■ The Catholic Church has found itself in hot water once again, in both Belgium and Germany. In the first half of this year, 475 cases of sexual abuse by priests were reported, said a Belgian commission in a September report. In August, it was confirmed that the former head of the Catholic Church in Belgium, Cardinal Godfried Danneels, advised a victim of sexual abuse to keep silent about his treatment until after the bishop who had abused him retired. On August 31, the German Catholic Church published new guidelines saying all allegations of abuse must be reported to authorities. The old guidelines simply "advised" the church to report abuses if the allegations were "proven."

■ Once again Europe has been hit by a series of strikes. French unions walked out in a national strike on September 7 as parliament debated raising the retirement age from 60 to 62. Refinery workers and students joined similar protests October 12 to 14, raising fears of fuel shortages. Britain was hit by strikes on September 7 as train station and maintenance workers, signalers and some drivers protested plans to cut 800 workers. On October 13, protesters blocked off the entrance to the Acropolis in Greece, claiming they were owed two years of back pay. Romanian tax employees also went on strike from October 13 to 14, until the Finance Ministry gave in to their demands.

■ UBS AG'S **BHANU BAWEJA**

"Given the risk to the dollar and U.S. assets from their fiscal position, [China and Russia] want to reduce their dependence on the dollar as an invoicing currency."

MIDEAST

■ Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visited Lebanon in mid-October in what was seen as a major boost to Iran's ally and proxy Hezbollah. He received an enthusiastic welcome in Beirut, toured a Hezbollah stronghold in southern Lebanon, and gave a speech predicting Israel's demise. Ahmadinejad and his Lebanese counterpart, Michel Suleiman, signed a number of agreements in the areas of health, tourism, energy and water. The visit demonstrated Iran's growing clout and confidence within the region.

UPSET French protesters clash with police near Paris.

■ Iran announced September 7 that it has reached self-sufficiency in producing petrol and no longer needs foreign imports, thus foiling sanctions. Oil Minister Masoud Mirkazemi said Iranian refineries are pumping out 66.5 million liters of petrol daily. New sanctions by world powers have targeted Iran's petrol imports; major oil companies have stopped selling petrol to Iran in recent months. The gap has been largely filled, however, by Turkish and Chinese companies. Combined with Tehran's claims of refining self-sufficiency, the willingness of such companies to continue supplying the rogue state demonstrates the futility of sanctions in pressuring Iran.

■ Turkey and Iran should increase their cooperation and solidarity, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said September 16. "I think that there are initiatives we can launch together to ensure welfare, peace, stability and confidence in the entire region," he said, adding that the two countries' geographical closeness offered unique opportunities for them to boost economic relations. Turkey's increasingly friendly relations with Iran mean trouble for Israel, which has relied on its defense agreement with Turkey inked in 1996 to help stabilize the region.

ASIA

■ After Kyrgyzstan's October 10 parliamentary elections, five political parties opened discussions on forming a coalition government. Several Russia-backed parties, like the staunchly nationalist Ata-Zhurt, campaigned on closing America's Manas military base near the nation's capital of Bishkek, a crucial hub for U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan. Last year, under pressure from Moscow, Kyrgyzstan's parliament voted to close the base, but it then settled for quadrupling the U.S.'s rent payment instead. Russia, which views Kyrgyzstan as being within its sphere of influence, dislikes America's presence in the country and will likely exploit Kyrgyzstan's shaky political situation to try to oust the U.S.

■ Beijing and Moscow announced plans on October 13 to begin trading in each other's currencies by the end of this year, which would shrink the dollar's role in global commerce. Amid the global financial crisis, both China, the world's largest energy consumer, and Russia, the world's largest energy supplier, have called for the dollar's role in the financial system to be diminished, and are taking concrete steps toward that end.

■ An increase in intra-Asian commerce and improving liquidity of Asian currencies bode well for the usage of regional currencies, and cast ominous clouds on the greenback. On August 27, Malaysia's central bank liberalized its foreign exchange rules to allow non-residents to convert foreign cash into its currency, the ringgit. China has also moved to allow yuan/ringgit exchanges, within a 5 percent reference band. The U.S. dollar has been the primary currency in the region for so long that it still carries weighty market advantages. But dependency on the dollar is diminishing with every passing month. Gone are the days when the greenback was the only currency option for international trade.

LATIN AMERICA/ AFRICA

■ Emerging-market economies in Asia and South America have been barely affected by the "global" economic slowdown. In Brazil, for ex-

INCENSED Mozambicans overturn a car in the streets of Maputo during protests against rising food and fuel prices.

ample, the economy is booming at a 7.55 percent growth rate and unemployment is at a record low of 6.7 percent. In Argentina, the economy is growing at 8.1 percent, in Peru, 8.3 percent and in Paraguay, 9 percent. The contrast to America's 1.7 percent growth rate illustrates just how bad things are in the U.S.

■ One exception to the rule is Venezuela, which is suffering from 30 percent annual inflation and sporadic food shortages. Nevertheless, Socialist President Hugo Chávez is pushing ahead with his controversial nationalization program. In October, he ordered the seizure of a major fertilizer plant, a motor lubricants maker, more farmland and agricultural supplies company Agroislena. Upon taking over the fertilizer producer, Chávez immediately slashed fertilizer prices by 40 percent. Without government funding, the plant will now most likely shut down and fertilizer shortages will result. Almost every major industry Chávez has nationalized is operating in default, with the result that shortages are commonplace. If not for Venezuela's vast oil deposits, the economy would probably have collapsed long ago.

■ Thirteen people were killed in riots in Mozambique at the beginning of September as the government raised the price of food, water and electricity. Over 400 people were arrested in connection with the riots. Police opened fire on the thousands of demonstrators as they lit tires, looted food warehouses and did around $3.3 million worth of damage. Wheat prices have soared some 70 percent on international markets since last year, largely because of fires and drought in Russia.

■ Five hundred women were raped in eastern Congo in July and August, UN officials announced on September 7. Speaking in front of the Security Council, officials said this shows that both rebel groups and the government use rape as a weapon. They also said that over 15,000 rapes were reported in both 2008 and 2009.

■ Floods forced nearly 60,000 people out of their homes in south Sudan in August. The torrential rains left most of the state capital of Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, Aweil, underwater. Around 2 million people have been killed in a decades-long civil war in the area. Almost half of the 8 million in south Sudan are thought to be short of food. The floods are just one more in a long line of catastrophes for the country.

ANGLO-AMERICA

■ On October 12, a California federal judge ordered the U.S. military to end its 17-year-old "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prevents open homosexuals from serving in the military. Judge Virginia Phillips ruled the act was unconstitutional on September 9. If the administration does not appeal the ruling or loses an appeal, open homosexuality will be permitted for all personnel in all U.S. military branches serving all over the world.

■ FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT **TONY PERKINS**

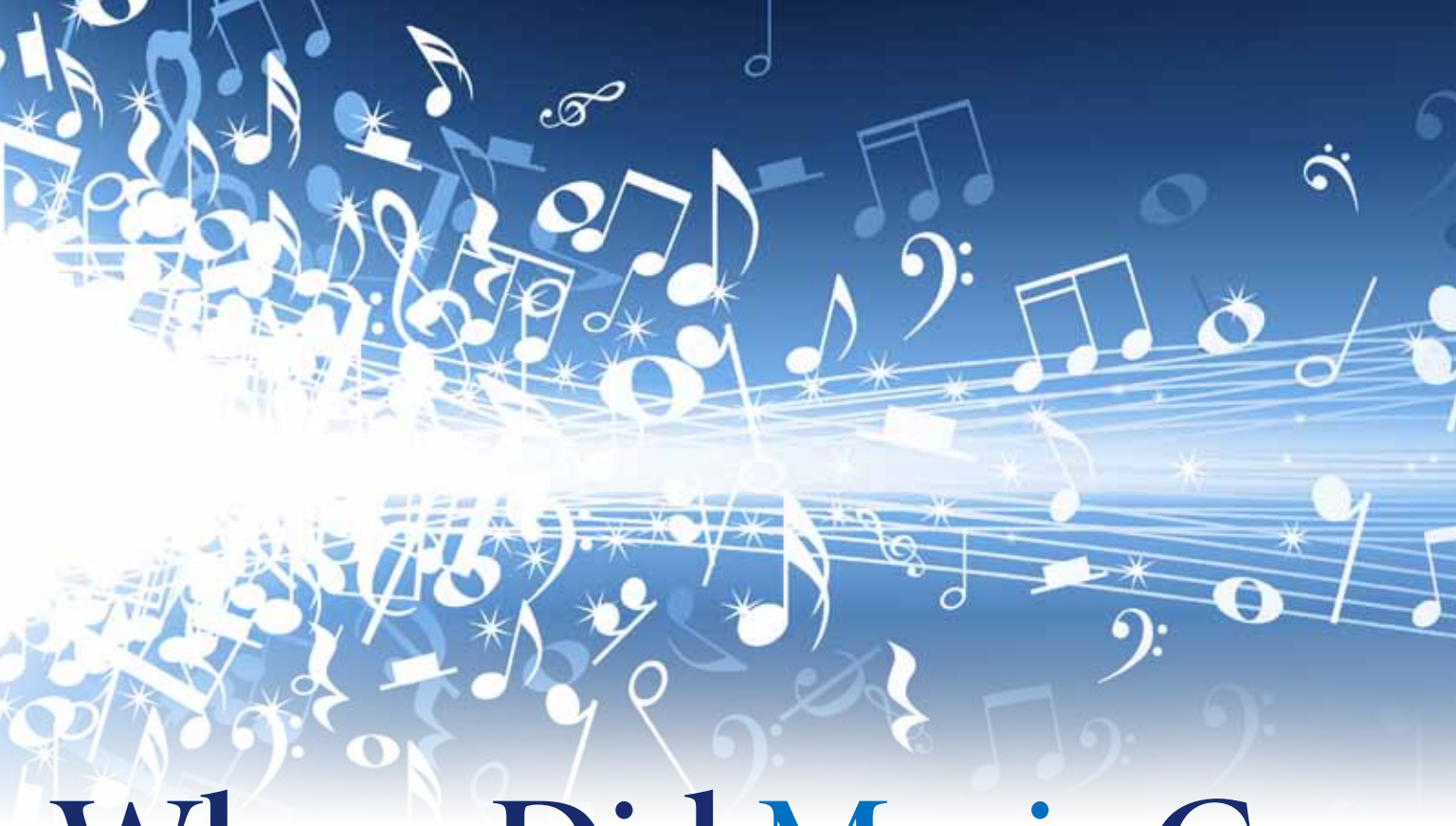
"Once again, an activist federal judge is using the military to advance a liberal social agenda, disregarding the views of all four military service chiefs and the constitutional role of Congress."

■ The deputy chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has said that intelligence agencies have wasted billions of dollars through mismanagement and underperforming programs that have fallen behind, some of which have been cancelled. "The American public would be outraged if they knew," Sen. Christopher Bond said.

■ In early October, Britain recognized Druidry as a legitimate religion under charity law, meaning it qualifies for tax exemptions. "Elevating [druids] to the same status as Christianity is but the latest example of how the bedrock creed of this country is being undermined," Melanie Philips wrote in the *Daily Mail* (October 4).

■ The number of British 18-to-24-year-olds undergoing treatment for drug addiction decreased substantially in 2009-2010, with the one exception of cannabis, according to Britain's National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA). But this is not exactly good news. The NTA report stated: "Despite this apparent step away from the most harmful street drugs, there is some evidence of a corresponding move towards new synthetic compounds (sometimes known as legal highs) such as mephedrone. The nature of the legal highs market means that new substances are continually emerging, bringing with them renewed concerns about their actual chemical composition and the potential harmful effects." In their search for escape and new pleasures, young people are turning to new drugs, with completely unknown side effects.

BERTRAND GUAY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, SERGIO COSTA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Where Did Music Com

Learn what musicologists have never taught.

BY RYAN MALONE

Is music a happy accident? Is this glorious organization of sounds the product of millennia of chance discoveries, trial and error, and so-called evolutionary development? Did vocal music originate from prolonged grunts of early human-like beings? Did instrumental music develop accidentally from a prehistoric hunter becoming fascinated with how his bow twanged after an arrow was unleashed?

The greatest human minds in musicology cannot answer this most basic question: What is the origin of music?

The answer is as inspiring as it is little understood.

Most music historians begin their study of music around the third century A.D. at the earliest, overlooking four millennia of music history—and completely ignoring music's *origin*.

The history of "ancient" music needs rewriting, because the greatest source available has been rejected: the Word of God.

Even many professed Bible scholars, though they may reject evolutionists' happy-accident theory, believe music originated with a descendent of Cain named Jubal (Genesis 4:21). Because they view the Bible as a valid *yet flawed* historical resource that is not superior or more special than any other historical text, they lend no special credence to what the Bible (and its supposedly biased Jewish authors) says over any other historian's work.

But if we proclaim to follow Christ, we should—as He said—live by "*every* word … of God" (Matthew 4:4). "*All* scripture is given by inspiration of God …" (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible actually indicates that the *first* man knew and practiced music. What's more, music existed long before Adam.

Music Before Man

When God was talking to Job, putting this wise man in his place in comparison to the creative feats of God Almighty, He asked a question that gives insight into history *before Earth's creation*. "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?" God asked, "When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4, 7).

This reveals that God created angels before He created Earth, that they witnessed this magnificent moment, that they shouted for joy, and that they were singing!

Consider how sound exists in this spirit realm. Ezekiel heard the "noise" of the great cherubim (Ezekiel 1:24). The book of Revelation records the lyrics of the angels' shouting and singing around God's heavenly throne, not to mention that they are playing instruments in this spiritual dimension.

The Bible reveals that God sings (Zephaniah 3:17). He has always existed—without beginning of days or end of life (Hebrews 7:3). The question then arises, since *God* has always existed, wouldn't *His attributes*—His eyes, hair, hands and voice—have always existed, as well as His infinite wisdom? (see Proverbs 8:22). Surely, therefore, music—or at the very least, the *capacity* for music—has always existed.

Now, there was a moment when music took on a more institutionalized form. That was with the creation of angels. In them, God created innate musical ability. The chief of this angelic (and musical) creation was the archangel Lucifer.

Lucifer's Music

Ezekiel 28:12-13 relate: "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz,

ISTOCKPHOTO

e From?

and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: *the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee* in the day that thou wast created."

This is not a physical king, or else the notion of musical instruments being created "in" him makes no sense. This refers to a magnificent, beautiful, wise spirit being, an angel, who was in Eden.

This being's "tabret" is very similar to a timbrel, or percussion instrument of the Hebrews (the tabret). The phrase "thy pipes" comes from a root meaning something "hollow," but it is not the word used to describe the typical Hebrew pipes. In fact, the word *neqeb* is used only here in the Hebrew Bible. It appears this was a unique SPIRIT instrument that required a unique Hebrew word, though similar to the pipes.

The great cherub Lucifer was endowed with musical talents beyond human capability. God told Job the morning stars "sang together." This means there was ensemble, community and cooperation in music, and Lucifer was of course included. How this must have changed, though, when he rebelled! Imagine how distorted and warped Lucifer's music became when he turned from God's way. Just before the description of Lucifer's fall, Isaiah 14:11 talks about the "noise" of his *neballim*—another instrument, perhaps like bagpipes—being brought to the ground.

Harmony of the Spheres

After God created angels, He created the material universe. Did you know that music was BUILT INTO this *physical* realm? The Hebrews have long understood the idea of the "harmony of the spheres." This harmony refers to the planets actually being analogous to each other as musical pitches—philosophically in the sense that their distances held the same ratios as between pleasing musical intervals, and literally in the sense that the planets, or spheres, resounded in actual tones.

This belief is now attributed to Pythagoras. Aristotle said that, to the Pythagoreans, "the whole heaven [was] a musical scale and a number."

In his book *Music of the Spheres,* science writer Jamie James explained, "Here, in our first encounter with the concept of the musical universe, it is clear that the Pythagoreans did not simply discern congruities among number and music and the cosmos: They identified them. Music was number, and the cosmos was music. … The Pythagoreans conceived of the cosmos as a vast lyre, with crystal spheres in the place of strings." The spheres were known to be spaced according to the same ratios that existed between frequencies in the musical scale.

King David had this understanding. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork," he wrote. "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their *line* is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun" (Psalm 19:1-4). The word for *line* in verse 4 can mean rope or musical string. In fact, when the Apostle Paul quoted this verse to the Romans, he used a Greek word for "line" that actually translates into "musical sound." "But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their SOUND went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world" (Romans 10:18).

The ancient Hebrews, who were well aware of this astronomical reality, undoubtedly applied it to their understanding of music theory. Man did not start with a one-, three- or five-note scale and slowly decide that seven tones work better together mathematically. God gave His people understanding in science, astronomy and the use of *stringed* instruments—and a seven-tone scale whose relationships parallel the solar system!

In addition, the Hebrews believed, as the Bible indicates, that the movement of these celestial bodies produces certain sounds.

Aristotle believed this as well. James continued, "[T]he motion of bodies of that size must produce a noise, since on our Earth the motion of bodies far inferior in size and speed of movement has that effect. Also, when the sun and the moon, they say, and all the stars, so great in number and in size, are moving with so rapid a motion, how should they not produce a sound immensely great? Starting from this argument, and the observation that their speeds, as measured by their distances, are in the same ratios as musical concordances, they assert that the sound given forth by the circular movement of the stars is a harmony." Plato believed that "the celestial logic, once it was understood, would be reconcilable with a sublime system of mathematical harmony."

Now modern science is supporting what the Hebrews believed. Sound can occur anywhere pressure waves can travel, meaning that sound waves can echo through the atmospheres of the planets and even the gas surrounding an enlarging black hole. The universe contains the equivalent of rhythmic pulses, like a percussion section, as well as low drones, like a bass section.

Science has also discovered "heavenly music bellowed out by the sun's atmosphere" (Space.com, April 18, 2007). These frequencies, at a thousandth of a hertz, are too low for human ears to hear (we can hear between 20 and 20,000 Hz). The sun's corona carry magnetic sound waves similar to those of musical instruments. "[E]xplosive events at the sun's surface appear to trigger acoustic waves that bounce back and forth between both ends of the loops, a phenomenon known as a standing wave," the Space.com article stated. Standing waves are "exactly the same waves you see on a guitar string," said Robertus von Fay-Siebenburgen of the Solar Physics and Space Plasma Research Center at the University of Sheffield (ibid.).

By flying through space, celestial bodies are emitting sound. Deeper study of the heavens indicates that those sounds are working together much like a musical composition.

The Bible indicates that God created sound waves to emanate from all creation in an organized fashion to make a certain music—perceptible at least to Him. 1 Chronicles 16:33 states that "the trees of the wood sing out at the presence of the Lord." Isaiah 44:23 reads: "Sing, O

ye heavens … shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein ….” Isaiah 55:12 says, “[T]he mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” The other obvious natural music would be that of the animals, which also sing (Song of Solomon 2:12; Ecclesiastes 12:4; Psalm 104:12).

God sees His creation as a musical composition. And perhaps even the smallest particles are vibrating and resounding in lovely music that God can hear and enjoy.

Music in Eden

Now we come to the first man and the Garden of Eden. Surely the Almighty Creator and Musical Expert would have wanted to instruct His creation in the science of sound and how it could be managed and organized for such magnificent purposes! After all, God enjoys music and possesses great capacity for it. He created innate musical ability in His angelic handiwork, the chief of which was a musical genius.

A glance through the Bible—the Psalms in particular—shows that music is *vital* in the proper worship of our Creator. God in fact COMMANDS the use of music as part of the worship act, especially on the weekly Sabbaths and annual festivals. God then would have instructed the first man in the basic principles of music, or at least have guided him in finding the fundamental facts in this field for himself.

Since God created man on the sixth day and used the seventh day to teach him these essential spiritual truths, would this first “worship service” have been without worship music? Or would it have been the ideal time to show man that it is “a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High”? (Psalm 92:1).

Consider that Psalm just quoted. The inscription—part of the original divinely inspired Hebrew text—reads: “A Psalm or Song for the sabbath day.” The title occurs in the Jewish *Targum* as “A Psalm and song which Adam uttered on the Sabbath day.”

The Jews teach that Adam “uttered” it on the Sabbath. That doesn’t mean he composed it, but rather that he sang it. Perhaps the Creator God—ready to instruct Adam on that first Sabbath day—had a hymn for the first man and woman to sing. How appropriate this hymn would be, which actually teaches that it is a “good thing” to give thanks and sing praise to the Lord and the Most High.

If Psalm 92 is, in fact, that first hymn for the first man and woman, then we have some incredible insight into Eden!

Verses 2-3 read, “To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, Upon an instrument of ten strings [literally: “the tenth”], and upon the *psaltery* [Hebrew *nebel*]; upon the *harp* [Hebrew *kinnor*] with a solemn sound.” The term “solemn sound” is from a Hebrew word that implies meditating or musing. Music—singing hymns especially—was given to humans largely to draw our minds closer to God, especially on the day He has set aside for special worship of Him.

Consider, though, how musical *instruments* are named in this ancient psalm—what’s more, *stringed* instruments, which are more complex in design than simple wind or percussion instruments.

Could musical instruments have been in Eden? God had just created much more complex creations—for example, the human body. And God designed the *garden* to be where His presence was. God’s heavenly presence is surrounded by music—not just vocal but instrumental as well (see Revelation 5:8). Would God not have created or revealed the design for physical manifestations of these heavenly instruments?

In the 1920s, excavations in Megiddo uncovered approximately 20 floor stones dating to 3,300-3,000 B.C. The carvings on one of them depicted a female harpist with a triangular shaped instrument having eight or nine strings—quite an advanced instrument.

Archaeologically, this harp appears out of nowhere, especially if it had to evolve from a one-stringed instrument. It is possible that mankind’s musical and instrumental advancements were washed away in the Flood. But God could have *revealed* the fundamentals of sound science to man, just as He revealed the fundamental principles of farming. Adam could have *started* with a multi-string harp. If God patterned Eden after the heavenly design, then why not?

Clearly Eden’s garden pictured God’s presence. The Bible reveals that, wherever God’s presence is, there is music: the heavenly throne room, the ark of the covenant, the first and second temples (which housed the ark), and the area in question here—the Garden of Eden.

Isaiah 51 contains a prophecy of how the world will look upon the Messiah’s return in power and glory: “For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the VOICE OF MELODY” (verse 3).

God sees His creation as a musical composition. And perhaps even the smallest particles are vibrating and resounding in lovely music that God can hear and enjoy.

This verse is about Earth being restored to *the way things were in Eden*. So it supplies clues of what life was like for Adam and Eve before their expulsion from the Garden! There was, in fact, music: “the voice of melody.” The Hebrew for *melody* means PSALM, and comes from the root “to pluck.” Again, would God not have given Adam a psalm to sing on the first Sabbath day? Could God have given him an instrument and taught him how to pluck it as he and his wife sang praises?

Music did not originate clumsily and serendipitously from prehistoric brutes. Nor did it originate nine centuries into the biblical record with Jubal, who fathered the *mishandling* of music. The capacity for music had *no beginning*—like the God who is surrounded by it, who created it in His angelic creation, the physical universe, and into the garden sanctuary where He planted the first human beings.

By being given the ability to understand, appreciate, enjoy and produce music, mankind can partake of something with an eternal past—the very mind and greatness of the Creator God! ■

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On the Edge of Tyranny

Within barely nine months of the Lisbon Treaty coming into effect, EU elites have moved to consolidate their imperial power. BY RON FRASER

Eastern Europeans are starting to get edgy. Having lived for five years under the boot heel of Nazi terror barely 70 years ago, followed by crushing Soviet Communist dictatorships lasting over 40 years, they fear that by joining the European Union, their nations may have leaped from the frying pan into the fire.

They have reason to be concerned.

It has taken less than one year since the enacting of the Lisbon Treaty for EU elites to move to establish *the world's largest diplomatic force* and a consolidated *European police force,* and to commence moves to develop *a combined European army* and implement a *pan-European spy network.*

Through the implementation of treaties, the European combine has evolved from the European Coal and Steel Community, comprising just six nations, to a 27-nation monolith comprising a single imperial political entity. To astute observers of this process, the EU's moves over the past year are proof positive of EU elites' imperialist intentions.

The sharpest minds now fear that these latest moves may recreate the very tyranny that European elites duped the public into believing the EU was set up to prevent.

Let's Form an Army

Herbert Armstrong said often during the early postwar years that the German Nazi elites had gone underground during the last stages of World War II, to re-emerge to revive their imperialist vision within new Europe. Many other authors at the time agreed.

Recently I spoke with a former British Army colonel who was an aide to Germany's first postwar chancellor, Konrad Adenauer. He confirmed that Adenauer oversaw the careful placement of ex-Nazis back into positions of influence in education, the judiciary, commerce, banking, business and industry after the war.

The result has been the education of an upper stratum within the German social order that is pursuing the old vision of German hegemony. Of this the German public is largely innocently ignorant.

Having successfully moved to establish an EU diplomatic force—intended to subsume the once-sovereign diplomatic corps of the once-independent nations that have since handed over their sovereignty to Brussels/Berlin—senior German political leaders want to take the next step. On the sidelines of a meeting of the EU's defense ministers in Ghent, Belgium, in September, Christian Schmidt, parliamentary secretary at the German Defense Ministry, said, in relation to national defense, that the pressure on governments to cut costs had "led to the realization that we have a lot of common interests in Europe."

Guy Verhofstadt, who leads the liberal grouping in the European Parliament, argued, "We have now a diplomatic service, which is very important, but we also need the other instrument—a common European defense, a common European army. And certainly, at a time when every European country has to make savings, *maybe it's the right time to build up this common European army"* (emphasis mine throughout).

The best observers know that since the Treaty of Rome in 1957, which established the foundation for European unity, a pan-European military force was inevitable.

Even before World War II, Herbert Armstrong prophesied this when it was on nobody else's mind. From the earliest edition of the *Plain Truth* magazine in 1934, he was writing that Europe would become a united superpower.

Soon after presenting a number of options to refine Germany's military force into a high-tech, professional rapid-response machine, on September 2 Germany's Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg unveiled the latest initiative for the development of a pan-European military: the European Air Transport Command (EATC).

This joint military air transport command "is to be prepared to conduct future war missions of the German military (Bundeswehr) and other European states in a far more efficient and cost-effective way," German-Foreign-Policy.com reported (September 2; our translation).

Just what does this mean for Germany, for Europe, and for the rest of the world? It means that the nation that gave the world two global wars in the space of just two decades of the 20th century is gearing for war once again! Read it for yourself: This force "is to be prepared to conduct *future*

DREAMSTIME

war missions of the German military." The German military figures as *first priority*. "[O]ther European states" tag along, but *Germany calls the tune!*

So there ought to be no real surprise that the new head of this joint European air command is, you guessed it, a German senior military officer. The same source states, "The first commander is a major general of the German Air Force (Luftwaffe)."

The following sentence reads like it could have been taken right out of one of Herbert Armstrong's extremely prescient prophetic descriptions of the foreordained future of Germany. It is certainly in line with the detailed prophetic articles penned by the editor in chief of the *Trumpet* magazine, even as it is in very direct alignment with the detailed prophecies in your Bible for the Germany of today.

British courts no longer have legal power to act in the ultimate interests of British Crown subjects or of Britain itself.

"The EATC *will place in true perspective the politics of war of the EU states* and *create further steps towards the development of an EU army*. The joining together of the EU national military forces *serves especially the state that has the most political influence in the EU*—GERMANY" (ibid.).

Well, you certainly can't say we didn't warn you. For over 50 years under the administration of Herbert Armstrong, the *Plain Truth* magazine hammered away at the inevitability of what has now become a current-day REALITY!

Now, if you can just grasp that reality, then prepare for the double whammy: "Further on, the military explain, they also want, with the help of EATC, to extend the European influence within NATO. With this the intent is to gear against any U.S. reaction to being rivaled by a newly dominant world political rival in Berlin."

Isn't it about time that you really educated yourself in just what is going on in Berlin for the third time in less than a century? The above quotes are thrown into even starker light when it is realized that they come from German minds that really understand the motive and intent behind these moves by the German Defense Ministry!

Expanding Police Powers

Two years ago, clandestine EU plans for the creation of a European police force to overarch and inevitably supersede all the national police forces of EU member nations were exposed. As the *Express* reported at the time, "[P]lans for the study will fuel fears that Brussels is planning a fresh power grab once the EU constitution process is completed at the end of this year" (express.co.uk, May 25, 2008).

Those plans have since morphed into reality.

Speaking in September at the UK Independence Party's annual conference in Torquay, UKIP's London Member of the European Parliament Gerard Batten declared that "the European Union is creating its own system of criminal law. *The EU is in the process of creating its own police state.* … Our current situation is of course that over 80 percent of our new laws now originate in the institutions of the EU, it controls most of the major areas of policy, and Britain is well on the way to its intended status of a mere region of the European Union. … [O]ur armed forces are being gradually subsumed into what is eventually intended to become *common European armed forces* under the direction of the Lisbon Treaty's Common Foreign Security and Defense Policy. … [O]*ur ancient and precious freedoms and protections under English law are being destroyed.*"

This is the current reality of a once great Great Britain that has become but a lackey to Brussels/Berlin. The teeth of the old lion have been drawn. The once proudly regal beast mutely faces caging by the EU monolith.

Batten continued: "Under a European Arrest Warrant, the extradition of a British subject has been reduced to a mere bureaucratic formality." This has already been implemented, with British subjects incarcerated in foreign jails in the EU. "[E]ven the home secretary has no power to intervene, as they once had, *even if it is glaringly obvious that a grave injustice is being done*. Extradition has been reduced to the mere export of the carcasses of accused persons."

The reality of this latest step toward EU tyranny is that British courts no longer have legal power to act in the ultimate interests of British Crown subjects or of Britain itself!

Perhaps the gravest injustice built into the EU system is that of Trials in Absentia. As Batten described this massive abuse of the rights of British subjects of the Crown, "Under an EU Framework Decision, Trials in Absentia must be transposed into UK law by 2011, or 2014 at the latest. This will mean that *a British citizen can be tried in their absence in another EU country and if found guilty the British police will have to arrest them so they can be dispatched to the member state concerned!*

"The convicted person cannot argue that they did not return to the relevant country because they did not trust the legal system …. The British court will have no power to protect them."

Already advanced, the machinery has been created and is largely in place to establish the European Union as a vast continental police state. The system as Batten describes it is founded upon the following institutions: "a *European Public Prosecutor; Europol,* its own police force; the *Euro Gendarmerie,* its own paramilitary police force; the *European Investigation Order* compelling British police to investigate their own citizens on behalf of foreign states; the *European Arrest Warrant* enabling citizens to be transported across borders with the minimum of fuss; and the ability of one state to collect fines and confiscate assets across borders" (ibid.).

With its own massive diplomatic service, its own legal and policing systems, and a European army in the making, one wonders how much further this movement toward consolidating tyrannical government has to go! Well, wonder no more, for the EU elites have also announced their *pièce de résistance:* a pan-European spy force!

Europe's CIA

German-Foreign-Policy.com reported on this remarkable development. "With the cooperation of the German Foreign Intelligence Service, Brussels is proceeding with the creation of an intelligence service for the EU," it wrote on September 27. "The new body, which is to be integrated into the EU's External Affairs Services (EAS) by December 1, will be derived through the expansion of the EU's currently existing Joint Situation Center (SitCen). The SitCen, which is outside of any parliamentary control, maintains a cell of intelligence services, including the German Federal Intelligence Service (BND)."

The British organization Open Europe is warning that this will turn into a "European CIA."

The article continued, "In the mid-'90s the discussion … began in Germany. According to the unofficial periodical *Internationale Politik* in 1996, 'in the course of the development of a security and defense policy, Europe will need a common intelligence service with capacities yet to be structured to ensure a higher efficiency.' This has be-

➤ See **TYRANNY** page 36

MARK RALSTON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; GETTY IMAGES; PHOTOSTOGO

Practice Happy

Follow the biblical prescription: To be happy, act happy. BY PHILIP NICE

Do you have a pencil? Place it in your teeth, and don't let it touch your lips. Great! We'll come back to this. Now, think of something you enjoy. Coffee and a Sunday paper, beautiful hiking weather, an unexpected snow day, a pencil that tastes like beef jerky. Whatever it is, the reason you enjoy it is ultimately that it makes you happy.

If we could draw happiness out of a stream or pluck it from a tree, we would. We would seal it up in jam jars on the counter, sorted by flavor: delight, joy, contentment, belonging, peace.

Everybody wants happiness, but it doesn't come in jam jars. Though we may not always know where it comes from, we *can* see the effects. When people are happy, we smile. When positive, we nod. When amused, we laugh.

But here's something interesting: Scientists analyzing happiness have discovered that the thing *also works in reverse.* When you smile, you become happier.

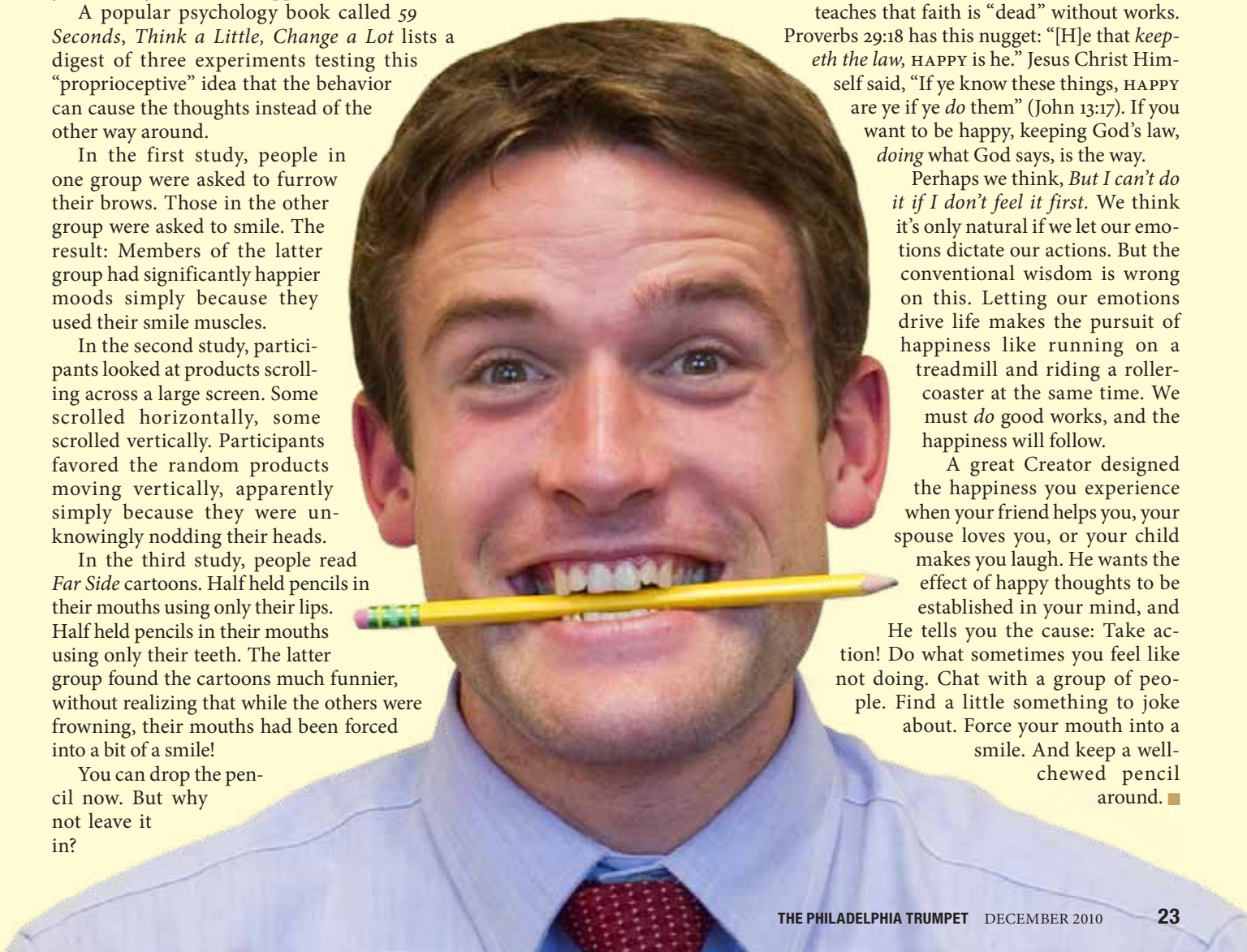
A popular psychology book called *59 Seconds, Think a Little, Change a Lot* lists a digest of three experiments testing this "proprioceptive" idea that the behavior can cause the thoughts instead of the other way around.

In the first study, people in one group were asked to furrow their brows. Those in the other group were asked to smile. The result: Members of the latter group had significantly happier moods simply because they used their smile muscles.

In the second study, participants looked at products scrolling across a large screen. Some scrolled horizontally, some scrolled vertically. Participants favored the random products moving vertically, apparently simply because they were unknowingly nodding their heads.

In the third study, people read *Far Side* cartoons. Half held pencils in their mouths using only their lips. Half held pencils in their mouths using only their teeth. The latter group found the cartoons much funnier, without realizing that while the others were frowning, their mouths had been forced into a bit of a smile!

You can drop the pencil now. But why not leave it in?



Another author collected hundreds of studies in a book called *Feelings: The Perception of Self.* All of them concluded that behavior can actually cause feelings.

Maybe this phenomenon seems like a magical shortcut to happiness—or, if your eyes are scrolling side-to-side, maybe you think of it more as cutesy junk science. But nod your head and think about this: It reflects an important truth about happiness.

"Commit thy *works* unto the Lord, and thy *thoughts* shall be established" (Proverbs 16:3).

The Bible teaches that our actions flow from our thoughts. But in this proverb, the Creator of happiness indicates that the reverse can also be true: Thoughts can flow from actions. In real-life terms, if we take action and do what God commands, our minds and hearts will be settled, mature, at peace—happy.

The Bible often stresses how actions matter. The book of James, for instance, teaches that faith is "dead" without works. Proverbs 29:18 has this nugget: "[H]e that *keepeth the law,* happy is he." Jesus Christ Himself said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye *do* them" (John 13:17). If you want to be happy, keeping God's law, *doing* what God says, is the way.

Perhaps we think, *But I can't do it if I don't feel it first.* We think it's only natural if we let our emotions dictate our actions. But the conventional wisdom is wrong on this. Letting our emotions drive life makes the pursuit of happiness like running on a treadmill and riding a roller-coaster at the same time. We must *do* good works, and the happiness will follow.

A great Creator designed the happiness you experience when your friend helps you, your spouse loves you, or your child makes you laugh. He wants the effect of happy thoughts to be established in your mind, and He tells you the cause: Take action! Do what sometimes you feel like not doing. Chat with a group of people. Find a little something to joke about. Force your mouth into a smile. And keep a well-chewed pencil around. ■

Is China in the Bible?

The scriptural, prophetic identity of the most populous nation on the planet

BY DAVID VEJIL

"China: The Next Superpower." "China: America's Number-One Enemy."

Such headlines have become common. It is logical that the nation with nearly 20 percent of the world's population, the second-biggest economy and the biggest military (in terms of manpower) would inspire such discussion.

But will China become the *world's next superpower*? The truth is, you *cannot know* China's future unless you understand that nation's identity in the Bible, the only source that can reveal the answer!

Yes, if you believe the Bible, you can actually know for certain—without a doubt—who will dominate the world very shortly!

Hundreds of think tanks spend countless hours and vast sums of money in search of an answer to this question. Yet, the Bible reveals the answer—if they would only believe!

The Bible is a book primarily about Israel, physical and spiritual. When other nations are mentioned, it is typically in relation to Israel. In biblical times, the interaction between the Chinese and the Israelites was of no major consequence, and so China was rarely mentioned.

However, the Bible does speak *prophetically* of China's role in end-time events. Technological advances in communication and trade have shrunken the distance between China and the modern descendants of Israel considerably (for an explanation of who these nations are, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). Today China has *considerable* global influence: Witness, for example, the amount of U.S. debt China holds and the huge trade imbalance between the two nations, and the fact that China is the world's most dominant trading nation.

An understanding of these prophecies hinges on knowing the biblical identity of the Chinese people. Before delving into this, however, we must gain a basic overview of Chinese history.

A Brief History of a Great People

The Chinese people comprise one dominant ethnic group and many small minorities. The ethnic Han comprise more than 90 percent of the 1.3 billion people living in China. Though minority ethnic groups—such as the Uygurs, Tibetans, Mongols and Manchu—make up a small percentage of the Chinese population, in absolute numbers they are still large populations. For example, there are actually more Mongols living in China than in Mongolia.

These other ethnic groups have been absorbed into China through conquest by the Han Chinese. The Han have long dominated the heartland of China, usually defined by the Yellow River in the north, the Yangtze in the middle and the Pearl River on the south. This rich agricultural region is surrounded by border regions occupied by non-Han peoples, such as Tibet, Xinjiang (home of the Muslim Uighurs), Inner Mongolia and Manchuria, the historical name given to the territory north of North Korea.

Historically, fierce nomadic cavalry armies from the northern border regions have posed a difficult challenge to the agriculture-based Chinese. The incursions motivated the building of the Great Wall.

When the Han were strong, just like today, the border regions were under their rule. When they were weak, they lost control of those buffer regions and in some cases were even invaded by their Turkic and Mongol neighbors.

The foreign invaders all achieved measures of success, controlling portions of Chinese territory for various periods, mainly in northern China. The most complete conquest was the Mongol invasion started by Genghis Khan in the A.D. 1200s: The resulting dynasty fully controlled China for a century.

All these invasions had one thing in common, however: They all met their end by the Han Chinese.

No matter which foreign invader occupied the throne, China always remained Chinese.

One remarkable demonstration of the resilience of their society and culture was the survival, amid all the invasions, of the Chinese language—a feat few other languages have managed.

This was partly due to the size of the Han population. In A.D. 2, the first available census shows a Chinese population of about 60 million, one fourth of the world's population at the time!

To better rule this immense population, nomadic invaders typically adopted Chinese administration techniques and the Chinese language, a language quite unrelated to their own. Eventually their descendents adopted Chinese culture and the agricultural lifestyle as well. When the Han reasserted themselves, they easily absorbed the invaders that remained.

All the mixing and migrating of different peoples has made it impossible to characterize what a pure ethnic Han is. Nevertheless, prophetically speaking, China refers to all the people of China, not just the Han ethnic group. And at any rate, the Chinese and all the minority groups living in China are of the Mongoloid race, which stems from Noah's son Japheth.

The Mongoloid Race

As Herbert W. Armstrong taught throughout his ministry, Noah's son Japheth married a woman of the yellow race, and went on to father the Mongoloid people. The Hebrew word *Japheth* means enlargement, according to *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary,* and a glance at the modern world shows that the Oriental populations have been enlarged and multiplied to an unparalleled degree. Japheth's descendants have long been the most populous people on Earth, with the bulk living in China, Southeast Asia and Japan.

Genesis 10:2-5 show that the enlargement of Japheth began with the patriarch himself siring seven sons and an untold number of daughters. Obviously, these sons and daughters were a mix between the Caucasoid and Mongoloid races, the latter of which grew more definitive in subsequent generations. Soon after the dispersion at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:8), Japheth's descendants migrated through Central Asia to the lands they occupy now.

Migration of the Chinese

One of the seven sons of Japheth bears special importance to the prophetic identity of the Chinese and even their nomadic neighbors. That is Magog, the second son of Japheth mentioned in Genesis 10:2.

Where Did Magog Go?

Again, the Bible deals primarily with Israel. Since Magog's descendants migrated to an area largely independent of the civilizations developing in the Middle East, no sons of Magog are listed in Scripture.

However, Jewish historian Josephus indicated where Magog's descendants settled. He wrote in the first century, "Magog founded those that from him were named Magogites, but who are by the Greeks called Scythians" (*The Complete Works of Josephus*).

In a prophecy in Ezekiel 38, the Bible labels this vast territory of northern Eurasia where the Scyths lived—a region that stretched from the Russian steppes east into modern-day China and Mongolia—as Magog.

This territory contained many different tribes of people of the white and yellow races, all of whom were called *Scyths* or *Scythians* by the Greeks (see last month's installment in this series). The Ezekiel 38 prophecy demonstrates this as well, listing numerous nations and peoples associated with or dwelling "in the land of Magog." The people who most prominently settled this land are typically identified as Mongolic and Turkic. The name *Mongol* is even derived from the name *Magog*.

The ancient history of this land is a story about different Turkic and Mongolic tribes vying for control of the area. Whenever a tribe grew strong enough, it would rule the area; in rare cases—such as with the Huns, Seljuk Turks and Mongols—if these nomadic tribes consolidated enough power, they conquered lands beyond their own.

The resulting conquests led to much cultural and genetic intermixing with the people of Central Asia—and makes their national borders largely irrelevant to defining their ethnic backgrounds.

Today the land the Bible calls *Magog* is dominated in the west by Russia—which is reasserting control over the region it once possessed through the USSR—and China in the east.

Details of the ancient history of Magog and its people remain obscure since the Turks and Mongols didn't develop a written language until after their contact with the Chinese or Persian civilizations. Though these nomadic peoples have a sketchy history, they still play an important role in understanding China's prophetic role.

While the Mongols' connection to Magog is most obvious, they were just one tribe of a related people that carry the biblical name *Magog*. Ezekiel 38 is a prophecy about the land of Magog and all the distant "cousins" that live there and are associated with each other, such as the Russians and Chinese. One of the Mongolic nomadic tribes in this area bears a special relationship with China. They are the Khitan, a people responsible for China's modern name and one of China's biblical names, *Chittim*.

China Is Chittim

Isaiah 23:1 has a prophecy about "the land of Chittim." To which modern nation does this end-time prophecy apply? This biblical name refers to both the island of Cyprus and to the nation of China, whose progenitors first populated Cyprus and gave it its name.

Jewish historian Josephus records that some descendants of Japheth—such as the families of Gomer, Tubal and Togarmah—first settled in southern Europe before migrating east into Asia. Kittim was one such family, originally settling lands to the west of Mesopotamia before moving to the Far East.

Genesis 10:4 lists the sons of Japheth's fourth-born son: "The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim" (New King James Version). *Kittim* is synonymous with the *Chittim* of Isaiah's prophecy. Verse 5 mentions that these sons of Javan settled the isles, or the coasts. This occurred shortly after the dispersion of the Tower of Babel, when the sons of Javan migrated to the northern Mediterranean. These tribes gave their names to various cities and islands, such as Cyprus and Rhodes.

The Mongoloid types of these families, including the Kittim, did not stay in the Mediterranean, however. Over hundreds of years and many generations, some of these families migrated east into Asia from Cyprus, where they are found today, according to research by Dr. Ernest Martin, formerly of Ambassador College.

The descendants of Javan's son Kittim came to Asia some time after many of their cousins had already settled there. After their migration through Central Asia, the Kittim made their appearance in modern-day northern China and Mongolia under the name Khitan in the fourth century A.D. In the 10th century, the Khitan people managed to create a dynasty that subjugated the peoples, including the Chinese, in modern-day northern China. Their territory stretched from what is now Korea to eastern Kazakhstan, including Beijing, the seat of government in China today.

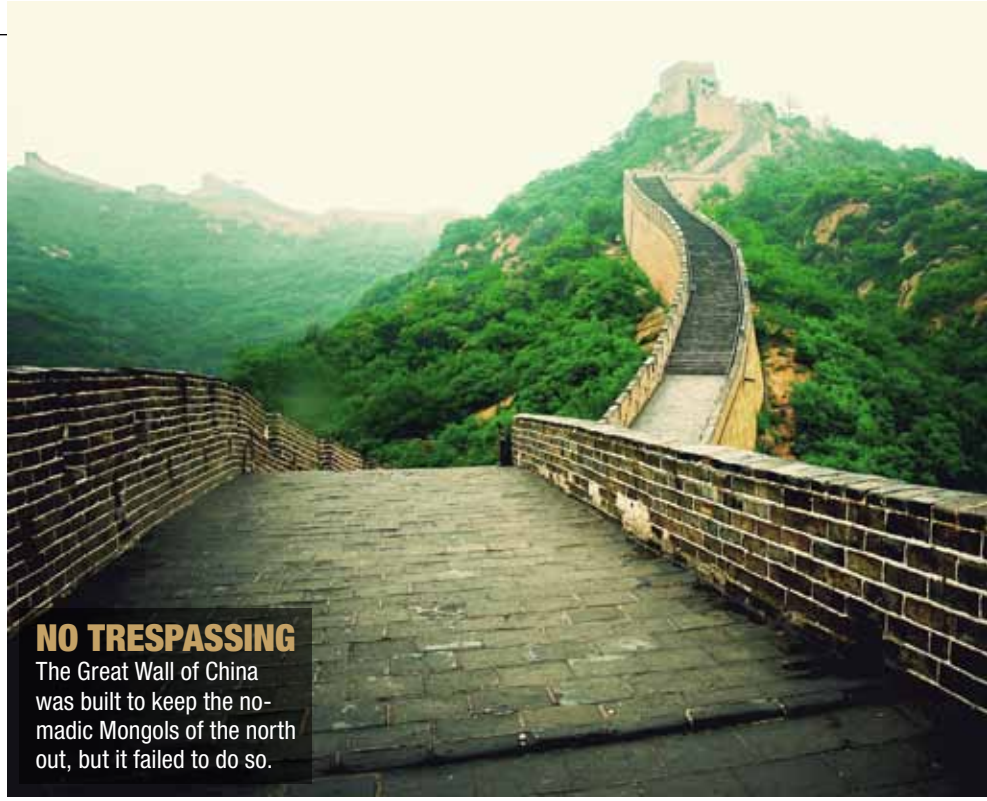
Because the Khitans controlled the overland trade and communication route from China through Central Asia to Europe, China was called *Cathay,* after the Khitans. The designation first applied to north China, but later designated all of China. It is a name the Russians still use for China today.

Isaiah 23:1-3 reveal that Chittim, modern-day China, will form a part of a global economic market along with Europe, one that is prophesied to shut out the nations of Israel. It should be no surprise that China will be an integral part of this economic partnership with Europe, as it is now the world's greatest exporter. These two trading blocs will soon dominate the global economy!

The history of the Khitan demonstrates what has happened to many of the Mongolic tribes that once roamed the western portions of what the Bible calls Magog. These nomadic tribes were not considered Chinese when they were conquering the Han civilization, but after centuries of living inside China's borders, much of their populations have been ethnically absorbed by the Han Chinese. Whatever remnants of these Mongolic nomads that have managed to remain distinct, such as the Mongols, are now classified as ethnic minorities in China.

In the Khitan's case, their absorption was so complete that an ethnic minority group from their descendants doesn't even exist!

The history of these nomads shows just how strong a connection China has with biblical Magog. To a certain degree, they even share the same borders and the same people. But if this explains the Mongolic nomads whose descendants now live in northern China, what about the original Han people who settled and continue to live in China's heartland?



NO TRESPASSING
The Great Wall of China was built to keep the nomadic Mongols of the north out, but it failed to do so.

SIMON HUA

Handling the Han

The history of the Han Chinese is much less obscure. In fact, the Han people record their history all the way back to the time of the Tower of Babel!

Ancient Chinese records speak of China's first emperors, Yaou, Shun and Yu.

One such record, *The Shoo King,* explains that one of Yaou's tasks was to deal with the effects of a great flood that ravaged the land: "Destructive in their overflow are the waters of the inundation. In their vast extent they embrace the mountains and overtop the hills."

While scholars explain the inundation as a local flood in China, it is clear from the biblical account, God's sacred Word, that these annals are talking about Noah's Flood. Consider:

During Yaou's lifetime a new leader, Shun, came to power. According to another ancient Chinese manuscript, *The Bamboo Annals*, Shun is described as having a "black body." He was obviously not Chinese, and his mother was called "the queen mother of the west," indicating him as a foreigner. *The Shoo King* gives the name of Shun's father as *Koo-sow.*

According to Dr. Herman Hoeh's *Compendium of World History,* this Shun was none other than the Nimrod of the Bible. Therefore Koo-sow, which can also be spelled *Kusou,* is Nimrod's father Cush! And the "queen mother of the west" can only be Semiramis. She was the mother-wife of Nimrod who called herself "queen of heaven," as documented in Alexander Hislop's *Two Babylons.* These are the three principal figures of man's rebellion at the Tower of Babel.

Nimrod was a son of Cush and therefore of the black race. The Bible describes him as a mighty rebellious leader who caused the people to revolt against God shortly after the Flood (Genesis 10:8-9). He gathered the different races and peoples together to build the Tower of Babel, but was stopped when God intervened and confused the languages (Genesis 11:1-7). The different races and peoples were then scattered to different areas of the world (verse 8).

At that point, Yu became the next ruler. Yu, China's first great hero, founded the Xia dynasty; from that point forward, leadership was given on a hereditary basis. The return of government to a Chinese ruler indicates that the Chinese immediately left the area of Babel and broke free from Nimrod and his successors' rule. Under Chinese rulers, they migrated to their modern-day location.

The chronology as presented by *The Shoo King* places the rules of these three kings toward the end of the third millennia B.C. (*The Chinese Classics*). This time frame also agrees with the Bible.

The Chinese have preserved the most

complete secular history of their civilization, dating back more than 4,000 years. There is a lot of myth and legend included as well, but the general chronology of emperors is verified by archeological finds, as well as what is recorded in Scripture.

Archeological Proof

Western scholars and the Chinese themselves, heavily influenced by Western thought after the 1920s, believed the Xia dynasty and the history immediately following were mere inventions, mythical heroes and kingdoms.

However, an archeological find in 1959 at Erlitou in the western part of the Henan province revealed an early Chinese society dating back to the same time and place that *The Shoo King* records the Xia dynasty existed! The city found at Erlitou is the largest of all cities found dating to this time period and is believed to be the capital city of the Xia government.

Since that find in the North China Plain off the Yellow River, archeologists have found some 200 sites revealing the same culture throughout a broad area, demonstrating a rapid settlement and urbanization during 1900 to 1500 B.C. This was the formation of the first Chinese state! (*The Chinese Neolithic: Trajectories to Early States*).

The Bamboo Annals records the existence of other Chinese states and how the Xia rulers expanded their control over them. Archeologists have found evidence of other Chinese states, but none contained as many settlements as those closely identified with the city found in Erlitou where the Xia ruled—clearly the center of power of the first post-Flood Chinese civilization.

Interestingly, the archeological record shows a period of extremely low-population settlement in the period immediately before the Erlitou culture arrived. The archeologists, steeped in evolutionary thought, call the time before the Flood the Neolithic period. They have found evidence of a thriving civilization in China in this time period, followed by a contraction in settlement, with evidence pointing to drastic flooding in the region (ibid.).

Though the archeologists won't admit it, this is evidence of a great flood followed by a resettlement of the area led by the Xia dynasty!

Back to Gog and Magog

So if history is clear that Shun is Nimrod, who are Yaou and Yu? How do these names fit in our biblical identity?

A basic understanding of Ezekiel 38 gives us that information. That chapter speaks of the land of Magog and specific people or peoples living in that land: "Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog" (verse 2). Gog and Magog are also mentioned together in Revelation 20:8, showing a close connection between the land and peoples. When Arab historians talked of the Mongols, they used the terms *Yagog* and *Magog*.

According to Dr. Hoeh, Yaou in Chinese history is likely the same person the Arabs call Yagog in their tradition. Every prophetic indication is that China has a strong connection with Gog and Magog. Ezekiel 38:2 refers to China. Along with Russia, China dominates the entire area of Magog and is associated with the nations listed in subsequent verses.

Therefore, the Chinese Han people were ruled first by a Japhetic descendant associated with Magog—possibly his son, though the Bible doesn't say specifically. During Nimrod's rebellion at the Tower of Babel, the Chinese were ruled by Nimrod. After his reign, when God intervened and changed the languages, government over the Chinese returned to the Japhetic line, under Yu's rule. These people then migrated north and east to modern-day China, setting up their capital in the North China Plain at the end of the third millennium B.C.

The location of China helps reveal other biblical identities as well.

Kings of the East

In a prophecy recorded in Daniel 11, a clash is foretold between "the king of the north," a German-led European power, and "the king of the south," a radical Islamic power led by Iran (these prophetic identities are explained in our booklets *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* and *The King of the South,* both free upon request). Emerging victorious, the European army is then prophesied to conquer the tiny Jewish nation now called *Israel*. At that point, verse 44 foretells, "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble" this European king.

Any map will show that north and east of Jerusalem are Russia and China, the two dominant powers of the land biblically referred to as Magog!

This event is further expounded in Revelation 16:12, where it is prophesied that the "kings of the east" will gather an army that numbers 200 million soldiers! (Revelation 9:14-16). Such a vast army could only be assembled with the massive population of China. Clearly China is one of those kings of the east!

So back to our original question: Will China become the world's next dominating superpower after the decline of the U.S.? The answer is no!

Though it will grow to tremendous world power, even *superpower* status—especially through economic means, as indicated in Isaiah 23—*it will not rise to the top spot.* That position will be filled by the European power led by Germany! After a short economic partnership, China will violently contend with the king of the north for global dominance.

But this war will end when Jesus Christ returns and destroys both powers!

After that, according to biblical prophecy, Christ will restore His government on Earth, a government that will bring peace and prosperity for 1,000 years. Yet Ezekiel 38 prophesies that not every nation will submit to Christ's rule voluntarily. Soon after the Second Coming, the people of Asia will form an army in order to attack the people living in Jerusalem!

This will be the last great rebellion in the 1,000-year period. Christ will utterly destroy it and deliver His people. It is a grand statement from God: "Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and *they shall know that I am the Lord*" (Ezekiel 38:23).

Believing the Bible gives us an understanding of ancient Chinese history that scholars reject, and reveals the future status of China and major events this world power will participate in. But even more, it gives us the final and inspiring end result: Christ establishing His Kingdom on Earth!

God is offering the wonderful opportunity to know, *now,* who is the Lord! Horrible wars are prophesied to occur shortly, but God will deliver His people, those who know He is the Lord and rely on Him. That should lead to the next big question: Are you one of those? ■

For further study, order a free copy of our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy.*

The Magnificent New Armstrong Auditorium

Seeing is believing. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

After the Queen of Sheba toured Solomon's temple, Scripture says "there was *no more spirit* in her" (1 Kings 10:5). She had heard about the penetrating insights of King Solomon, the luxurious splendor of the house he built for God, the magnificent gardens surrounding the temple, the blissful countenance of Solomon's entourage, their regal attire and the sumptuous delicacies served in the royal court. But when she finally saw it all for herself, it literally took her breath away.

I didn't know the half of it, she exclaimed. *This actually exceeds the fame that had spread by word of mouth* (verse 7). She left Jerusalem so moved with emotion, so giddy with delight, that she actually glorified the great God of Israel!

In September, the Philadelphia Church of God, which sponsors the *Trumpet* magazine, completed a new performing arts center on the campus of Herbert W. Armstrong College in Edmond, Oklahoma. Armstrong Auditorium may not rise to the level of excellence of Solomon's house, but judging by the initial wave of reviews, it *will* take your breath away.

From Around the World

"Jaw dropping" is how Ray Hibbard described his experience. "Frankly," Hibbard wrote in *Edmond Life & Leisure*, "calling this palace a building is probably the largest understatement you have ever seen in print. At every turn of my tour, I was at a loss in finding words to describe how impressed I was with the choice of materials and quality construction."

He was especially moved by the international array of building materials and feature pieces that are displayed throughout the facility. For example, the grand mall, which wraps around the entrance, is covered with 40,000 square feet of *Turkish* travertine marble—nearly enough tiles to fill a square acre. The 120-foot-long reflecting pool in the middle of the mall showcases a beautiful bronze sculpture, *Swans in Flight*, made by world-renowned *British* sculptor, Sir David Wynne, who personally attended the auditorium's dedication.

Inside the house, suspended above the grand lobby, are three massive chandeliers, weighing nearly six tons in total. Of the more than 50,000 pieces of shimmering crystal clinging to the chandeliers, about two thirds are Strass crystal made by Swarovski of Innsbruck, *Austria*—the "Rolls Royce" manufacturer of chandelier crystal.

The two 7-foot candelabras featured on the lobby floor were commissioned by the Shah of *Iran* in 1971 to commemorate the 2,500-year anniversary of the Persian Empire. Each candelabra weighs 650 pounds and supports 802 pieces of Baccarat crystal from *France*.

Behind the candelabras in the grand lobby are three gorgeous feature walls made of caramel onyx. The semi-precious stone was quarried in *Azerbaijan*, near the southern shores of the Caspian Sea, and then cut and polished in *Italy*.

Upstairs, *Spanish* and *Chinese* marble

covers 2,000 square feet in the balcony lobby. In the theater, *American* cherry wood veneer, with matching grain, stretches from floor to ceiling on both sidewalls. Backstage are two concert grand pianos manufactured by Steinway and Sons in Hamburg, *Germany.*

It is palatial, said Tricia Pemberton in the *Daily Oklahoman*. Touring the edifice and its surrounding grounds is like a "study in opulence," she wrote.

Writing in *Distinctly Oklahoma*, a monthly periodical, Dena Edwards said the auditorium, with its 12 towering pillars in front, dominates the surrounding woodlands in north Edmond "like a modern Greek temple."

Edmond Monthly, another local magazine, featured the auditorium on the cover of its September issue. "The aesthetics of Armstrong Auditorium are, in a word, breathtaking," wrote Kent Anderson. It gives Oklahoma a concert hall that is truly world-class, he said.

Chris Pritchard, the lead architect for the project, said, "This is going to become a landmark for north Edmond—a true world-class facility, the scale of which is unmatched here." Clif Warren, who wrote about the project back in April, predicted it would possibly become "the most beautiful temple in the Southwest region."

Raising the Ruins

From the beginning, we have modeled our construction project after a similar project completed by Herbert W. Armstrong in 1974—Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, California. *That* house became the crown jewel of the Ambassador College campus toward the end of Mr. Armstrong's 55-year ministry.

After Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986, the new leaders systematically dismantled the church's body of beliefs plank by plank. They changed the church's commission and gutted its faith. They stopped the television program, closed the college, and eventually sold off all the church's most valuable assets—including God's house.

Beginning in late 1989, the same God who raised up His Church under Mr. Armstrong started all over again with just 12 people, led by my father, Gerald Flurry. After a little more than 10 years, the

scattered remains of those who held to their original faith had grown in number to support an exciting new phase of God's work: raising the ruins of the work God did through Mr. Armstrong.

It started with 160 acres of pastureland located in north Edmond. As work began in earnest to resurrect God's college, beginning with the John Amos Field House in 2001, we set aside space on the land for a proposed house that would be dedicated to God.

After obtaining all of Mr. Armstrong's major writings at the end of a grueling six-year lawsuit in 2003, my father sharpened his focus on the house of God. At a Pasadena auction in July 2004, we purchased one of our two Steinway pianos, a concert grand that Mr. Armstrong had originally ordered for Ambassador in 1983.

We also bought the two candelabras commissioned by the shah in 1971. Mr. Armstrong originally purchased the pair from a London department store in 1973 and placed them inside the main lobby of Ambassador Auditorium.

In 2005, we contacted an Oklahoma City architectural firm about building God's house. At our first meeting, we handed over a stack of pictures and literature about Ambassador Auditorium. We said we wanted a structure that rivaled the elegance and quality of Ambassador and that blended in with our more rural landscape in Central Oklahoma.

In 2006, we contacted the same acoustical firm that helped design Ambassador Auditorium's near-perfect acoustics.

In early 2007, with architectural drawings nearly complete, my father described his vision to members of the Philadelphia Church of God: "We could create a *magnificent jewel* in this area, an edifice that would stand as a MONUMENT TO THE LIVING GOD like nothing else we could do in this world. The more I think about it, the more the idea inspires me!"

In September that year, he announced that plans were indeed going forward on the house of God.

On Jan. 6, 2008, on a gorgeous springlike day, with temperatures topping 70 degrees, 500 people joined my father in a 45-minute ceremony kicking off this historic project. This auditorium, he told the gathering, would bring more glory to God than any other building project we had undertaken.

A month later, with earthmovers digging the hole that would become the auditorium basement, my father requested a significant revision to the architectural drawings. He decided to raise the canopy in front of the building by 16 feet, which increased the towering size of the 12 pillars to 48 feet. Besides opening up the view of the campus from the balcony lobby, this change gave the front of the structure a look that is distinctly Ambassadoresque.

In 2009, we landed yet another piece from the Armstrong era: the beautiful *Swans in Flight*. Mr. Armstrong assigned David Wynne to the task in 1968. Upon completion, it was placed at the entrance of the Ambassador College campus in Big Sandy, Texas. After we purchased the work of art from the campus's new owners in May 2009, we disassembled the 1,200-pound sculpture and moved it to Norman, Oklahoma, where it was refurbished and stored until January of this year. It was installed on our campus in March.

Finally, there are the gold-plated bronze letters affixed to the onyx wall featured in the center of the grand lobby. They read, "ARMSTRONG AUDITORIUM: Made possible by gifts from the Philadelphia Church of God. Dedicated to the honor and glory of the GREAT GOD." Except for where the names are different, these are the original letters that used to be on the feature wall inside the Ambassador Auditorium lobby, generously *given* to us by the current owners of Ambassador!

Hearing—Then Seeing

For nearly a decade, members and supporters of this work *heard* about the majesty and beauty of God's house. It is by their sacrifice and freewill gifts that this project has moved forward, step by step, without delay. They *heard* of its grand design—how the towering portico, the color scheme inside the theater and the various assortments of marble, sandstone and onyx were all designed with Ambassador Auditorium in mind.

They *heard* of the many Armstrong accents collected along the way and tucked away in storage, like the two candelabra—as if longing for the day they would finally settle into their new home. They *heard* of the truckloads of trees and bushes—more than 3,000 of them—that were delivered for the grounds surrounding the auditorium. And they *heard* about the many miracles that have made it possible for such a small band of supporters to complete a project this magnificent, this *massive*.

Now that the auditorium has been dedicated to our great God and its doors opened to the general public, many brethren have been able to see it all for themselves.

Breathtaking!

BRILLIANT Chinese and Austrian crystal chandeliers illuminate the lobby. Below: An orchestra in white tunes up as guests fill the theater. Right: Renowned British sculptor David Wynne (left) speaks with Gerald Flurry.

GRAND OPENING Music of the *Elijah* oratorio fills the stage for the first time. Below, left: An audience listens to a forum by David Wynne. Below, right: The inscription adorns the onyx wall in the lobby.

DAZZLING
The lobby candelabra

Ending the War on Poverty

Why giving money to the poor isn't working.

STEPHEN FLURRY

Since the grand opening of Armstrong Auditorium in September, we have received an outpouring of positive response—mostly from Church members and co-workers who helped fund the project.

We have also gotten a handful of negative responses, which is not unusual. But the interesting thing is that all the critics have essentially said the same thing: That the money used to build Armstrong Auditorium would have been much better spent *if it had been given to poor people*.

Critics of God's work have often moaned about the way it uses God's money.

As I point out in my book *Raising the Ruins,* Herbert W. Armstrong—one of the most prominent religious leaders of the 20th century—raised up a worldwide work that helped improve the lives of multiple millions of people. Yet, that did not stop his successors from badmouthing the way he went about building God's work.

"We neither have nor promote an extravagant lifestyle," Joseph Tkach Jr. smugly said in his book *Transformed by Truth*. "We have divested ourselves, and continue to, of those things that are opulent and do not befit a church."

And yet, even as they were canceling or slashing programs Mr. Armstrong established for the benefit of church members and their families, and for millions of co-workers and *Plain Truth* readers, the Tkaches were collecting hundreds of millions of dollars in income. The Worldwide Church of God income hit its peak in 1989 at $212 million. In 1990, it was $211 million, followed by $197 million in 1991.

ANSWERS No matter the level or type of poverty, temporarily easing the pain is no solution.

By today's standards, after adjusting for inflation, that amounts to more than *$1 billion*. One billion dollars over the course *of three years*. And the money continued rolling in right up to the time Tkach Jr. wrote his book in 1997.

In addition to receiving that staggering income, the Tkaches were profiting from the business of "divesting" themselves of the "extravagant lifestyle" Mr. Armstrong built. They sold off all the festival sites used by church members. They sold the campsites Mr. Armstrong built for teenagers. They shut down the college campuses Mr. Armstrong raised up for the work and for young people. They canceled the *World Tomorrow* program, watched by hundreds of thousands each week. They discontinued literature read by millions. 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 church members 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—virtually *anything* they could get some cash for.

And today, the Worldwide Church of God doesn't even exist.

Through it all, these leaders spoke often about funding pensions and giving to the poor. Mostly, though, like Judas before them, *they just lined their own pockets*.

Judas, remember, was appalled when he saw Mary anoint the feet of Jesus with some costly ointment. *Why, we could have sold this expensive ointment for 300 pence and given all of the proceeds to the poor,* he said.

Judas said this, John 12:6 relates, not because he cared for the poor, *but because he was a thief*. He didn't care about poor people. He cared about himself. And in the end, he betrayed Jesus Christ *for 30 pieces of silver*.

In Matthew's version of the incident at the house of Lazarus, Jesus reproved His disciples for being so easily swayed by Judas's feigned show of concern for poor people. "Why are you annoying the woman?" Jesus asked. "It is a *beautiful thing* she has done to me. *The poor you always have beside you,* but you will not always have me" (Matthew 26:10-11, Moffatt translation).

He went on to say that by pouring that precious ointment on Christ, this woman's act of kindness would be remembered wherever the gospel message was proclaimed! *What a witness*.

Still, the movement to "solve" the problems of this world by giving handouts to the poor is powerfully strong—and the strength of its message shows no signs of abating.

The War on Poverty

Look at America. More than 40 years ago, after declaring war on poverty, President Lyndon Johnson created all sorts of entitlement programs intended to help poor people—food stamps, Medicare and Medicaid, just to name a few.

And what has been the result?

Today, the poverty rate in the U.S. is at 15 percent—*the highest in 50 years*. That means one in seven Americans now lives below the poverty line. Forty-five percent of American households do not pay federal income tax. *They are too poor*. And the gap between the rich and the poor just keeps widening.

ISSOUF SANOGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The *Wall Street Journal* recently reported that nearly half of all Americans live in a home where someone receives government benefits. More people *depend on the government* for their economic SURVIVAL than ever before. Nearly 42 million Americans now receive food stamps—the most ever.

Ever since the "war on poverty" began, America's budget for entitlement programs has skyrocketed. These programs now eat up 64 percent of the $3.2 trillion federal budget! In 1960, it was just *26 percent*.

And it's only going to get worse. Today, 47.4 million people are enrolled in Medicare, a *38 percent jump* from 20 years ago. *Twenty years from now,* in 2030, that number is projected to be more than 80 million!

We have become a nation of leaders who are addicted to spending money on credit and citizens who are addicted to entitlement programs. And we wonder why America teeters on the brink of bankruptcy.

Cause and Effect

In 1984, Mr. Armstrong happened to be watching a TV evangelist preaching from an African village where emaciated and starving children were seemingly dying by the minute. The purpose of the message, he said, was to use the revolting, stomach-turning scene to help make an emotional appeal for donations.

Mr. Armstrong compared that program to one of his own *World Tomorrow* episodes that ALSO highlighted the scourge of poverty, illiteracy and ignorance that exists in MOST areas of the world. The program then contrasted that scene with Western nations, where there was plenty of wealth, prosperity and advancement in the *physical* sense, but with people who were *spiritually* sick, depraved and addicted to illicit sex and violence.

The latter program, Mr. Armstrong explained, addressed the *cause* of this world's physical and spiritual poverty. The other one only examined the effect of physical poverty.

"Just physically feeding the illiterate, poor and hungry *does not eliminate* the wretched condition, *but rather perpetuates it,*" Mr. Armstrong wrote (Dec. 16, 1984; emphasis mine).

This has been man's approach for 6,000 years. *Everything he tries* in order to solve the problems of this world ends up making matters MUCH WORSE!

Our work, *God's work,* confronts the *cause* of evil we see everywhere in this world, which is why our supporters are so dedicated—and why God continues to bless it with such abundance.

At a recent meeting among church members, editor in chief Gerald Flurry made this clearheaded remark: "The way you take care of the poor is to get them to look to God and work like God, and then they will soon prosper like God!" It reminded me of what he said 10 years ago when we were about to kick off our building program here on our headquarters campus.

"There is a cause for every effect. If you can make one small area on this Earth inspiring and uplifting, you can make the whole Earth that way!" he wrote in the August 2000 *Trumpet*. "There is a reason why God wants us to build in a way that inspires people to achieve more. The fact is, people perform better in an exquisite environment. That is the way it should be for all humanity. And *that is the way it will be!* … This is how God will start changing the Earth in the World Tomorrow."

Of course, none of this means we should neglect or ignore the poor and disadvantaged among us. In God's future economy—and also within His Church today—there ARE provisions set aside for the needy. But that fund is generally intended to help them get back on their feet so they might start working again, assuming, of course, that they are able.

Consider one of our own faithful members. He is an 85-year-old man from Florida on a fixed income. A little over four years ago, in order to provide more financial support for his church, he decided to get a part-time job as a door greeter at Walmart. Over the years, he has commented at times about how his legs and feet get tired from standing as long as he does.

Then he always adds, "But we have a work to do."

This man's dedication and diligence help explain why a work of so few can accomplish so much. But his work does more than just produce extra income for himself and his church. It must surely strengthen the relationship Walmart has with its customers. It undoubtedly generates some kind of tax revenue for state and federal governments. And it keeps this man busy, working productively for God—*living the way of give*.

This, to paraphrase Jesus, is a beautiful thing. And these are just most of the obvious benefits I can think of regarding this man's work in *today's* world.

Think of what God can do with an attitude like this in the wonderful World Tomorrow! ■

You can read more about that world by ordering a free copy of our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.

➤ **QUEEN** from page 1

relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the established Church of England and the Church of Scotland."

That is not the language we need to hear coming from her throne. I can offer you overwhelming proof that the Queen is sitting on David's throne. The same throne that the Messiah is about to rule on forever! (Isaiah 9:7).

Andrew Brown wrote this about the pope's visit: "This was the end of the British Empire. In all the four centuries from Elizabeth I to Elizabeth II, England has been defined as a Protestant nation. The Catholics were the Other; sometimes violent terrorists and rebels, sometimes merely dirty immigrants. THE SENSE THAT THIS WAS A NATION SPECIALLY BLESSED BY GOD AROSE FROM A DEEPLY ANTI-CATHOLIC READING OF THE BIBLE. … REBELLION AGAINST THE POPE WAS THE FOUNDATIONAL ACT OF ENGLISH POWER. AND NOW THE POWER IS GONE, and perhaps the rebellion has gone, too" (*Guardian,* September 17). This is a very deadly sign of Britain's immediate future.

Let me repeat this sentence: "THE SENSE THAT THIS WAS A NATION SPECIALLY BLESSED BY GOD AROSE FROM A DEEPLY ANTI-CATHOLIC READING OF THE BIBLE." What a marvelous memory of Britain's history! And *what a condemning memory!* The British people have forgotten that God gave them their wealthy empire, which no longer exists. That is because *they have forgotten their Bible*—which has many anti-Catholic statements!

Christians of this world are embarrassingly ignorant of their Bible. If they don't know their Bible, they don't know God!

This article stated that "the power is gone." Because of Britain's sins, God has broken the pride of its power (Leviticus 26:19). The British still have considerable power, but are afraid to use it.

The Queen sits on the very throne from which the Messiah is about to rule this world! These events are all leading DIRECTLY to the coming of the Messiah!

Our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* and book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy,* both yours free for the asking, explain the foundational history and prophecy of those two thrones. ■

Biblical Family

Well written Mr. Flurry ("Biblical Family—Our Most Noble Institution," October/November). Whenever I hear or read an article about how society must be more tolerant towards homosexuals and how we must accept that they are here to stay, it just sickens me. I always think about how Lot must have felt vexed in his soul—this is how I feel. There is nothing more beautiful to look at than a happily married husband and wife and happy smiling children surrounding them. God speed the day when the whole world realizes this is the only true way to live.

Anita U.—Perth, Australia

Sodom in Prophecy

Thanks for a splendid article on the problems in society that this kind of aberrant behavior produces ("Sodom in Prophecy," October/November). It really is a rejection of God at its very root. I work with a number of homosexuals here in the Los Angeles area of Southern California and, to a man, they ridicule anything that speaks of religion, God, self-denial, self-control. Rather, there is nothing but contempt for purity, goodness, chastity. It's frightening, to say the least. It's good to read that someone in the world as yourself thinks that history actually does repeat itself and we're seeing it in so-called modern cities like San Francisco (my dad likes to refer to it as "Sodom by the Sea"). By thumbing our nose at the good God, we're bringing chastisements down upon our heads. Keep up the good work. I really enjoy your writing.

Sean—Long Beach, Calif.

When the debate of same-sex marriage came up, I would always bring up Bible references such as these. But you have put it in clarity and authority. Thank you. *Nathaniel Lewis*—Illinois

Correction

In the last issue, "The Remarkable Identity of the German People" stated that Ninus, who founded ancient Nineveh, "is simply the Greek name for the Asshur of the Bible." In fact, the original Ninus was Nimrod, grandson of Ham, of the black race. Asshur, son of Shem, who was white, also took the name Ninus. He is the Ninus II of ancient historic record who founded Nineveh.

Clash of the Titans

Thanks for your ever insightful prophetic take on current world events ("Clash of the Titans," October/November). How we need to be stirred to keep up with the lightning pace of these end-time events as they unfold around us. *Carol*—Australia

German Identity

Thank you Mr. Vejil and the *Trumpet* for a well-researched article on the origins of the German people ("The Remarkable Identity of the German People," October/November). The Assyrian/German connection is generally accepted by readers of the *Trumpet;* nevertheless, new research on the topic is always interesting and I appreciate the many secular sources cited. … I appreciated your article, and I hope to see a future paper on possible language connections of the Assyrians and the Israelites with German and Yiddish. … It is a fascinating subject.

Heinz H. Schreiber—Melbourne, Fla.

Lost Art of Slow Reading

I have believed for quite some time that the art of actually reading a book has indeed become very rare ("The Lost Art of Slow Reading," October/November). Fortunately, my parents were avid readers as are both myself and my children. My grandson just finished grade school and is in summer day care, and they take them to the library every day. He tells me he has read a lot of science and now is reading on water. His vocabulary has increased tremendously. Thanks for an excellent reminder that the Internet has its place, but nothing takes the place of holding a book in your hand and reading.

Toby Lynn Johnson—Colorado

As a fiction and poetry writer, I've tried the method of keeping everything digital, and I would like to add that there is nothing like the good old way of taking the time to write on paper as well. Typing on the computer is fine, but there's something about writing with ink that's special. I agree with the article except in one respect: There is actually a positive side to having an archive of books online—when it comes to the *Philadelphia Trumpet!* You said we should have at least 30 books on our shelves, and I have that many—all from the *Trumpet*. I love your books. I order some in paper, but sometimes I read online to save the Church some money. Keep up the good work. *Zurrell*—Maryland

Dino That Learned to Fly

This was a wonderful and funny article ("The Dino That Learned to Fly," October/November). I thought it was one of the most enjoyable articles I've read in a long time. I laughed so hard at poor Baldy in his "plunge" to earth from the tree. Thank you for showing how untrue the evolutionist theories are … even if Baldy did have to get third-degree windburn to prove it.

Bridget—Tennessee

An informative and delightful read, as the irrationality of one set of evolution-based explanations were passed through the shredder of logic and reason. Even if all the necessary rebuild inexplicably took place—"miraculously" developed, with all the required quantum jumps and leaps so well described here, with no experiment-ending casualties, and parallel mate development—why the kaleidoscopic array of "aeronautical" designs, and the amazing diversity in variations of flight? Why not one "simple" basic "design," spreading universally? In such case, you would only have to believe in one fantastic tale of imagination in flight of fancy.

Jean-Rene—California

Admire Your Work

I wanted to know if your organization accepts donations and/or tithes from individuals. I truly admire your cause and work. My grandfather has been reading the *Trumpet* magazine for a long time and recently introduced it to me. I absolutely love your magazine, and I thank you for putting the time and effort into helping spread the truth of our blessed Savior Jesus Christ to all those who haven't yet been saved and presented with the truth. I want to contribute to your effort by making a continual tithe/donation to your church and organization.

Chelsea Allen—Aurora, Colo.

We never ask the public for money, but we do accept voluntarily offered donations and tithes, and they are tax-deductible in many countries.

Comments?

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Thy Kingdom Come

How else can one respond to this world's growing sin-sickness? BY JOEL HILLIKER

I HAVE A NEWS CLIPPING I'VE BEEN HOLDING ON TO SINCE July that sickened me. It's a *Washington Times* article called "Portland's dark world of child sex trafficking."

It says that Portland—a beautiful West Coast city I have visited several times—has the biggest per capita legal commercial sex industry in America. Dallas has three strip clubs; Seattle has four; yet within Portland's city limits, "One directory lists 40 erotic dance clubs, 47 all-nude strip clubs, 35 adult businesses and 21 lingerie modeling shops," the article says.

Bad enough. But this makes it far more disgusting: "Many of these, though legal, are also *fronts for underage exploitation.*"

A combination of ugly factors has turned this city into a mecca for perverts who want to use children for sex.

This article describes a girl who, on her 13th birthday, was *sold* by her drug-addicted mother to a man for $5,000 to be his personal sex slave. In Portland.

This is the type of thing that makes me *sick* of this wretched world.

The FBI figures 300,000 minors in America are employed as prostitutes each year. Staggering. One for every thousand people. An advocacy group called Shared Hope International estimates their average age is 13.

Thirteen years old. *On average.*

Statistically, how many girls (and boys) *age 13 and younger* does it take to balance out the number of 14-to-17-year-olds?

I look at my daughters, ages 9 and 7, and boil at the thought of anyone or anything so evil as to violently strip a child of her innocence, dignity, and chance of a decent life in order to indulge perverse and selfish lusts. The Department of Justice says there are pimps in America earning money off girls as young as 5 and 6.

Try for a moment to wrap your mind around this. Worldwide, millions of children live in slavery, and UNICEF says as many as 1.2 million more are trafficked each year, a great many for sex.

The UN's International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that at any given moment, at least 12.3 million people, including children, are in forced labor, bonded labor, and commercial sex servitude. Four out of five are female. Half are children.

The slave trade, the ILO believes, is a *$32 billion* business, saturated in unchecked greed, sleaze and abuse. And shamefully, it is the *fastest growing industry in the world,* according to the 2009 State Department "Trafficking in Persons Report."

Somewhere in here, the imagination of many of us reaches its limit. Unexposed to such grotesque realities, we can barely conceive of them.

Yet this is only one of literally *countless ways* that people are putting other people through indescribable torment. Cruelty. Tyranny. Corruption. Thievery. Poor resource management that results in starvation, poverty and disease. Racism. Religious persecution. Violence of every stripe. Full-blown warfare.

The human mind can only take in so much. And in this information-saturated age, news of people mistreating their fellow human beings comes in such a torrent that we can easily grow numbed to it. And—truth be told—we are helpless to do anything substantive to stop it. These blights are painfully endemic to the human condition, resilient against virtually all efforts to stop them.

There is one, however, who has seen it all, who has never succumbed to apathy—and who absolutely *will* put a stop to it.

When Jesus Christ walked the Earth, He witnessed untold human suffering, and did what He could to alleviate it. He was moved with compassion, seeing the people as sheep having no shepherd (Matthew 9:36).

He brought the good news of a kingdom that would come and *uproot* the corrupt kingdoms of this world—that would fulfill the prophecies of the Scriptures: "He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor" (Psalm 72:4).

He continually directed His disciples to seek that kingdom, to press toward it, to set their heart on preparing for it. When they asked Him how to pray, He responded, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:9-10).

To this day, Christ's disciples keep these words on their lips. When we see oppression, when we see suffering, when we see immorality spreading, and unmentionable evils seizing our cities, when we see minds and bodies of helpless children being abused with impunity—*Thy Kingdom come.*

2 Peter 3:12 admonishes us to be "Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God." The Greek word translated "Looking for" means *earnestly waiting for.* And the more depraved human behavior becomes, the more earnestly we wait.

Thus, even as Christ says, "Surely I come quickly," we say, as the Apostle John did to close the words of sacred Scripture, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

In his masterful booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like,* Herbert Armstrong expounded on the many scriptures that fill the Bible with inspiring descriptions of the utopian world God will create. It is utterly refreshing to read, a sweet song amid the din and clamor of this world. You owe it to yourself to read it—just ask and we'll send you a free copy.

"Feast your eyes for a while on the picture of the World Tomorrow which God's government will produce—as we shall now do," he wrote, "and when you take your eyes from this book, and look again on this drab, ugly, sin-sick world of corruption, violence and suffering—it will make you sick at heart.

"But doesn't it make you want to shout for joy, to realize what a civilization—what a world—is actually coming?

"Doesn't it make you want to really put your heart into your prayers, praying earnestly, '*Oh God! Thy Kingdom come! Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in heaven!*'"

That it does. ■

ISTOCKPHOTO

➤ **TYRANNY** from page 22

come a necessity because of the 'growing number of military operations' often carried out 'in little-known environments.'"

Germany's conservative European Parliamentarian Elmar Brok boasted that because of the new spy force, "In one or two years, the dependence on national information will be reduced." German-Foreign-Policy wrote, "SitCen's foreseeable expansion to become a regular European intelligence service is only the logical consequence of the systematic German-European quest for powerful influence on a global scale, to be achieved through a combat-ready foreign and military policy with reliance on espionage."

Surely that places the seal on the European Union's imperialist agenda. Since the Lisbon Treaty/EU constitution was implemented at the beginning of this year, Europe has *rapidly* consolidated a tyrannical power of amazing force.

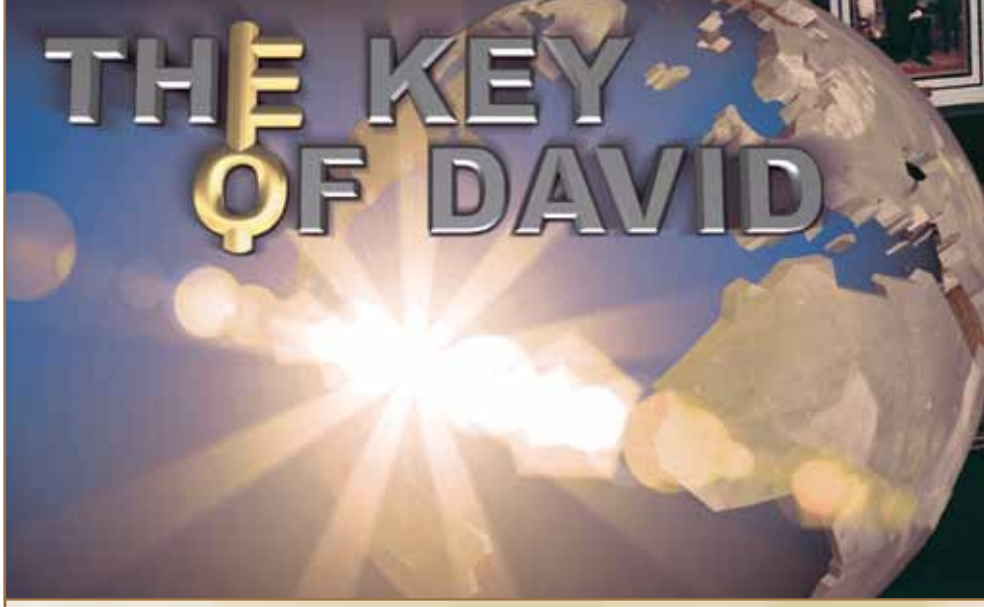
The great prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that have waited for two millennia to be fulfilled are now breaking out into terrible fulfillment!

In our February edition, our editor in chief confidently announced the reality that the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire had indeed arisen!

Most are blind indeed to this great reality! But they are destined to soon feel its *effect!* Very *personally!* Believe it or not, your Bible says so! The glaring reality to those whose minds are open to see is that "the scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

Read our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire.* Read and come to grips with the reality of today's Germany, which is about to—once more, finally and for the last time—powerfully affect the social and political order of this planet. Read—watch, pray and *prepare!* For there is a way to escape the forthcoming devastating effects that this pan-European army will have on the Anglo-Saxon nations. But it is born of a real diligence in heeding Jesus Christ's command to "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

If you are one who heeds that command, then you will be looking forward with real anticipation to the grand hope that lies beyond the greatest trial this planet will ever have to endure. For as Jesus Christ Himself prophesied of events such as are happening now in Berlin, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (verse 28). ■



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Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri
Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun
Alabama, Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun
Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri
Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun
Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun
California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun
California, Chico KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun
California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30 am, Sun
California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri
California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
California, Redding KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun
California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun
California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri; KWGN 10:00 am, Sun
Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Colorado, Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri
Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/WTLH-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun
Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30 am, Sun
Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed
Hawaii, Kaui Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue
Hawaii, Maui/Lanaii/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon
Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri
Illinois, Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Rockford WREX-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.2 9:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri
Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Rochester KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun
Maryland, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Boston 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 WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KVOS 8:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun

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Maritime Provinces CIHF 7:30 am, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

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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

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

HO, HO, HOAX

What do you know about the origins of Christmas? Can you pass this true/false test?

T / F Christians exchange gifts following the example of the wise men.

T / F Christmas is celebrated on December 25 because it is Jesus's birthday.

T / F The Christmas tree tradition began after the birth of Christ.

T / F The "mother and child" story began with Mary and the baby Jesus.

T / F Jesus Christ loves Christmas trees and Santa Claus.

How did you do?

Believe it or not, *all* of the above statements are *false!*

Surprised? Few people know why they believe what they do. Most just accept what they were taught from childhood. Did you know the Bible has a lot to say about the non-Christian origins of Christmas traditions?

To learn the amazing truth about Christmas and which days are truly God's holy days, request our free reprint, **"Why Christmas Is So Important to God"** and our free booklet **Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?**

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