

THE DEBT BOMB

How U.S. spending is about to blow up in its face

3/11: TERROR in EUROPE

Islamist extremism struck again—this time on the Continent. Why Spain—why Madrid? How will Europe respond?

UNEMPLOYED?

Seven steps to securing a good, lasting job

MAY 2004

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An Iraqi Shiite supporter of Muqtada al-Sadr celebrates near a burning U.S. Army truck in Baghdad.

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Iran's strategy for conquest in Iraq



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Gerald Flurry

Iraq—Haunted by Iran

IT APPEARS THAT THE U.S. MILITARY IS ABOUT TO CLASH with Muqtada al-Sadr, a radical Shiite leader in Iraq.

Sadr has a dangerous connection to Iran, and it is critical that you understand what it means. Several reports have stated that Iran is sending agents and armaments into Iraq. It is blatantly supporting Sadr and his violent followers (see p. 2).

President George W. Bush was asked by a reporter about how America was going to deal with Iran. There was no clear answer. Iran poses a problem for which we have no answer. That is because our people lack the will to confront the number-one powerhouse in the Middle East.

The Iraqi conflict has been compared to the Vietnam War. There were many mistakes made in Vietnam, but one of those errors we rarely ever discuss. We had a *lack of will* in that war. This weakness has plagued us since we failed to win the Korean War.

The Iraq War will never be won, unless America confronts and conquers its dangerous lack of will to use its military might.

I knew that Sadr was going to pose a serious threat to the U.S. That is why I wrote about him in our *Trumpet* magazine about six months ago. His radical hatred for the U.S. was also written about in my booklet *The King of the South*. You should write for a free copy of it to understand how dramatically dangerous this problem could be. Iran is destined to shock the Western world very soon. This booklet will show you what is really going to happen in the Middle East.

In my Personal in our November 2003 issue, I quoted a disturbing excerpt from a *Newsweek* article, Sept. 8, 2003: “Especially worrisome are statements attributed to Muqtada al-Sadr, the son of a revered ayatollah murdered by Saddam in 1999. Although he has little religious standing, al-Sadr has shown himself capable of rallying enormous crowds to his anti-American banner. ‘The Americans will not protect our clerics nor let us provide that protection because the Americans are the enemy,’ said a spokesman for al-Sadr, speaking on Al Arabiya television after Friday’s [Aug. 29, 2003] bombing.

“Then again, many Iraqis, including residents of Najaf, believe it was al-Sadr who ordered the earlier murder near the Imam Ali shrine [of the leading Shiite cleric in Iraq] and possibly last week’s attack. ... And the **MURKINESS** doesn’t end there. Because al-Sadr is not himself a high-ranking Islamic scholar, **HE DEPENDS ON A RADICAL IRAN-BASED AYATOLLAH TO GIVE HIS ORGANIZATION RELIGIOUS DIRECTION AND CREDIBILITY**” (emphasis mine).

I then went on to write the following:

“Why is this considered ‘murkiness’? The *Newsweek* article, titled ‘The Danger Is Very Close,’ didn’t elaborate. But I think it should have. This bombing fits Iran’s pattern of terrorism for over 20 years! ...

“America and Britain are standing in the way of Iran’s very ambitious goal for the Middle East. And so far it has let nobody stand in its way. ...

“How can we ever win this war in the long run? Oil-rich Iran can keep providing terrorists and armaments endlessly! They are fighting this war from their strength and can’t lose. America and Israel are both fighting the terrorists from a dangerously weak position and can’t win. Both are either ignorant of the basic cause of terrorism or they are afraid to use their superior military might. Regardless, our lack of *will* is why we can’t solve the terrorist problem. What a great advantage for the terrorist-sponsoring nations!

“Several Middle Eastern nations support terrorism. But all of them know that the king of state-sponsored terrorism is Iran. And they generally follow the leader.

“This is the kind of reality that most of our leaders refuse to face. Until we do, we have no chance of winning our war against terrorism.

“The real power base of Mideast terrorism is Iran. This nation is the *king*. Iran leads the ‘axis of evil’ in the Mideast. Labeling this axis is not enough. Endless talk and writing won’t stop this deadly problem. Sponsoring terrorism is an act of war. Terrorism will continue to flourish until we deal with this reality. ...

“But there is a deeper problem. **WE**

FEAR TO FACE THE CAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM. Our will has been broken, so we try to solve the problem the way the Israelis do—and their terrorist problem grows worse! The Israelis also lack the will to deal with Iran—the origin and primary source of world terrorism!

“We are essentially fighting the terrorist war as the Israelis are. So look closely at their pathetic failure. That is going to be our outcome in this war unless we radically change our strategy.

“Iran, along with Syria and other nations, will keep undermining whatever we do. We may slow the process, but in the long run, Iran will win this war.

“Iran should be given a choice: Stop sponsoring terrorism or the war will be extended into your nation. The U.S. has never been in a greater geographic position to put pressure on Iran. But do we have the *will*? That will continue to be the big question.

“How can we win the war against terrorism if we don’t see, or refuse to fight, the real enemy?”

Recent events in Iraq make this question even more important. The Shiite uprising under Sadr shows that Iran has dangerous cards to play. But, just as God has prophesied (Lev. 26:19), as the situation gets more dangerous, America’s lack of pride in its power becomes even more plain. ■



“MURKINESS”
Muqtada al-Sadr, sparring with U.S. forces, maintains strong connections with Iran.

COVER STORY

Conquest Through Sabotage



The Mideast faces a pivotal moment. Iraq's Shiites are turning violent, and America's back is against the wall. The story behind this uprising is one of the most frightening of our time. BY JOEL HILLIKER

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT is truly happening in Iraq today? Are you able to discern how pivotal, how monumental, this moment in Middle East history really is? Most people are not, though the daily news is filled with information about it.

Iraq is exploding in a sequence of events that is dramatically accelerating two of the pillar prophecies signalling the end of our present civilization.

One relates to the U.S., which after a year is still embroiled in an unexpected revolt in the country it seeks to rebuild. The other relates to Iran, which is shrewdly working to ensure that Iraq becomes an Islamic state cast in its own image.

Trumpet readers have been warned repeatedly over the last 14 years that events in this volatile region would take roughly this kind of shape.

Today, news and intelligence outlets are crackling with reports vindicating these warnings.

The evidence is undeniable: *Iran is the number-one obstacle to stability in Iraq.* As the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq continues to grapple with an expanding guerrilla insurgency, proof of Iran's responsibility for this plague—of its aggressive and covert meddling—is surfacing daily.

At the same time, Iran has just suffered a political earthquake that crippled its moderates and strengthened its stern Islamic hard-liners (see p. 4). It is bucking pressure over its nuclear activities, sheltering outlaws and hosting terrorist conferences. It is proving itself the most dangerous state in the Mideast—and, short-term, in the world.

For several reasons, Iran should be condemned and reviled by the U.S., and friendless in the world.

But, amazingly, its position and its power among nations—even the U.S.—is *the strongest it has been in modern history and only continues to increase.* Why?

Do you understand how enormously dangerous this state of affairs is? Bible prophecy indicates that what we are witnessing is essentially the cocking of the gun that will trigger a nuclear World War III!

America's Compromised Position It was a sickening symbol of where the campaign in Iraq has come to: In April, to help negotiate a resolution to a clash with Shiites in Iraq, the U.S. called on the help of an Iranian envoy.

Let's trace the steps over the past year that led to this shocking development.

From the time of Saddam Hussein's fall last April until recently, the U.S. was battling mostly Sunni insurgents while Iraq's Shiites remained relatively cooperative. This kept the situation containable; however, with operations continuing in Afghanistan and other areas, America's troops have been stretched thin. Frankly, Washington's strategy for stabilizing Iraq depended on Shiite cooperation.

Enter Iran.

For several months, the *Trumpet* has followed the unsteady development of a behind-the-scenes agreement between the United States and Iran (see the November 2003 and February 2004 issues). The gist of it is, in exchange for preventing a Shiite uprising, the Iranian-influenced Iraqi Shiites would be permitted to dominate the new Iraqi government. Naturally, any relationship between "the Great Satan" and a member of the "axis of evil" is bound to be uncomfortable. Nevertheless, in international relations, principle often gives way to politics.

Trouble is, shady business deals come with unpleasant, long-term costs. Witness the awkward truth that the United States once supported Osama bin Laden (to help rid the Soviet Union from Afghanistan) and Saddam Hussein (against Iran)—relationships that came with a heavy backlash.

In this latest deal with Iran, it looks like some of the chickens already may be coming home to roost.

The U.S. is certainly not eager to see an Iran-friendly, Shiite government in Iraq. Thus, when it appeared to be getting a handle on Sunni resistance, it began talking about a more broad-based Iraqi government that would include Shia, Sunnis and Kurds, as well as representatives of other, smaller ethnic groups.

To the Shiites, this was America going back on its word. Iraq's most prominent Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, pushed for direct elections (which would explicitly favor Iraq's 60 percent Shiite majority population). The U.S. said no. The Shiites decided it was time to remind the U.S. why it needed to make the deal in the first place.

Thus, in April, the situation exploded.

Violence escalated in Fallujah, Iraq's most resistant Sunni city. Roughly simultaneously, and much more significantly, tensions with Muqtada al-Sadr, an Iraqi Shiite cleric, boiled over. The radical, Iranian-supported Sadr called

on his angry followers (including his armed militia, the "Mahdi army"), which numbered about tens thousands and were rapidly growing, to "terrorize your enemy"—the U.S.

Suddenly, it seemed, America was facing the nightmare it had sought all along to avoid: *a two-front war with both Sunnis and Shiites.* Some analysts wondered if the two groups had planned the uprising together. Signs did emerge of the two fronts coalescing, with Shiites getting behind the Fallujah resistance and Sunnis voicing their support for Sadr. It was also speculated that Sistani had used the fanatical Sadr to send Washington a message.

Within days, U.S. forces decided they were in over their heads. For the first time since entering Iraq, *they sought a truce with the guerrillas.* Washington pulled American troops back in order to facilitate *negotiations* with the various Sunni and Shiite factions.

And in the midst of these talks, an Iranian envoy, Foreign Ministry Director General for Persian Gulf Affairs Hossein Sadeqi, was called in to help.

It was a crucial, and deeply revealing, moment.

Trumpet Warnings The *Trumpet's* primary purpose is to provide advance warning of where current events are leading based on the "more sure word of prophecy" provided in the Bible (2 Pet. 1:19). In the thicket of information about world affairs, among the various seemingly contradictory trends that can appear in a single moment, this biblical perspective gives our readers a compass—an ability to discern true north.

Longtime *Trumpet* readers will be the first to recognize the real significance of Iran's creeping influence in Iraq.

Based on prayerful study and comparison of several relevant Bible passages, the *Trumpet's* editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, almost 12 years ago pointed to Iran as being most likely to fulfill the end-time role described by the Prophet Daniel as "the king of the south."

Study Daniel 11:40 through Daniel 12:13: This "king" has a *pushy* foreign policy that will provoke another, even more powerful "king" into a devastating war that escalates into *nuclear world war.* The king of the south plays a colossal part in end-time events, so it is vital that God reveal that king's identity (Amos 3:7).

Evidence within Psalm 83 points to the strong probability of Iraq being allied with

Victory for the Mullahs

BY JOEL HILLIKER

IT APPEARS ONE OF THE MAIN SNAGS SLOWING IRAN'S rise to regional power has been resolved. The reform movement that overwhelmingly voted President Mohammad Khatami into power in 1997 and created political tension in a country ruled by conservative Islamic clerics has essentially been pronounced dead.

And what is most interesting about this development is the fact that the United States is unconcerned—perhaps even glad.

Iran's hard-liners pulled rank and effectively killed the reform movement. Why no outcry from the West?

Mullahs vs. "Sheep" Iran's political system, created a quarter century ago by the Ayatollah Khomeini, is a theocratic republic cloaked in a sham parliamentary democracy. The people vote, but the religious leaders hold ultimate power. Under Iranian law, the ayatollah can trump the president on any action he wants. Any bill ratified by Iran's parliament (the Majlis) can be torpedoed by the unelected 12-member clerical Guardian Council if it fails to comply with the Council's interpretation of the Koran.

Thus, political tension is practically built into the system.

Members of the religious elite, who look down their noses at the popular masses, have choked the country through political, intellectual and cultural repression, quashing critical press and imprisoning or assassinating political opponents. Afshin Molavi, in his book *Persian Pilgrimages*, quotes hard-line Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi as saying, "It doesn't matter what the people think. The people are sheep."

Agitation has been building for years between the elites and these "sheep"—Iran's increasingly young, moderate-thinking voters (about half of Iran's 68 million people are under 25), who have put moderates into parliamentary office with decisive majorities since 1997. Despite holding sizable majorities in elected bodies during that time, moderates have been blocked from achieving anything, and frustration within the country has been rife.

The conservatives got especially tough in January, in anticipation of February's parliamentary election, by disqualifying over 2,400 reform candidates, including 80 popular Majlis members. Despite protests and an attempted boycott of the elections, those loyal to the religious rulers won big—taking at least 149 of the parliament's 290 seats.

Soon after, President Khatami publicly declared that his efforts at reform had come to an end. He felt so constrained and handicapped by the Guardian Council, he told Iranians, that they should not expect anything more from him.

It was a strong victory for Iran's conservative religious leadership. The religious zealots could now carry on with their agenda unhindered, speaking with one voice for Iran.

Western Relief Amazingly, rather than condemning these elections, Western diplomats actually expressed relief. Why? Because the reformists simply had been getting in the way.

These diplomats spoke of the exasperating powerlessness of the reformists. In a February 18 Agence France Presse (AFP) report, one Western diplomat was quoted as saying, "Khatami

has become irrelevant, and the reformers in the parliament even more so." And yet, because they held offices, AFP reported, "diplomats have been spending many frustrating hours at the negotiating table with interlocutors who openly admit to wielding no real power. *The talks that matter have been in private, with regime hardliners*" (emphasis mine throughout).

AFP pinpointed two key areas of negotiation: Iran's nuclear program and its harboring of al-Qaeda agents. "The reformists have never been in the loop on these kind of things," said one diplomat from a close European ally of the United States. Another European diplomat, based in Tehran, stated, "Whenever we get to the brunt of an issue, the conservatives have the final say."

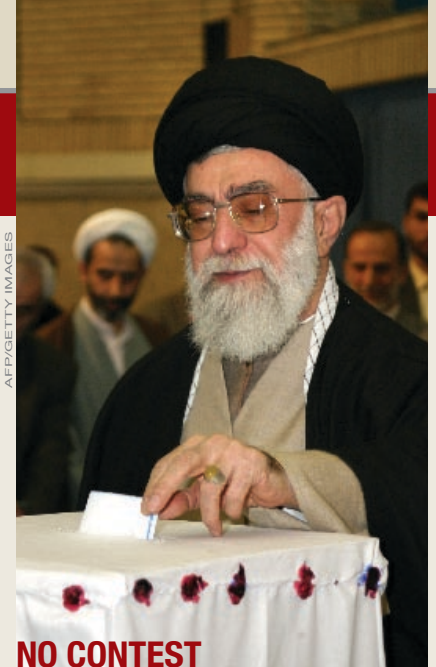
Even Washington remained relatively quiet about the election. A February 23 article in the *Wall Street Journal* drew attention to this fact. It compared the "pluralist" Iranian society's repression at the hands of the "fragile" Islamic regime to Poland's repression by Communist leadership in the 1980s—it looked bad for a moment in time, but the resistance eventually ended up breaking communism's back. "However, the coup in Iran today and the one in Poland are different in one critical respect: the West's reaction. In contrast to the concerted efforts in the '80s to aid Solidarity, few in the West—including the Bush administration—have shown much solidarity with Iran's democrats." Just when the hard-liners are consolidating their grip on power within Iran, the U.S. is turning soft.

Why? Why didn't the conservatives' power play produce a stiffening of America's spine in opposition?

Simply because America has surrendered its authority to oppose this second member of President Bush's proclaimed "axis of evil." By relying on Iran for help in Iraq, America's leverage against Iran has been fatally compromised.

Witness: America has struck deals with Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf and Libya's Muammar Gadhafi that have yielded short-term gains in tracking down terrorists and purging WMD. But these deals have also strengthened the position of the autocrats within those countries. It appears that now the U.S., for short-term gains in Iraq, is providing similar support for the conservative government in Iran.

The *Wall Street Journal* described Iran's conservative establishment as "fragile" and lacking legitimacy. But in reality, the subtext of this sequence of events is that IRAN'S CONSERVATIVES ARE HERE TO STAY. However shaky their legitimacy may be in the eyes of the electorate they have just manhandled, the rest of the world—most notably, and most regrettably, the United States—seems more than willing to make them a partner. ■



NO CONTEST

Khamenei votes in February after thousands of moderates were disqualified.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Iran in this role. (Read our free booklet *The King of South* to understand the basis for these conclusions.) Thus, seeing Iraq progressively hobbled by post-Gulf War sanctions, Mr. Flurry deduced that there would be some sort of takeover of Iraq by Iran. His December 1994 Personal, "Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?", mulled this probability. "The [Shiites] compose the majority of the population in Iraq," he wrote. "The Shiite Iraqis have been encouraged to revolt by Iran, which is almost totally Shiite. ... Can you imagine the power [the Iranians] would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world? If so, there seems to be little doubt that Iran would lead the king of the south (Dan. 11:40)."

Other prophecies the *Trumpet* has repeatedly highlighted reveal the fate of the United States in these last days. The Bible portrays a nation possessing *power* and *strength* but whose pride in that power will be broken and whose strength will be spent in vain (Lev. 26:19-20)—a cursed condition that presages its eventual downfall. Our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* provides a thorough biblical exposition of what awaits the U.S.

These prophecies have hammer-blow impact when viewed side-by-side with the facts on the ground in Iraq today.

Iran's Long-Planned Assault The reality is becoming plain that events in Iraq are fundamentally proceeding according to Iran's plan.

Saddam Hussein's Iraq was Iran's chief enemy in the region—but the majority Shiite population suffering under his oppressive rule was sympathetic to the Iranians. And so—despite the fact that Iran's mullahs have never been friends of the U.S.—when Hussein was eliminated last spring, an opportunity emerged.

Facts now coming to the surface demonstrate the comprehensive, far-reaching strategic plan Iran has enacted in an effort to mold post-Saddam Iraq into a second Iran. In fact, though these efforts multiplied the moment Saddam's statue fell in Baghdad's Firdos Square, the conspiracy to take over Iraq had been devised in the shadows for years beforehand.

Senior fellow Constantine Menges of the Hudson Institute issued a report on April 14 detailing the plan. "Following the removal of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, the Iranian clerical dictatorship has mounted a covert effort to establish an allied Shia Islamist extremist regime in Iraq," he wrote. "Iran has

been preparing to do this for many years and has recruited political, military and covert agent assets among the hundreds of thousands of Shia Iraqis who fled Iraq and have lived in Iran for years."

The former Iranian intelligence official in charge of activities in Iraq, who defected from Iran late last year, confirmed these facts. In an interview with the London Arabic newspaper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* (April 3), Haj Saidi gave a detailed, hair-raising account of the extent of Iran's penetration. He said that Iranian intelligence agents of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the al-Quds Army, including many Iraqi refugees from the past 30 years, infiltrated back into Iraq long before the war—to the point where "the Iranian presence in Iraq is not limited to the Shiite cities. Rather, it is spread throughout Iraq, from Zakho in the north to Umm al-Qasr in the south ..." Saddam's fall only made the infiltration easier: "After the war, the Iranian intelligence sent its agents through the uncontrolled Iraq-Iran border; some of them as students and clerics, and others as belonging to the Shiite militias" (as translated by MEMRI, the Middle East Media Research Institute, April 9). To facilitate their activities, these agents had about 2,700 apartments and rooms to use in 14 Iraqi cities.

What did these spies do?

Iran has implemented its strategy covertly and overtly on several fronts. It has used Iraqi Shiite clerics to sway their followers to Iran's causes. It has established as a political party the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq and created an attendant paramilitary group (which currently numbers around 30,000).

It has also bought off Iraq's radio and television airwaves. Iran is now the source of fully 74 of the 100 AM, FM and television broadcasts heard in Iraq (by contrast, the U.S.-supported Iraq Media Network broadcasts on one TV station and two radio stations). Haj Saidi says these media outlets employ over 300 reporters and technicians who are members of the al-Quds Army and the Revolutionary Guards Intelligence units.

Iran has flooded Iraq with Hezbollah agents to recruit for future terrorist attacks against the U.S. and worked with Hamas agents for the same purpose. Haj Saidi disclosed that Iranian intelligence is operating at least 18 Shiite charities in Iraq which, under the pretense of offering medicine, food and clothing for the poor, are recruiting new spies and stir-

ring broad support to launch a nationwide revolt. Another source, a member of the al-Quds Army known in Iraq as "Abu Hayder," says al-Quds and the Revolutionary Guard Intelligence are responsible for many of the attacks on coalition forces (MEMRI, April 9).

In addition, Iran has sponsored and cooperated with a swarm of other Shiite terrorist groups to intimidate the leadership within Iraq's Shiite community into complying with Iran's wishes. When Iraqi Shiite cleric Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim was assassinated last August, Mr. Flurry pieced together that the act was likely directed from Iran because of Hakim's willingness to work with U.S. forces. In April, Haj Saidi and Abu Hayder both confirmed that the murder had in fact been carried out by the al-Quds Army because of Hakim's opposition to the concept of "the Rule of the Jurist"—that is, Ayatollah Khomeini's style of government. Hakim's assassination was simply the most prominent example of this policy of intimidation. (Read the related story on page 1 of this issue.)

Menges says Muqtada al-Sadr, who has close ties to both the Revolutionary Guards and the al-Quds Army, has been used as the point man in Iraq for these activities: "Iran is working covertly with Iraqi extremist Muqtada al-Sadr to use political and coercive means, including murder, to intimidate and take over Shiite leadership in Iraq. The murders of several prominent Shiite clerical leaders who favored democracy and cooperation with the coalition repeats Iran's covert actions in post-Taliban Afghanistan, where a number of moderate Muslim clerics also were killed" (op. cit.).

To thicken the soup of intrigue, Sadr is also on close terms with former Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who now leads Iran's Expediency Council. During a recent visit to Iran, he met with Rafsanjani, as well as the al-Quds Army leader, the Revolutionary Guard leader, and other government officials and religious leaders.

Iran has gone so far as to construct and operate three training camps on the Iran-Iraq border for Sadr's Mahdi army, according to Abu Hayder. MEMRI paraphrased London's *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* as saying, "[Hayder] estimated that about 800-1,200 young supporters of al-Sadr have received military training including guerilla warfare, the production of bombs and explosives, the use of small arms, reconnoitering and espionage" (op. cit.).

All in all, Iran is spending about \$70 million per month on its pet project in Iraq. More than \$80 million has gone to Sadr alone, not counting the cost of training and equipping his followers.

This is what is truly behind the ruckus created by Sadr's recent incitement of Iraq's Shiites to violence. This is no small problem that will go away when the U.S. tries to turn over control of Iraq on June 30. *It's only a hint of a colossal nightmare that is about to get about 100 times worse.*

The Italian Military Intelligence Service (Sismi) has come to this very conclusion—that, in the words of the *Wall Street Journal*, “the war being waged by Shiite militants throughout Iraq is not just a domestic ‘insurgency,’ but rather a coordinated, planned assault among local factions tied to an Iran-based ayatollah, Kazem al-Haeri” (April 16, emphasis mine throughout). Grasp this! Haeri appointed Sadr as his deputy in Iraq last year. He is also a close ally of the Ayatollah Khamenei. In other words, Haeri is the link between Sadr and the highest levels of the Iranian government.

The *Wall Street Journal* continued, “The strategic goal of this revolt, says Sismi, was ‘the establishment of an Islamic government of Khomeinist inspiration.’”

And, just as Iran can turn on the tap of violence in order to pressure the U.S., it can turn it off at a moment of its choosing. When the Iranian envoy came to Iraq last month, Sadr yielded to the negotiations and, in the process, also recognized Sistani's leadership. The level of coordination between Sistani and Sadr is unknown, but in a very real sense it does not matter. Sistani too has clear ties to Iran (he was born and brought up in Iran, and most of his charitable and religious activities are based there).

Iran is orchestrating the whole thing.

But why isn't Washington speaking out? “[T]he State Department still doesn't believe—or won't admit publicly—that there's a connection between Sadr's uprising and Iran's mullahs,” concluded the *Wall Street Journal* (ibid.). “Just last week, State's deputy spokesman, Adam Ereli, told reporters that ‘We've seen reports of Iranian involvement, collusion, provocation, coordination, etc., etc. But I think there's a dearth of hard facts to back these things up.’”

A dearth of hard facts?

Washington may issue some occasional tough-sounding talk against Iran. But watch its deeds. Contrast its handling of this “axis of evil” member with

its handling of the last one. Its silence over what is really happening in Iraq is a deafening sign of just how compromised its position is.

When Saddam fell, Iran rejoiced—and pounced. Now, a year later, we can see more clearly how precisely their long-held strategy for reshaping Iraq is working out to their advantage. Using Iraq's Shiites as leverage, *Iran is holding the U.S. to heel.* It is growing in strength and in confidence.

It is, in fact, reasserting an old pattern in its foreign policy: *That of the calculated PUSH.*

Iran's Nukes—America's Response Once you recognize the tremendous advantage Iran's hard-liners have over the U.S., it becomes much more clear why they have been so brash lately regarding their nuclear activities—and why America's response has been so weak.

Several damning allegations and reports have surfaced over the past year, raising the concern of not just the United

States, but also Europe, the United Nations and the UN atomic watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Iran's conservatives relented, agreeing last November with Britain, France and Germany to open their nuclear facilities to international scrutiny.

But then in February came two bombshells. First was the revelation that Abdul Qadeer Khan, founder of Pakistan's successful and highly publicized nuclear program, had sold nuclear secrets and technology to Iran, among other countries. Then came the IAEA's announcement that it had found evidence of Iran's efforts to develop an advanced P-2 centrifuge that can enrich uranium to bomb-grade levels; it also found traces of highly enriched uranium at two of its nuclear facilities, polonium (a radioactive element used to trigger a nuclear bomb), and an experimental program to make an isotope used primarily in manufacturing nuclear weapons.

It was clear evidence of evasion and deception on Iran's part—a perfect moment for the U.S. to get tough. But what did Washington do instead? It responded by saying it had “serious concerns.”

Stratfor wrote, “Washington's light attitude is a far cry from the previously bellicose stance against a nation Bush at one time declared part of the ‘axis of evil.’ If the United States was really interested in doing so, with the new evidence in hand it could easily push for the IAEA to take Iran before the UN Security Council, where it could face sanctions. There have been no efforts in this direction” (February 20).

Washington did push for a condemnatory statement from the IAEA, but the moment it was issued, Iran balked on its earlier agreement and refused to allow inspectors into the country. Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister announced that Tehran would resume enriching uranium as soon as the issue with the IAEA was resolved.

For a country under so much scrutiny and with so much to hide, Iran has been pretty bold. One can't help but conclude that they must have good reason to feel confident the United States doesn't pose much of a threat.

Tacit Approval Roughly concurrent with these events has been a series of announcements coming out of Iran publicizing its ongoing military and trade ventures. The Islamic regime is charging ahead with plans to boost its clout within

The Chalabi Connection

America is taking a hard look at its prewar intelligence regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. In a February 18 report, Stratfor raised an important fact to consider.

Much of the intelligence came from the Iraqi National Council, a group opposed to Saddam Hussein and led by Ahmad Chalabi, who has since served as a linchpin in the Iraqi Governing Council. What is interesting is how chummy this Iraqi Shiite is with Iran.

Stratfor made the following connections: “First, Chalabi was extremely close to the Iranians prior to the war. Second, he provided much of Washington's prewar intelligence on Iraq. Third, no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq. Fourth, the Iranians, along with the Iraqi Shia, are the main beneficiaries of the U.S. invasion. In that case, who Chalabi was and whose interests he actually was serving become the central questions.”

It appears the U.S. would have invaded Iraq regardless of WMD. But if the intelligence was faulty (which still has yet to be proven), how much did Iran influence this critical step in the buildup to the war?



REUTERS
CHALABI

the region and beyond, and many countries are unalarmed and willing to help.

If Washington dislikes these developments, its doubts are being ignored. But indications are, in some cases, that it is giving its tacit approval.

In January, Iran's defense minister declared that Iran would launch its own satellite, using its own booster technology, within 18 months. "Iran will be the first Islamic country to enter the stratosphere with its own satellite and its own, indigenous launch system," Iran's official news agency, IRNA, quoted him as saying (January 5).

Notice it: *These are the words of a country with ambition.* Pakistan beat it to the claim of being the "first Islamic country" with nuclear weapons. But Iran does not want to lose additionally the Islamic space race. Why? As the *Trumpet* has reminded our readers on several occasions, Iran's long-held objective, stretching back to even before the 1979 revolution, is to become the undisputed leader in the region.

In pursuit of this goal, Iran is seeking to expand its military cooperation with Syria and Lebanon over the next five years—two other terrorist-harboring states on the international fringe.

This, however, is merely business as usual for the Islamic state. When America and Britain entered Libya at the end of 2003, they found proof of almost 100 military-related contracts Gadhafi had made with Iran, including missile development and other conventional and nonconventional weapons. "Iran has used Libya as a laboratory for Tehran's defense industry," an intelligence source quoted by Middle East Newline said. "The United States found evidence of Iranian involvement in virtually every major Libyan weapons program" (March 3).

The *Sunday Telegraph* (London) ran a damning article exposing the fact that Iran has been training Libyan dissenters—in order to blackmail Gadhafi into withholding secrets about Iran's nuclear program and involvement in international terrorism (Con Coughlin, February 29). After the article came out, Iran expelled the terrorists.

It appears Iran seeks also to dominate the field in its support not only of terrorist-sponsoring nations, but of terrorist groups as well, if its hosting of a 10-day anti-U.S./anti-Israel conference in February is any indication. Iranian officials invited groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, the Islamic Jihad of Palestine

and al-Qaeda allies such as Ansar el Eslam to "discuss strategy against the United States and its allies, particularly Israel and the best ways and means to increase military, financial and propaganda support for Palestinian groups fighting Tel Aviv" (www.iran-press-service.com, February 6). The conference was ordered by Khamenei to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his predecessor the Ayatollah Khomeini's return from exile before the 1979 revolution.

Amazingly, however, this outlandish behavior doesn't seem to be harming Iran's status internationally.

The European Union says it still wants to expand its political and economic cooperation with Tehran. In the words of *Asia Times*, Germany, the EU's most powerful nation, is already "Iran's main trade partner and political supporter" (February 24). A railway connecting Berlin to Tehran will be running freight trains in August. Though awaiting a green-light from the IAEA based on Iran's cooperation over its nuclear program, diplomatic relations remain strong as these two entities contemplate a deeper friendship.

Russia continues to collaborate with Iran in developing its billion-dollar nuclear reactor project in Bushehr, disregarding U.S. concerns. It is also planning to build railroads into Iran, which, according to the Russian Railways press service, "should dramatically change the way oil and oil products are presently being shipped in the Middle East" (Interfax News Agency, April 4). China has just agreed to buy \$20 billion worth of liquefied natural gas from Iran over the next 25 years, ignoring U.S. energy sanctions. According to the Middle East Newline, "China, which imported 12.4 million tons of crude oil in 2003, has become a major energy client of Iran and plans to develop Iranian energy fields" (March 20).

Japan, too, has just signed a \$2 billion contract to explore and develop Iran's colossal Azadegan oil field. Notice Stratfor's analysis: "Washington has blocked this deal under the aegis of the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) for nearly a decade. Washington would allow it to proceed now *only if it were willing to invest in a long-term, constructive relationship with the Islamic republic.* In response to the Azadegan deal, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said, 'We remain deeply concerned about deals such as this and disappointed that these things might go forward.' The Japanese media, on the other hand, reported that

Tokyo went ahead with the deal after the United States softened its stance on Iran" (op. cit.). Yes—America's softened stance on Iran is being noticed, and it is having a ripple effect.

The Boomerang Effect As has happened historically when America has compromised its long-term security in favor of short-term advantage, the U.S. appeasement of Iran—the world's foremost state supporter of terrorism—is bound to boomerang in a spectacular way.

America hoped the war in Iraq, at least in part, would give it some bargaining power in the Middle East and serve to put pressure on Islamic nations in its war against terror. We can already see, however, that despite U.S. successes in Iraq and its pressuring of Libya, Saudi Arabia and other countries to be more cooperative, ironically *America has actually handed Iran major tools of leverage in the process.*

The benefit to Iran has been two-fold. First, as other Middle Eastern countries bow to U.S. demands and weaken, Iran by comparison is waxing strong. Second, with the Butcher of Baghdad gone, a major enemy that had checked Tehran's ambitions has been simply eliminated, and with a Shiite-dominated government about to assume power in Iraq, Tehran gains a sympathetic neighbor, too weak to ever be a competitor—and glutted with oil.

This is a critical time for Iran. Its newly strengthened conservative leadership knows it. The mullahs are seizing the moment. They warrant our closest scrutiny.

It was 14 years ago that the *Trumpet* first began pointing its readers to the prophecy of an end-time king of the south. These latest events within and surrounding the Islamic republic of Iran seem to be moving inexorably toward the fulfillment of this prophecy. Armed with this biblical understanding, you can grasp the big picture in the day-to-day developments within this powder-keg region.

To learn more about the explosive events about to be ignited from within Iran—to see the backlash that will follow on from the United States' duplicity—to understand how even Europe is prophesied to become embroiled in the situation very soon—request today a free copy of our booklet *The King of the South.* ■

CARNAGE

Victims lie in the twisted wreckage of the March 11 train bombing, which killed 191 and wounded 1,800.

THE SPANISH CONNECTION

Islamist extremism struck another cowardly blow in March. This time the target was civilians on board a train in Madrid. Why this attack on European soil? Why Spain—why Madrid? **BY RON FRASER**

ONCE, IN WARFARE, MILITARY casualties greatly exceeded those of civilians. Today's terrorist wars have changed that. Innocent civilians are often not only the victims of what is so clinically dubbed "collateral damage," but are the terrorists' deliberate target.

The devastating carnage of the Madrid train bombings on March 11 is a case in point. On that fatal day, Islamist terrorists engaged in a series of bomb attacks on board four commuter trains in the Spanish capital. These attacks, the deadliest terror attacks in Europe since World War II, killed 191 people and wounded over 1,800.

Why such an attack on the European continent? Why was *Spain* targeted by these Islamic extremists? Did Madrid have any special significance to these denizens of death?

The history of this terrorist wickedness indicates that the perpetrators of

these soulless acts are very meticulous in their choice of targets. This was no random attack. It was designed to convey a specific message to Spain in particular, and, in the wider sense, to the whole European Union of which Spain is a highly active member nation.

The shattering of the innocent lives of men, women and children of varying nationalities on board a Madrid train by the bombs of Islamist extremists shook not only Spain, not only Europe, but much of this whole world as its *true* implications dawned.

Crusading History Numerous terrorist cells throughout the world—from the most high-profile, such as al-Qaeda, to those of whom little has been heard, such as Salafiyah Jihadiyah, believed to be instrumental in the Madrid bombings—are connected by a common religion, Islam, and a common goal, the attainment of a global Muslim caliphate.

Many are loosely federated with an organization established in 1998 by Osama bin Laden: the World Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders.

The *caliphate* was the term applied to the territorial realm of Mohammad and his successors, and today is used in the sense of Islam's global spread. The caliph is the temporal, spiritual head of the Muslim religion, founded by Mohammad in the seventh century A.D. At the time, the multifarious tribes and clans of the Near East were a fractious lot, easily taken advantage of by the regional powers of the time. Some of the Arabian societies, akin to the Palestinians of today, lacked any semblance of a national identity. Having observed the power of the religion of Rome (itself a convenient mix of Judaism, Christianity and the pagan religion of old Babylon) to weld together both east and west within the Roman empire, Mohammad decided that the same strategy used by

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Constantine might well be exploited to create some semblance of unity among the Arabs, Persians and various others that populated the general area of the Middle East and Central Asia.

He created his new religion out of a hybrid of Judaism, Christianity and Arab mythology. Even Mohammad was surprised at just how successful this religion was at achieving its end of unifying the diverse elements of the Near East.

From its roots, this religion evolved into an essentially socialistic form, seeking to elevate the poor at the expense of the rich. It is inherently anti-capitalist. Global capitalism is viewed by Muslims as the very antithesis of their goal of a Muslim socialist empire where wealth is equitably distributed over all.

Sir Alfred Sherman, one-time adviser to Margaret Thatcher when she was British prime minister, describes Islam in the following terms: “The distinction between nation and religion or between the religious and the political, a staple of modern Western society, does not exist in Islam. ... [A] Muslim believes that it is his duty to further God’s rule over the world, an aspiration that most Christians once shared but have long since abandoned” (*Salisbury Review*, Spring 2004).

Notice that Sir Alfred does not distinguish between the typical or the extremist in this description of Muslim belief. That is because, regardless of the level of religious zealotry displayed by an adherent to the religion of Mohammad, the religiously idealistic goal remains the same: the global spread of Islam.

In its fundamental ideology, then, Islam has much in common with the tenets of both communism and Roman Catholicism.

The practicing Catholic has available ready outlets for the expression of his traditional religion, including the evident building of a European Catholic empire (the expanding European Union), which indicates reviving success in the Vatican’s drive to catholicize the world. For the communists, however, the collapse of the Soviet Union sent many of them searching for a new ideology to fill their pseudo-spiritual vacuum.

Enter resurgent Islam with its new battery of “freedom fighters,” the human bombs of Islamist terror bent on the destruction of capitalism, Christianity and, most especially, all those considered white, successful and peace-loving. The proletariat had new heroes—veritable Islamic kamikazes.

Indeed, with the collapse of the global Soviet Communist dream, Islam has become the comfortable bedfellow of many an old anti-Jew, anti-British, anti-American socialist. These old Marxist-Maoist worshipers have turned in droves to the Muslim cause. They are, as British observer Myles Harris describes, those whom “al-Qaeda hopes will one day be ‘white Moors,’ Western converts to Islam who will bring the veil to all Britain’s women, the closure of our cinemas, the

Islam’s creed is founded on a crusade against the infidel and the conquering of the world by its religion.

cleansing of our newspapers and books, and if God is good, the switching off of our TV sets” (ibid.). (The Moors were the Berber Muslims who conquered Spain in the eighth century A.D.)

Witnessing the outflow of anti-U.S. venom on display at the anti-Bush rally in Trafalgar Square during last year’s visit to London by the American president, Harris observed of that crowd of 100,000 Englishmen, “[T]he whole gamut of the old anti-Semitic, anti-American delusions of the Stalinist left were on display” (ibid.). Likening the religious, anti-U.S. zealotry prevalent on that occasion to the carnal reactions of the masses gathered at pre-World War II Nuremberg rallies, Harris declared, “In 1938 it was the Jews, now it is America. There is a price for such foolishness. Like the Germans in 1938, five years from now the demonstrators may wake to see their cities in ruins” (ibid.).

But out of the twinned phenomena of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of Islam as a power to be reckoned with, a more insidious and radical movement has emerged. Europe is its hotbed.

Seeds of Radicalism in Europe The Madrid bombing is but one incident in a growing trend of Islamist violence being seeded within the confines of the historically war-torn Continent. London may well be banker to many an Islamist enterprise that is but a front to a cause of devious, anti-Semite intent. Old Europe has become the training ground for the new generation of Islamist terrorists. A pattern is emerging.

A highly westernized generation of youths, the product of Islamic immigrant parents having fled to Europe for a better life than experienced in their home countries, are increasingly turning to a radicalized anti-Western religious zealotry.

This is a homegrown European phenomenon. These young people are of a generation that is more French or German, more *European* in culture, than Arab or Pakistani or African. They hail from westernized families. They are educated in the schools and colleges of Western Europe. They often commence their education with little Islamic faith—but they end it as practitioners of bin Laden ideology. They are what Farhad Khosrokhavar, an Iranian-French scholar, terms “the new holy-war community of believers,” recognizing neither ethnic nor national identity, and not exhibiting any traditional Islamic values. Their particular brand of Islam is “a new type of nietzscheanism” where suicide and murder become sacred acts of an elite, self-made race of believers who want to bring on a purifying apocalypse” (*Weekly Standard*, March 29).

Those who have followed the rise of the extremist Islamist movements in Europe believe this trend has evolved progressively over 20 years among the Continent’s huge Islamic migrant intake.

In the middle of the last decade, the fact of this homegrown radical-Muslim problem in Europe was demonstrated in a series of attacks in France. In the summer and fall of 1995, French Muslims killed 10 people and injured 114 in a series of bomb attacks—many centered in the heart of Paris—over a three-month period. These included attacks on rail cars and, quite tellingly, one in a provincial Jewish school. The culprits all fit the pattern. They were, to a man, Frenchmen of Islamic heritage who had become “intoxicated with the holy-war ideology preached in many radical mosques throughout Western Europe” (ibid.).

German and French security services have been working actively over the past decade to foil planned attacks by these European-based jihadists. “Among an estimated 20 or so planned Islamist terrorist operations in Europe that have been thwarted in recent years were plots to blow up a Christmas market in Strasbourg, to attack Western shipping in the Straits of Gibraltar, to kill U.S. airmen at a base in Belgium, to release the poison ricin in Britain, and to bomb the U.S.

Embassy in Paris” (*Christian Science Monitor*, March 22).

New Pattern, Old Clash Zacarias Moussaooui, known as the “20th hijacker” of 9/11, is one of these Europe-based jihadists. It is now also common knowledge that the other Islamist terrorists involved in the terror of 9/11 had either hailed from or had strong connections with European-based Islamist radicals who fit the same pattern. Indeed, it now appears that with the assimilation of Muslims into Western European societies the European pattern is more likely to produce radicalized young Muslim extremists than those acculturated into America.

“The jihadists of Europe have drunk deeply from the virulently anti-American, left-wing currents of continental thought and mixed it with the Islamic emotions of 1,400 years of competition with the Christian West” (ibid.). This continental phenomenon—Saudi-financed, with cash much of the time channeled through bogus charities (often London-based)—is educated in that

strain of Islamic fundamentalism that thrives on the poisonous anti-Americanism of the European socialist left. It now poses the threat of many more “Madrids” within Europe as it pursues its universalist doctrine of pushing the “crusading” Catholic European Union back behind the borders of the Ottoman Empire of old.

The Paris incidents of 1995, the terrorist threats uncovered within Germany, France and Britain since 9/11, the Madrid bombing—these are but the early manifestations of a coming clash between two great movements, both intent on global hegemony: a resurrecting Holy Roman Empire, through the instrumentality of the federalist European Union, and a rising Islamic caliphate, under the increasing dominance of old Persia, Iran.

Some thinkers with a truly historical perspective are starting to see this rising crusade between a resurrecting Catholic Europe and the rising power of Near East Islamism for what it is: the return of an age-old clash of civilizations. Two great global wars, followed by a cold war, ar-

rested the traditionally overt enmity of these old empires for a century in time. But the genie is now out of the bottle. The cold war is over. Old hatreds are free to boil up once again over those temporary restraints and borders formed by treaties and alliances forged in the crucible of convenience for their particular moment in time. History is filled with old ethnic, religious and civilizational themes that have reared their heads from time immemorial. One such theme is the enmity, bordering on hatred, which the East has ever had for the West.

In their recently released book, *Occidentalism: The West in the Eyes of Its Enemies*, authors Ian Buruma and Avishai Margalit write about how the enemies of Western civilization tend to characterize the West: “We—the Westerners, the Europeans, the Americans, the bourgeois, the cosmopolitans, the Jews, whoever—are whores; our civilization is Babylon” (*Commentary*, April 2004). Yet it is these authors’ observation of the Islamist mind-set on the West that is particularly chilling. They “discern something novel in the specifically Islamist condemnation

THE NEW ORDER

How the political ripple from the Madrid bombing has altered the

WHILE BUREAUCRATS were bickering over the European Union draft constitution, analysts were announcing the end of the dreams of a federal Europe. At that time, just before the constitution talks ended in shambles last December, we printed an article titled “Are We Wrong About Europe?” It has been our position for decades that Europe would unite to become a temporarily unmatched, global superpower—in a revival of the old Holy Roman Empire.

Some of our favorite analysts were pronouncing the certain death of the EU. We didn’t take exception to the fact that this particular political experiment might fail; rather, we said that if it did, it would only be replaced by a more stable alternative—moving Europe closer to economic, political and

military cohesion. However it would happen, we knew issues such as voting rights and foreign policy would first have to be resolved.

Why was our prediction so different from the rest? Because we simply believe Bible prophecy, which says that Europe *will* soon be united, with the Vatican and Germany holding the reins.

Recent events in Europe gave these prophecies renewed clarity.

For the last few years, Europe has been comprised of two major alliances. In one corner were France and Germany—the EU’s strongest nations—moving for quicker political and defense integration before the entrance of 10 more nations to the Union this month. In the other corner were Italy, Spain and Poland—speaking on behalf of those who didn’t want to see Berlin and Paris have too big a slice of the pie. Po-

land (set to join the EU this month) and Spain supported the United States and its war on terror, an alliance that gave them added confidence in dealing with “Old Europe.” Also with Spain and Poland were the other EU hopefuls—the smaller, weaker Eastern nations, which wanted assurance that Berlin and Paris wouldn’t trump certain national rights. Then there was Britain, clear friend of the U.S. and of some of the European underdogs, trying to play its historical balancing act between the two camps.

Europe, though squabbling, had a certain equilibrium—an equilibrium born of a temporary balance of divisions between the Franco-German alliance and those opposed to their bullying tactics. The smaller, weaker Eastern nations could be assured that Spain, and even Britain on some issues, would check France

and Germany. These Eastern candidates, which in March became official members of NATO (a U.S.-dominated alliance), felt safer too, believing that the U.S. also could watch over them.

Then came March 11. The horrific Madrid train bombings may have changed Europe more dramatically than any single event since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Shortly after the bombings, public opinion in Spain swung toward Jose Luis Zapatero, a socialist with strong connections to Berlin, who embodied the sentiment that America’s presence in Iraq was unjustified. Four days later he was elected prime minister. This one event, probably more tumultuous than the bombs that took roughly 200 lives, transformed the political landscape of Europe.

Within days, Spain pledged it would withdraw

of the West, which looks upon the West-erner neither as someone to ignore nor as someone to win over but, in religious terms, as an idolater to be slain" (ibid.).

True Nature of Present Religious Wars

Within a few days of 3/11, Spain voted in national elections. Before the Madrid bombing, it appeared President Jose Maria Aznar would be reelected. But public sentiment was rocked enough to send him packing in favor of outspoken Iraq war critic Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

If, indeed, the nation changed its vote because of this despicable and cowardly terrorist attack, then Spain was fooled. If the Spanish thought they were bombed simply as retaliation for the Aznar government joining with the U.S. and Britain in the war in Iraq, then the dire threats that Islamic groups spouted against France, followed by the German security service moving in on Islamist terrorist cells intent on letting off bombs in Germany (both nations having made powerful publicity out of their refusal to join the Iraq campaign), prove that the Spanish were indeed duped.

Although there are some who challenge the idea, others with a clearer view of history soon declared that *what Spain had felt was the ire of Islamists at their having lost the Iberian peninsula from the empire of the caliphate 500 years ago!* Indeed, the al-Qaeda offshoot that claimed responsibility itself wrote, "This is part of settling old accounts with Spain, the crusader" (*Times*, London, March 13).

A particularly emotive grievance of the Islamic peoples dates back to 1492 when the Muslim kingdom of Al-Andalus, today known as Andalusia, was lost to the Christians, bringing an end to 800 years of Islamic rule in Spain. On a videotape police found in the hideout of suspected perpetrators of the Madrid bombings, one of the terrorists referred to this when he said, "You know the Spanish crusade against Muslims, the expulsion from Al-Andalus and the tribunals of the Inquisitions, that was not so long ago" (*Daily Telegraph*, London, April 17). Bin Laden has also often spoken of Al-Andalus in the same vein. As the *Times* stated, "Bin Laden's immediate foe is America, the despised modern crusader,

but the search for historical revenge ... leads much further back" (op. cit.).

Religion and history run deep in the veins of the average Muslim. In fact, it is on these twin pillars that much of the overt racism within Europe is built. Though many would deny it, like it or not, Islam's creed is founded on a *crusade* against the infidel and the *conquering of the world by its religion*. In this, it has something in common with a fundamental tenet of the Roman Catholic religion. The very term *catholic* means universal, and that is the crusading goal of Roman Catholicism—the conquering of the world by the religion of the Vatican. This is *reality!*

Cast amid these opposing, reviving religious movements is the largely non-Catholic Western enclaves of the English-speaking peoples. They struggle to hold the line against the rising onslaught of the overt Islamic crusade—as well as the covertly insistent efforts of the Vatican, in concert with certain highly placed Eurocrats, to revive the old Holy Roman Empire!

In his bestselling book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World*

See **TERROR** page 17 ▶

power balance in Europe BY RYAN MALONE



CHRISTOPHE SIMON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

SWINGMAN

Zapatero is turning Spain away from the U.S. and warming to Germany and France.

troops from Iraq, rethink its relations with Washington and align more with Europe—i.e. Germany and France. A month later, after his inauguration, Zapatero ordered his defense minister to get the 1,300 Spanish

troops home "in the shortest time possible." The temporary equilibrium was disturbed. Spain's move leaves Poland isolated. And the voting-rights issue that kept Madrid and Warsaw from signing the draft constitution suddenly doesn't seem that big of a deal now that Spain has new leadership. Poland has begun to concede. Everyone is pushing for a resolution to the

draft constitution by mid-June so that the expanded Union can have a stronger legal infrastructure. Whether this happens or not is still anyone's guess. But here's what it means.

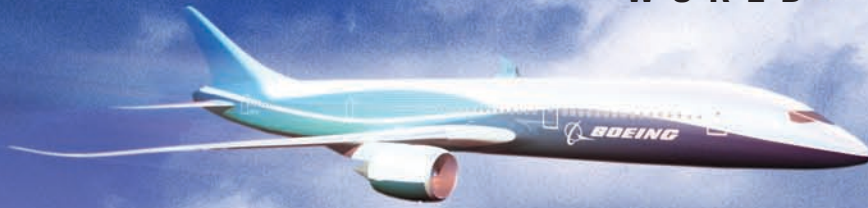
To create equilibrium,

nations must "balance" other nations. But in today's Europe, who will check France and Germany? What can the U.S. do if the nations that once looked to it for leverage against a domineering Germany and France are now happy to march to Old Europe's drum? If everyone is on board with the Franco-German agenda, what's to limit the most powerful nations from gaining too much power in the Union?

With Europe uniting, the real balance of power is not so much *within* Europe as it is between Europe and outside threats. Because of the Madrid bombing, the EU now sees that it *needs* a unified front to deal with the reality of terrorism. It has awakened to the need for more security and military cooperation Continent-wide—as well as even the sharing of intelligence among certain EU members.

Because of the Madrid bombing, the EU now sees that it *needs* a unified front to deal with the reality of terrorism. It has awakened to the need for more security and military cooperation Continent-wide—as well as even the sharing of intelligence among certain EU members.

This was the result of one, dramatic crisis event—200 people killed in Madrid. What would happen if Europe suffered a larger attack? We will soon see the birth of a unified, federalist empire—ready to take its seat on the throne of world superpower. That's what the book of Daniel says. The main catalyst is a "king of the south"—what we have shown to be Islamic extremism (request our free booklet *The King of the South* for more information). The crisis resulting from a "push" by this other growing global power will hasten the nations of Europe to put aside petty differences even further and give their power to those strong leading nations. Madrid is the beginning. Watch as future threats produce an even stronger, more cohesive resolve in Europe to meet even greater peril soon to come to its doorstep. ■



BOEING vs.

The aircraft-making juggernaut's wings are being clipped by a higher-flying European competitor.

BY MARK JENKINS

IN 1910, WILLIAM BOEING WENT TO THE first "air meet" in Los Angeles, hoping to ride in one of the new airplanes. He didn't get to go in one of their planes, but you have probably traveled in one of his. Boeing, until last year, was the largest airplane manufacturer in the world—a symbol of American strength and power. Its contribution was critical in World War II, with its Seattle plant turning out as many as 16 planes in a single 24-hour period. Competitors have come and gone, but Boeing has always come out on top—until now.

In 2003, the European consortium Airbus delivered more aircraft than Boeing for the first time. On the surface, the numbers might not seem outstanding: Airbus delivered 305 planes versus 281 by Boeing. But if a single aircraft is worth \$200 million (the Airbus A380 sells for US\$270 million), then the actual difference is about \$4 billion. Besides beating Boeing in terms of sales and profit, Airbus, an outgrowth of the German Messerschmidt Corporation, also gained ground in other key areas, as we will show.

But so what? A European competitor did better than a U.S. company last year. Why should Americans be concerned? After all, according to the Airbus website, becoming competitive against the U.S. in this market is why Airbus was founded: "Airbus was established in 1970 as a European consortium of French, German and, later, Spanish and UK companies as it became clear that only by cooperating would European aircraft manufacturers be able to compete effectively with the U.S. giants." A similar premise is a major reason for the existence of the EU itself.

So, again, why does it matter if Airbus is on the rise?

A closer look at the performances of Boeing and Airbus in 2003 reveals evidence of a growing trend: The U.S. is losing dominance in a strategically critical area of industry, security and national economy.

A Strong Foundation Airbus's skyrocketing performance has not come about overnight. For some years, the company has been positioning itself for growth and in the process has received massive support from European businesses and governments. More than a decade ago, Washington filed several formal complaints, saying that European governmental support of Airbus was tantamount to illegal export subsidies. The first formal complaint arose over an order by Indian Airlines for 19 A320 aircraft. "Boeing and the U.S. government accused Airbus of selling the A320s at less than cost, and putting political pressure on the Indian government, violating Articles 4 and 6 of the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade]" (*International Business Environment—Text and Cases*, 1995, Prentice Hall).

In 1991, the U.S. filed a new complaint against Germany for providing the German part of the four-nation Airbus consortium a subsidy of DM390 million (US\$470 million). Later in the year, "The U.S. Commerce Department claimed that altogether the four governments had provided up to \$26 billion (in real terms) in subsidies to Airbus since 1970" (*ibid.*).

Frank Shrontz, then CEO of Boeing, showed concern when he stated, "Just think what we could have done with a \$10 billion-plus subsidy." "Boeing's current financial position looked strong [in 1991], but Shrontz pondered the direction of the company's strategy and how well placed it was for the future" (*ibid.*). Now we can clearly see that Mr. Shrontz was right to worry. Airbus, which was not as serious a threat at the time, is now outpacing Boeing! Although the World Trade Organization became much more stringent with its regulations concerning subsidies after 1992, Airbus had already gained the advantage.

Inroads Airbus has clearly set its sights on U.S. dollars.

Already, certain U.S. commercial airlines are ordering Airbus planes. In August last year, Frontier Airlines placed an \$825 million order for 15 of the A319 narrow-body jets from Airbus. According to Noel Forgeard, Airbus president

and CEO, "It's no secret that this is a challenging time for the airline industry, especially in the United States. ... But Frontier is demonstrating that the path to recovery is with the most efficient aircraft possible run by a team that is focused on customer value. We are proud Frontier is continuing on its path toward an all-Airbus fleet" (*Defence Systems Daily*, Aug. 22, 2003).

If many more U.S. airlines switch to foreign products, it will hurt not only Boeing, but also a significant portion of the American economy as billions of U.S. dollars—and thousands of jobs—flow out of the country. The Air Force secretary estimated that one tanker deal alone can create 39,000 new jobs (Knight-Ridder, March 28).

Airbus is not merely seeking to compete in the commercial airline sphere. Note the developing competition over U.S. military manufacturing: "Not content with overtaking U.S. rival Boeing as the leading commercial aircraft manufacturer, European company Airbus is now musing over the possibility of selling aircraft to the U.S. Department of Defense. Airbus chiefs are considering establishing a factory in the U.S. that could convert or assemble the company's family of commercial jets to suit military applications," wrote *Defence Systems Daily* last summer. "Clearly, the U.S. defense market is an attractive one at a time when the commercial aerospace industry is in such dire straits, and Airbus is beginning to explore the opportunities for defense contracts with the company's military wing, currently working on its first major platform, the A400M cargo plane. However, the possibility seems a distant one, as the level of outrage that would be felt were any Pentagon contract to go the way of Airbus over Boeing might border on the cataclysmic" (June 25, 2003).

Although so far unsuccessful in this initiative, late last year a new statement made military bids by Airbus sound more realistic. According to the chairman of Airbus's parent company EADS (European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company) North America, "In the United States, we have made clear to Air Force authorities that we intend to compete aggressively for all future tanker buys—a commitment which has been

AIRBUS

FLIGHT PATTERN

Boeing's small new 7E7 Dreamliner and Airbus's new superjumbo A380 reflect the differing strategies of the two companies.



acknowledged and supported by the Air Force" (ibid., Sept. 17, 2003).

In fact, EADS is developing technology specifically designed for the U.S. Air Force, in addition to various other air forces. According to *CompanyNews-Groupe*, "EADS can offer different aircraft using different refuelling technologies to meet the special requirements of air forces worldwide" (Dec. 9, 2003). Last December, EADS CEO Rainer Hertrich said his company was developing a flying boom for the U.S. Air Force to equip the A330-200. "With an investment of \$180 million we are getting ourselves ready for future competition in the U.S.," he said (ibid.).

Airbus has already scored a major success this year by winning a \$24 billion, 27-year deal to refuel British air tankers (*Economist*, January 24). This is all the more significant considering that, until recently, Boeing had been the only entry in the air refueling market.

Airbus's intentions are clear. As it increasingly undercuts and outperforms Boeing, it will become harder for the U.S. to resist its advances. If U.S. military contracts were to go Airbus's way, an already weakened American economy would be harmed by the loss of multi-billion dollar contracts to a foreign company. One of the main reasons Boeing became such a rich, powerful company in the first place is the U.S. resolve to produce military products domestically. What's more, to rely on foreign sources for military goods is inherently dangerous.

A Shaky Boeing Boeing's downhill slide accelerated after Sept. 11, 2001. The airline industry as a whole was badly hurt by the terrorist attacks. Even today, air travel in the U.S. is down from 2000 levels. As a result, air travel has also suffered internationally. However, Airbus has rebounded much faster than Boeing.

As Boeing licks its wounds, it is considering moving many of its projects offshore. "Already Boeing has looked to

reduce costs by outsourcing much of the manufacture of major assemblies to Japanese (35 percent) and European companies" (*Defence Systems Daily*, Dec. 16, 2003). While this option may be a self-preserving move for Boeing, it will undoubtedly hurt the U.S. economy as jobs and contracts move offshore.

Also, Boeing's business strategy for the future follows a course directly opposite that of Airbus.

"Thirty years ago, the 747 jetliner was more than a symbol of prestige for the Boeing Co. It was the world's largest, farthest-flying and most popular airplane, a tangible expression of American know-how and industrial might. It even wound up depicted on a postage stamp" (*Washington Post*, Dec. 7, 2003). During the 1970s, the idea of a jumbo jet was a major gamble for Boeing. The investment put into those airplanes, the largest in the world at the time, would have bankrupted the company if it hadn't been successful.

Now, however, Boeing is banking its future on smaller, more fuel-efficient jets. Boeing's marketing vice president, Randy Baseler, said, "On the global scale, we see market fragmentation—or 'point to point' operations—continuing, which means airlines will rely more and more on smaller airplanes" (Associated Press, Dec. 8, 2003). In support of that theory, Boeing has begun to accept orders for its new 7E7 Dreamliner passenger aircraft, which will carry 200 to 250 passengers. "The big selling point for the 7E7 is efficiency, with Boeing promising big savings in operating costs for the airlines" (*Defence Systems Daily*, Dec. 17, 2003).

Considering that Boeing once bet its company on the success of the jumbo jet—and won—it seems strange that it would now bet on smaller planes—especially when Airbus has taken the opposite stance. Its new superjumbo A380, the world's largest passenger aircraft, has 555 seats. The Airbus vice president

for market forecasts even remarked that Boeing seems to be "in a parallel universe," and added that, in terms of number of orders, the A380 has had "the biggest market response to any jet" (Associated Press, op. cit.).

In the U.S., Boeing may be right to count on Americans demanding planes to handle point-to-point operations, although even that theory is yet to be proven. In Asia, however, Boeing faces a whole different ball game. According to *Asia Times*, "The fast-growing air freight business, which is increasingly delivering high-value electronics components from continent to continent, regards the freight capacity of the A380 ... today as crucial." Boeing's aircraft simply do not have as large a freight capacity. The current analysis is that Airbus will control the superjumbo market by 2020 if Boeing doesn't come out with a new product—which it appears to have no intention of doing.

Boeing wrapped up 2003 in serious internal turmoil. In an attempt to end a scandal surrounding bids on an Air Force tanker deal, the company's CEO, Phil Condit, resigned and has since been replaced by former COO Harry Stonecipher. The chief financial officer was fired. This scandal left the impression that Boeing had sought to gain the USAF contract by devious means. As a result, the Pentagon may well favor Airbus on future deals.

All this points to a dangerous trend for America. The U.S. is fast losing dominance in an industry that is critical to both its economy and national security.

The intensifying battle between Boeing and Airbus epitomizes the growing disparity between the United States and the European Union. As the *Trumpet* has continually forecast, Europe is rising, and the U.S. is falling—militarily and economically, just as your Bible prophesied (for more information, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). The fall of Boeing to Airbus is highlighting that fact before the world. ■



GETTY IMAGES

DEAD MEAT

Chickens at a Netherlands farm lie dead after being gassed as a precautionary measure against avian flu.

The Cost of Greed

Deadly animal diseases harm our food supply. Just a hint of mad cow or avian flu can warrant a mass slaughter. Why do we face such costly plagues? There is a cause, and it is us. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

MAD COW DISEASE THUNDERED back into news headlines in 2003. In the process it rocked the global beef industry. While select beef farmers mourned the loss of their cattle, thousands of consumers made the switch to poultry—a seemingly safe alternative.

The popularity of poultry was short-lived, however. By the end of 2003, mad cow was competing for headlines with a bird disease from Asia called avian flu. Where the threat of mad cow necessitated the destruction of thousands of cows in 2003, the peril of bird flu necessitated the death of over 100 million chickens in Asia

alone. Chickens continue to be culled in nations across the world. In Canada, bird flu has already largely destroyed British Columbia's poultry industry. Mad cow devastated the British beef industry while moderately weakening those of Canada and America. Avian flu practically decimated the Asian poultry industry.

Across the globe, scientists, international health organizations and governments are disturbed at the increasing threat that pervasive animal diseases pose to human civilization. History proves that there certainly is reason for concern.

Recent findings by the Medical Research Council in London reveal that the Spanish flu—the influenza virus that killed more than 20 million people between 1918 and 1920—*started in birds*. According to *Science* magazine, the 1918 flu jumped from birds to humans with minimal change, much like today's avian bird flu (February 6).

At the time of this writing, avian flu in humans has been confined to about 35 cases, within Asia. However, scientists are concerned that this lull might only be temporary. "Health experts have been most worried about the possibility of the disease combining with human influenza virus to create a more lethal version that could spread between people—giving rise to a global pandemic" (MSNBC, February 7).

Because of the potential for avian flu to combine with a strain of human influenza, and the fact that scientists believe we are overdue for the next global epidemic, many scientists and government health officials fear that the next outbreak could be worse than the 1918 epidemic that killed millions.

Little wonder, then, that national authorities are sanctioning the slaughter of hundreds of millions of animals, including cows, pigs, ducks and chickens. No wonder that nations would spend millions to destroy animals, risking the stability of their economies and rendering thousands of farmers jobless: These diseases have a *greater* potential for destruction than the public generally realizes.

Created Perfect Where did these diseases come from? Animals did not always have them. For those willing to believe God and His Bible, the account in Genesis shows that a supremely wise, all-intelligent God CREATED Earth in all its intricate detail. But Genesis 1 reveals more than the fact that God created Earth; it also discloses the *quality* of what He created.

Much careful thought and meditative planning had been put into this project. At the conclusion of every facet of the creation, God stated that what He had created was “good,” or, in the widest sense of the original Hebrew word, *perfect* (vv. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). This was a perfect environment, with perfect plants and perfect animals. Not one flower or tree was poorly suited to its environment. No animal was imperfect in its structure or instinct. *Everything* was CREATED perfect, including the health of every plant and animal. Diseases, viruses and infections simply did not exist.

So why are animal diseases like mad cow and avian flu becoming a growing threat to our health and well-being? How did a perfect living environment degenerate to the point where vast deserts, deadly diseases and widespread environmental destruction are the norm?

The main cause of the pervasiveness of these animal diseases and environmental degeneration lies within mankind itself.

The Cause It is an unpleasant thought, but history proves it: In every aspect of civilization, mankind’s performance has been marred by abuse, greed, neglect, robbery and destruction. These problems have been just as much a part of our environmental management and agricultural practices as they have our human relations and politics—perhaps more.

Consider modern cattle and chicken farming, for example.

Commercial farmers and feed and chemical companies—susceptible to greed and driven by massive demand from growing national populations—have discarded natural and wholesome farming practices and embraced agricultural principles based on accumulating profits. Gigantic commercial farming enterprises have virtually squeezed the family-sized farm out of business. In the process, and in order to produce the highest volume of product possible—for the smallest cost viable—commercial farmers sacrifice the health of their lands and animals.

This profit-driven mentality has given rise to massive feedlot farms where pigs, cattle and sheep are confined to small pens, and egg- and meat-producing chicken factories where chickens are housed in tiny wire cages or gigantic open sheds with concrete floors. Such confined living spaces lower labor costs.

In addition, most commercially raised cattle, pigs and sheep are fed a diet of starchy, high-calorie grain to cause



QUARANTINED

Cows are corralled at a Washington State ranch after one of them contracted mad cow.

the animal to gain weight quickly. Feedlot animals in particular have a grossly imbalanced diet with little grass and field-grown food. This diet also includes protein supplements, which can include anything from rendered household pets to sardines, blood or slaughterhouse waste. Many cattle and chickens are also administered growth hormones for rapid weight gain. The logic goes: The less time a cow or a chicken takes to mature to slaughter weight, the less time it is on the property and needs to be fed and cared for—and the sooner will come the profits for its meat. It all comes down to greed.

The Effect The effects of today’s greed-based agriculture include avian flu and mad cow, but these are only the most highly publicized among many such diseases. Poor farming practices cause the death of millions of animals every year in nations around the world. It’s only when these diseases pose a serious potential threat to people that we see them in the headlines.

For the purposes of this article, let’s notice how greed is a fundamental cause of mad cow and avian flu.

First detected in November 1986, mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), is a fatal disease affecting the central nervous system of adult cattle. Scientists generally accept that BSE is caused by infectious forms of protein, or prions. Cattle infected with BSE initially have the disease in their small intestines and tonsils, after which it can migrate to central nervous tissues such as the brain or spinal cord. This disease eats away at the brain of the cow, impairing the animal’s ability to perform simple functions such as walking, hence the name “mad cow.” A similar prion disease, scrapies disease, occurs in sheep; it is widely believed that cows contracted the disease originally because they were fed with rendered parts of infected sheep. BSE belongs to the same family of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)—as does Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, which infects people.

Poor farming practices cause the death of millions of animals every year. It’s only when these diseases pose a serious potential threat to people that we see them in the headlines.

It is widely known that, on most commercial farms, rendered animal tissue (from various dead animals) is incorporated into the animal feed and protein supplements fed to cattle. In the rendering

ease will loom over our heads.

We previously noted that avian flu is not dissimilar to human influenza. It is so similar, in fact, that the chief concern is that the deadly bird flu virus might

destroyed: It's because millions of chickens are kept unnaturally close to each other. This is poor animal husbandry, motivated by greed. Commercial chicken farms operate like this for no other reason but to lower input costs, increasing the profitability of their end-product.

When we house tens of thousands of chickens in extremely close confines and feed cattle, which are natural herbivores, on supplements containing the brains, bones and organs of other cattle and animals, is it any wonder that diseases like avian flu and mad cow exist? Our agricultural practices have been perverted, and these diseases are the penalty.

The Right Way You might be surprised to learn that God has provided mankind with laws, principles and guidelines for farming and agriculture. It was God who created our environment, and it was He who gave us its "care for" instructions. The principles that God gave to man, if followed, would have led to robust, healthy, disease-free plants and animals. Our environments, in response to being treated with respect and care, would have nurtured a perfect balance between the soil, plants, animals and humans.

By the completion of His seven-day creation, God had created an overwhelmingly beautiful and perfect environment. After the first five days, a magnificently balanced physical environment of pure, clean air, unpolluted oceans and rivers, and healthy, vibrant, colorful plants and animals existed. But Earth was not yet complete. On the sixth day, God created people. Adam and Eve were the crowning glory of God's physical creation of the Earth. In fact, scriptures indicate that the entire Earth, in all its perfection, was created *for humans* (Gen. 1:28-29). God clearly told Adam and Eve that the Earth was theirs.

But with the blessing of *control* over Earth's environment came *responsibility*. When God handed over the Earth to man's governance, He also gave Adam instruc-

You might be surprised to learn that God has provided mankind with right principles and guidelines to farming and agriculture. It was God who created our environment and gave us its "care for" instructions.

process, dead animals (including slaughterhouse scraps, restaurant scraps, dead farm animals, even euthanized cats and dogs) are minced, then steam-cooked. One of the primary end-products is a high-protein powder that is used in feed and protein supplements for cattle, pigs and other animals. Although the dead animals are boiled at high temperatures in the rendering process, BSE-causing prion proteins are not all destroyed. Cattle can contract mad cow disease when they consume feed and protein supplements contaminated with these prions.

Again, too many cattle farmers, in their efforts to reduce feed costs while forcing cattle to gain weight rapidly, are prepared to raise their cattle on cheap—and potentially dangerous—feed and protein supplements. As long as people continue to practice cattle farming in this manner, the threat of mad cow dis-

mutate by combining with the common human flu to form a deadly new strain.

The main reason this potential exists is also poor agricultural practices.

Think about the nature of chicken farms. Because thousands, even tens of thousands, of chickens are in such close contact, if even a few chickens contract the disease on one such farm, within days they all could be infected. Cross-contamination between farms occurs when meat is exported from the contaminated farm, young birds are sold to other commercial farms, or personnel leave the property. It can be transmitted in the wind. The disease even can be transported between nations when wild birds that might have contracted the disease from a chicken farm migrate to other nations and regions.

Thus, it's not hard to understand why millions of chickens in Asia have had to be



THE RIGHT WAY

Right agricultural practices, based on God's law rather than greed, lead to healthy crops and livestock.

See **GREED** page 25 ▶

Order, Samuel Huntington espouses a truism of today's global societies with which much of the intelligentsia has yet to come to grips: "In the modern world, religion is a central, perhaps *the* central, force that motivates and mobilizes people." Huntington wrote that "Religion is a central defining characteristic of civilizations, and, as Christopher Dawson said, 'the great religions are the foundations on which the great civilizations rest.' [F]our—Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism—are associated with major civilizations."

This being the case, it is surely valid to draw the conclusion that what is emerging rapidly on the world scene is but the repetition of an age-old scenario that will ultimately witness these civilizations pitted against each other. That is *exactly* what Bible prophecy predicts for the time just ahead.

Biblical Perspective Such a revelation will come as no surprise to the true scholar of Bible prophecy, for among the biblical prophecy to be fulfilled in our time is a very clear signal that a coming clash between a Europe-based civilization and a Near Eastern culture is imminent. All indications point to that prophesied clash as building between a European federation dominated by Germany and Rome and a great southern federation dominated by Iran. That is what the attacks on Madrid herald!

Islamic terror will continue to strike on European soil until this push at the "king of the north" by the "king of the south" consummates in horrific, bloody warfare. Your Bible says so! (Dan. 11:40). Even secular thinkers can see this prospect. Columnist David Warren states that "the present confrontation between Muslim East and post-Christian West may be more fundamental, and thus likely to be much longer-lasting, than our other confrontations" (*Commentary*, op. cit.). Warren explained, "Through many centuries, the Muslims who surrounded Europe's Christians posed the chief threat to Christian religious and cultural identity; for Muslims, the Christians both outside and inside the realm of Islam were the chief threat to *them*. Each knew the other as its



REMEMBERING THE PAST

Religion and history run deep for many Muslims. Here, Shiite pilgrims mourn the martyrdom of a 7th-century Shiite saint.

rival in the evangelization of the world. No other religions ... had made such universal claims to the allegiance of men as were made by both Islam and Christianity. No two peoples could use the word 'infidel' to describe each other with such mutual understanding of its meaning" (ibid.).

History has once again come full circle in this running sore of mutual hatred between Islamic Near East and old Catholic, crusading Europe. These ancient enemies are once again on the rise. The only power that arrested the overt expression of their traditional enmity, Western Anglo-Saxon Protestant democracy, is on the wane morally, religiously and economically. Biblical prophecy shows that it is also destined to decline as a collective *political* power.

The medieval loss of "Andalusia" from the caliphate of Islam to the Catholic princes of Castille and the Spanish counts of Barcelona is long remembered by the Near Eastern mind. But there is something else for which each of these

powers—Catholic Europe and the Muslim Near East—has yet to contend that has the motif of Madrid symbolically attached to it.

Jerusalem was the jewel in the caliphate crown. It was wrested from the Muslims via the Catholic Crusades, only to be gained back until the British relieved the area of Palestine in World War I, taking possession of Jerusalem and paving the way for the establishment of the fledgling nation of Judaic Israel by United Nations mandate following World War II.

Since then, Palestinian Muslims have fought a rabid propaganda battle for the destruction of Israel, to the point where they now have almost the whole world on their side. The upshot of this was the Western powers' negotiation of a peace plan in 1991. That plan had its genesis in the city of Madrid, following frenetic U.S. diplomatic shuttling to get the parties to the negotiating table. The outcome was the land-for-peace initiative based on UN Security Council resolutions requiring Israel to withdraw from territory it gained in the Six Day War of 1967. The land-for-peace principle has been at the heart and

core of all negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis ever since.

How symbolic that the jihadists would take their latest campaign against the West—the Christian religion symbolized by that ancient city Jerusalem—to the very doorstep of the European city in which that foundational peace plan, which they are committed to destroy, was originally drafted and signed—Madrid.

You need to be aware of what is really behind the jihadists' European terror strikes. Something huge is building out of all this, which is destined to soon have great impact on the global balance of power. Write now for your free copy of our booklet *The King of the South* and learn how this latest trend in Islamist terror will soon impact your life. Also request your own copy, free of charge, of Herbert Armstrong's book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. It explains how all terror will be eliminated in the future and the way of peace opened for all nations. ■

ISRAEL

Global Sympathy for Terrorists



REUTERS

HIS HAPPIEST DAY Sheik Yassin, considered to be Hamas’s spiritual leader, was assassinated in March by Israeli forces.

“THE DAY IN WHICH I WILL die as a shahid [martyr] will be the happiest day of my life.” So said the founder of Hamas, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, in a 1998 interview. It took six years, but he finally got his wish: On March 22, Israeli

forces launched a strike that took his life.

Some news sources reporting on the event used language critical of the Israeli government for killing a powerless cripple in a wheelchair who acted only

as the Palestinians’ spiritual leader. The BBC described Yassin as “a frail quadriplegic who could barely see,” with a voice “thin and quavering” (March 22). *USA Today* has pictures of the remnants of his bloodstained wheelchair on its website.

It seems much of the media would rather cast Yassin as a helpless victim than a man who popularized suicide bombing from his wheelchair and founded an organization bent on Israel’s destruction.

Perhaps they forgot that Yassin—who, incidentally, was wheelchairbound since a sporting accident at age 12—spent many years in an Israeli prison as a murderer.

In 1997, Israel released him from prison in exchange for two Mossad agents on the condition that he not call for further suicide bombings against Israel. He defied this condition.

The Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that Yassin “personally gave his approval for the launching of Kassam rockets against Israeli cities, as well as for the numerous Hamas terrorist bombings and suicide operations” (www.mfa.gov.il, March 22). No one disputes this claim.

Yassin explained the bombings: “The Jews attack and kill our civilians—we will kill their civilians, too. From the first drop of blood [the bomber] spills on the ground, he goes to Paradise. The Jewish victims immediately go to hell” (*Washington Post*, March 22).

Earlier this year, Yassin said Hamas was doing everything it could to capture Israeli soldiers as bargaining chips.

Nevertheless, his assassination was broadly condemned. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, “Such actions are not only contrary to international law but they do not do anything to help the search for a peaceful solution” (Reuters, March 22). EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said the European Union has always condemned “extrajudicial killings,” and added, “In this particular case, I think a condemnation ought to be stronger” (www.cbc.ca, March 22). These comments were typical of leaders all over the world.

Washington openly supported Israel’s actions—but only for a few hours. The Jewish daily *Ha’aretz* wrote, “When it became evident to the Americans that the Arabs were in a fury and the Europeans were outraged, the administration decided to change its tone and not be depicted as being enthusiastically in favor of the assassination and against the position of the rest of the world” (March 24).

Terrorists Unite Against Israel

ONE MONTH AFTER HAMAS LEADER Ahmed Yassin was assassinated by the Israeli government, his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantissi, was killed in another operation by Israel, the latest in a policy of assassination that began a year ago.

In retaliation, Hamas vowed “one hundred unique retaliations” (www.iht.com, April 19). One way Hamas is fighting back is through greater collaboration with other Mideast terrorist organizations in retaliation against Israel’s assassination policy.

The Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah pledged its support when its leader said to the head of Hamas, “Consider us in Hezbollah ... members of Hamas and soldiers under your command” (Reuters, March 27).

The *Washington Post* reported that Yasser Arafat’s al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which was founded to compete with Hamas, is now collaborating with them: “The growing trend toward cooperation emerged just over a year ago ... in a bid to combat the increasing success of Israeli forces in targeting, killing or capturing militant leaders and their operatives”

(April 2). We can expect this cooperation between terrorist groups to redouble as Israel continues to assassinate their leaders.

What’s more, “Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is prepared to include Hamas and Islamic Jihad in a new leadership organization that would function alongside the Palestinian Authority, senior PA officials said ...” (*Jerusalem Post*, April 7).

Not only is the Palestinian government not taking steps to stop terrorism, it wants to include the terrorists in the governing process.



REUTERS

MARCH Arafat’s men, shown here, are helping Hamas.

Citizens Unhappy With Leaders

AS EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS are striving to reform their nations, European voters are reforming their governments.

It's been a hard couple of months for Europe's ruling parties, particularly in France and Germany.

In its late March elections, France's center-right and right-wing majorities expected to take some hits, but they were completely unprepared for the scope of the left's *tour de force*: Socialists, Communists and Greens won 50 percent of the vote and 25 of 26 regional governments at stake.

France was a striking example, where elections dealt a heavy blow to the right. French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who—under President Jacques Chirac—has headed up two years of unpopular economic reforms, barely retained his post. This means it will be difficult for Paris to push further reforms through on a disgruntled populace.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder took a similar thrashing, with his center-left party dropping to its lowest approval rating since World War II. These numbers came in response to a series of reforms last year that cut unemployment benefits and hiked health costs.

In late March, Italy endured a one-day strike by millions of workers across the country protesting a government initiative to raise the retirement age of Italian workers to 60.

Post-World War II socialist governments have given

Western Europeans a way of life laden with social benefits. Now that their governments are trying to trim the fat in an effort to make Europe's economies more competitive in the worldwide market, the people are lashing back.

But Europeans know that reforms are necessary for their gear-grinding economies. Fifty-eight percent of Germans who responded to an independent research poll said that their government's reforms were wrong, but 93 percent agreed that those reforms were not enough to solve the economic problems they were facing. Forty-five percent of French citizens, despite the election results, thought continued reforms were necessary (*Christian Science Monitor*, March 31).

Europeans know they are experiencing economic stagnation. But they are not happy with their current governments' bungling reforms.

It may seem like the only solution is a leader strong enough to whip the European Union's 25 separate economies in line and



DANNY GOHLKE/FP/GETTY

UP IN ARMS Schröder, in front of the Eurofighter, talks up German military upgrades to the press.

maintain the support of the people at the same time.

Bible prophecy indicates that just such a man will come on the scene—a man who will unite the Continent and propel its economies forward (or its “merchants,” as Revelation 18:3 reads).

For more on the future of the European economic morass, and how it will be solved, request our free booklets *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



Germany Upgrades Arms

A **WORLDWATCH** IN THE February *Trumpet* showed how Germany plans to build its military through technology upgrades and strategic changes. Germany's deepened fear of terror attacks brought about by the Madrid bombings has shifted this process into a higher gear.

In late March, German Defense Minister Peter Struck announced that Germany is planning to spend up to €26 billion (US\$31 billion) on new armaments. In addition, he said that Germany would stay faithful to its commitment to purchase 180 Eurofighter jets and 50 A400M aircraft—at a cost of \$22 billion and \$10 billion respectively. Previously, there had been rumors that Germany might cancel its order because of economic woes within. Yet, the terror attack on 3/11 was the impetus needed to push Germany toward the defense and technology spending increase.

Germany's response to 3/11 is similar to America's after 9/11. Because of the heightened European terror threat, the German people are now largely behind these budget increases. Watch for a continual rise in German military readiness, and an overall increase in European security and defense strength.



REUTERS

RAFFARIN



GETTY IMAGES

VOTE ANGRY France's March elections were an indicator of growing displeasure in governments across the Continent.

KOSOVO

Still War-Torn

IS THERE ANY REAL HOPE that once-bitter enemies could, over the span of a few short years, come to live together in peace? The answer for Kosovo is, “not likely.”

The mid-March rioting and violence in Kosovo were the worst the province has seen since its bloody ethnic war five years ago. In retaliation for the drowning of two Albanian children, ethnic Albanians torched Serb homes and churches, leaving over 30 dead and around 900 injured. At least 3,500 Serbs and other non-Albanians fled their homes.

This was no spontaneous, isolated event: “[E]yewitness reports emerging from the region over the past few weeks have painted a grim picture of a campaign of systematic and ruthless anti-Serb ethnic cleansing complete with murder, mayhem, arson and wholesale looting” (*Moscow News*, April 7).

The violence has blown the cover off the impression that all has been quiet on the Balkan front. Five years ago, NATO launched air strikes and sent 50,000 troops to keep the peace. But since that time, the stable, democratic, multi-ethnic society the West sought to establish has yet to materialize. With 50 percent unemployment in Kosovo adding to the tension, there is clearly a long way to go, with much more investment needed for rebuilding.

What does the future hold for still-war-ravished Kosovo? Perhaps the most obvious place to look for an answer is to Kosovo’s geographical neighbor, the European Union.

After visiting Kosovo in April, German Defense Minister Peter Struck urged the EU to “double its efforts to find a political solution

for the UN-administered province” (Agence France Presse, April 5). With Germany being the largest contributor to the NATO-led Kosovo force, Struck’s comments carry weight.

And he is not alone in his thoughts. *European Voice’s* Dana Spinant suggests “the best and most forward-looking message member states can give to the people in the embattled province is

that Kosovo’s final status will involve it being part of the European Union” (April 5).

An ambitious goal—but far more likely to occur than a NATO-imposed peace!



AID German troops patrol Kosovo to help contain inter-ethnic fighting there.

TAIWAN

No to Full Independence

CHOCKABLOCK WITH shootings, good-guy/bad-guy storylines, exaggerated drama and riveting suspense, the recent Taiwanese election could have easily been mistaken for a second-rate Hollywood movie.

The leading topic of debate surrounding the March 20 elections was the fragile China-Taiwan relationship. While China believes it should own Taiwan, Taiwan refuses to acquiesce to Beijing’s rule and exists as a separate nation-state. For decades, though—as long as Taiwan refrained from seeking complete legal independence and Beijing refrained from seeking military and political control over the tiny island—both parties have remained in a standoff. The narrow re-election of President Chen Shui-Bian (who leaned on sympathy votes after being shot days before the election), and the low turnout for his highly pro-independence referendum, confirmed that full independence is not likely anytime soon.

Although most Taiwanese support independence from China, the majority are content with Taiwan’s current *estranged* independence. Due to close industrial, economic and social ties with China, few are prepared to support a complete severance from Beijing. “The election results show that what the island most wants is not to antagonize the giant across the strait. Taiwan already enjoys de facto independence, and there is little reason to risk its security just to legalize

UNITED NATIONS

Tarnished by Corruption

SCANDALOUS REPORTS have mounted in recent weeks against the United Nations’ oil-for-food program with Iraq. Investigations have exposed collusion between Saddam Hussein and high-ranking officials in countries such as Russia, Syria and France. Evidence suggests that Hussein used billions of dollars—intended for imported food and medicine—to bribe countries to resist sanctions against Iraq.

No wonder these nations opposed the U.S.’s war in Iraq.

Claude Hankes-Drielsma, overseeing the investigation into the scandal, said, “It will not come as a surprise if the oil-for-food program turns out to be one of the world’s most disgraceful scams” (*Sunday Times*, London, March 28).

The program started in 1997 to provide Iraqi citizens with much-needed food, supplies and medicine to relieve oppression from UN sanctions against their country. The UN allowed Iraq to sell limited quantities of oil to pay for the citizens’ humanitarian needs.

This program quickly soured, however, as Hussein

finessed the system to serve himself. The UN gave him complete control in deciding who to sell the oil to and for how much. In the process, Hussein pocketed about \$4.7 billion. He also bribed leading UN officials—\$2 billion divided among select diplomats. Over 270 former cabinet officials, legislators, political activists and journalists in more than



SEVAN

46 countries profited illegally from the program—including Benon Sevan, executive director of the program, and the former French Ambassador to the UN, Jean-Bernard Merimee.

Truly, greed is a major force in global politics. In this case it trumped efforts to provide aid for suffering people.

All this has arisen while Washington is being pressured to hand over control of Iraq to the UN. This scandal has further tarnished the UN’s reputation—and provided more proof of humanity’s ineptitude at governing itself.



CHEN

what it already has” (*Stratfor*, March 20). For now, China is also content with this status.

Due to its prime location in Asia, its strategic Pacific Ocean location, and its trade and economic benefits, Taiwan has been a long-time ally of the U.S. Over the past three decades, Washington has provided political, economic and military support to Taipei—a large factor in Taiwan maintaining its estranged independence.

As China’s political and economic clout increases, however, America is growing

more reliant on this Asian giant and less so on Taiwan. In time, it may have to choose between the two.

Will waning American support of Taiwan cause it to be swallowed up by China? That’s what our editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, prophesied in August 1998: “How could anyone fail to see that Taiwan is destined to become a part of China? These 21 million people are FORCED into the Chinese mold; and it is going to happen for one pitiful reason: *because of a pitifully weak-willed America.*”



NO, THANKS Anti-independence protesters march Taipei’s streets.

CHINA

Hong Kong Hang-Ups

CHINA’S “ONE COUNTRY, two systems” principle for ruling Hong Kong is becoming more of a “one country, our system.”

Until recently, Hong Kong seemed well on its way to possessing the right to free elections and a democratic government. Just last July, half a million marchers took to the streets demanding democracy; in local elections last November, pro-democracy reformers won in a landslide.

But Beijing has brought Hong Kong’s push for democracy to a grinding halt.

Through a ruling from the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) on April 6, Beijing has asserted its right to interpret,

at will, the Basic Law—the constitution Britain wrote with Beijing for Hong Kong. According to the NPC, Beijing has the right to dictate when and how Hong Kong chooses its leaders, and it can veto any attempt by Hong Kong to change the laws that govern its elections.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Kong Quan maintained that the NPC’s ruling is “beneficial to keep long-term stability in Hong Kong” (*China News*, April 9). However, as *Asia Times* wrote, the ruling has effectively “killed political reform in Hong Kong” (April 8).

Continue to watch as China strengthens its grip over Hong Kong, consolidating its power in East Asia.

IN BRIEF

VATICAN

Pope Gets Charlemagne Prize

EUbusiness.com, March 24
POPE JOHN PAUL II RECEIVED the Charlemagne Prize for “his outstanding life’s work promoting European understanding in the service of humanity and world peace.” European Parliament’s Pat Cox, the other recipient of the prize, said the pope “has been a chief architect of this new Europe that is emerging.” Accepting the award, the pope said, “I think of a Europe without egotistical nationalism ...” Named after Charlemagne, the eighth-century leader of the Holy Roman Empire, “the prize is awarded to those fostering mutual understanding among European peoples.”

Papal Power Pondered

Sydney Morning Herald, March 15
THE REIGN OF POPE JOHN Paul II, in many ways remains vibrant. “In other ways, however, the church he heads is not a church he leads. Day-to-day decisions including, close observers suspect, even decisions about major appointments involving bishops have been delegated. The Vatican’s official newspaper ... is known to have published speeches supposedly given by the pope when, in fact, he has been too ill to deliver them, and has reported meetings with him that never took place. ...

“Who the next pope will be depends in large part on what the cardinals whose responsibility it will be to elect him decide are the most pressing issues facing the church.” The pope’s biographer says these issues are the collapse of Catholicism in Western Europe and the challenge from radical Islam.

MIDDLE EAST

Quotable

Jordan’s Prince Hassan, in a speech on March 25

“I’M AFRAID WE’LL SEE spillover into hostilities with Lebanon; already Hezbollah is bombing in the north. ... A spillover into hostilities with Syria ... Iran is still very much on the axis of evil. ... We have to sort out the cards again—the war on terror, the question of Palestine, the question of Iraq, the question of Afghanistan, WMD, Iran. ... I’m afraid the making of a third world war is actually taking place in front of our very eyes.”

Libya, Egypt: Nuke Ties?

Middle East Newline, March 30
“THE UNITED STATES HAS ... uncovered evidence that Libya was both the source for and recipient of nuclear and missile technology and expertise from Egypt. ... [T]he evidence confirmed suspicions over the last three years of a secret trade between Cairo and Tripoli in strategic weapons obtained from North Korea.”

U.S. Intel vs. al-Qaeda

Middle East Newline, April 16
MORE THAN TWO YEARS after the suicide strikes of Sept. 11, 2001, “the United States has failed to develop the intelligence capability required to battle al-Qaeda. CIA director George Tenet said the U.S. intelligence community needs at least another five years to develop effective counter-insurgency capabilities. Tenet said the community continues to fall short of requirements in both intelligence-gathering and analysis regarding Islamic insurgency groups. ... [I]n the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the U.S. intelligence community lost about 25 percent of manpower and billions of dollars in funding.”

When the Debt Bomb EXPLODES



Does deficit spending really matter? America—its citizens and government—seems to think not. But the debt bomb is ticking.

BY FRED DATTOLO

“THE MORE YOU CHARGE, the greater your savings! Whether you’re filling up the gas tank, dining out, making home improvements, or grabbing a few items at the store, using your card can increase your savings.” Believe it or not, that’s exactly what it says—the latest promotion I received in the mail for one of the credit cards I carry. Think about that. Just by using your card, you can spend more *and* save more. Wow, that sounds good.

You do it all the time, don’t you? For example, you “save” when you buy something on sale. If it costs \$50 today, and you wait until tomorrow to buy it when it’s on sale for \$40, you “saved” \$10, did you not? We are told that all the time so we can feel good about ourselves when we “save.”

Well, in reality you really didn’t save anything. You SPENT \$40 instead of \$50. That should be plain to any clear-thinking person. Yet much of our Western society has fallen prey to such advertising gimmicks, which fuel our lust for what we cannot afford.

Living Beyond Our Means Total credit-card debt in the U.S. is about \$750 billion, which is an average of about \$7,000 per household.

Unfortunately, the fastest-growing group of consumers in debt is senior citizens. Retirees are turning to credit cards to cover their rising costs. According to *cbsnews.com*, just during 2003 seniors in America had to cope with increases of 17 percent for prescription drugs, 15 to 25 percent for medical insurance, 10 to 20 percent for property taxes and 13 percent for homeowner’s insurance (Dec. 11, 2003).

Young retirees, ages 55 to 64, now hold an average of \$6,900 in credit-card debt. Even among college students, credit-card debt is at an all-time high and rising, according to a study by student-loan provider Nellie Mae. Financial institutions report that more and more students are carrying credit card debt loads as high as \$10,000. Every segment of U.S. society is becoming more infected with reliance on credit cards.

And the plastic comes with a price. According to *Bankrate.com*, income from credit card *fees*—most of which are assessed for late payments and other penalties—accounts for more than 30 percent of card issuers’ profits and as much as 40 percent for some of the top issuers. Clearly, many are living close to

the edge, and even a minor setback could cause them to default on their debts.

But credit-card debt is just the tip of the iceberg.

The Federal Reserve Board says that total U.S. consumer debt, excluding mortgages, is a staggering *\$2.02 trillion*—an average of about \$19,000 per household!

In addition to credit-card debt, new car loans account for much of this figure. Notice this report from *USA Today*: “New car buyers are paying more, making the lowest down payments ever and taking increasingly longer loans. ... [C]onsumers seem determined to drive the newest vehicles for the lowest possible monthly payment.

“The new car market has been driven more by *want* than need for several years now ...’ says Paul Taylor, National Automotive Dealers Association chief economist. ...

“The average loan today is for 63 months, with some going as high as 80 months, compared with an average of less than 48 months five years ago” (February 17; emphasis mine throughout).

Last year, banks financed an average of 101 percent of a new car’s cost because consumers sought loans not only to cover the cost of the new car, but also the thousands more they owed on the old one (*ibid.*).

TRUMPET

Is it any wonder that 1.63 million people filed for personal bankruptcy last year—a 5.6 percent increase over 2002? “[This] underscores the continued hang-over effect of high levels of consumer spending and debt acquired over the last decade,” said Samuel J. Gerdano, executive director of the American Bankruptcy Institute (*Consumer Bankruptcy News*, March 19).

It’s clear that Americans are beginning to feel the weight of their debt burden. In a recent poll conducted by the Cambridge Consumer Credit Index, for the first time in history more Americans said that getting out of debt was a higher priority than losing weight.

However, the \$2 trillion American consumers owe apart from their mortgages—as staggering an amount as that is—pales in comparison to the federal debt.

Government Deficits “Federal spending is growing at a faster pace now than at any time since [President Lyndon B. Johnson] was in the White House launching the Great Society welfare state” (Scripps Howard News Service, June 6, 2003). According to the *Washington Post*, discretionary spending rose 12.5 percent in 2003, “capping a two-year surge that saw the government grow by more than 27 percent” (January 23). Like much of the American public, Congress acts as if it has an unlimited line of credit.

The projected federal budget deficit—the amount by which payments exceed revenues in the current fiscal year—is \$521 billion. The cumulative amount of yearly budget deficits is the total federal debt. Earlier this year, the federal debt exceeded \$7 trillion. In more meaningful terms, that’s roughly \$66,000 per American household. Added to consumer debt (excluding mortgages) of \$19,000 per household, we end up with \$85,000 of non-mortgage-related debt per household!

This year, the amount of taxes wasted on paying interest on the federal debt is expected to be \$156 billion. That’s \$40 billion more than the amount needed to fund the entire departments of education and veterans affairs combined.

Now what about the budget submitted to Congress for fiscal year 2005? It includes expenditures of almost \$2.4 trillion with anticipated revenues of just over \$2 trillion—and that assumes an increase of 13.2 percent in revenues next year. With that assumption, the *planned* deficit is about \$364 billion.

But wait. The budget does not include money needed to keep troops in Iraq and Afghanistan after the current \$87.5 billion supplemental amount runs out. According to *FoxNews.com*, a new supplemental budget will not be requested until after the November elections.

For the first time in history more Americans said that getting out of debt was a higher priority than losing weight.

And there’s more. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities states, “By showing deficit numbers for only a five-year period, the budget *conceals the marked worsening of the deficit expected under administration policies in the second half of the coming decade.* The bulk of the cost of making the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent would occur after 2010 ...” (*www.cbpp.org*). On top of that, “The bulk of the costs from the beginning of the baby boomers’ retirement also occurs after 2009” (*ibid.*). In other words, as quickly as the government’s debt is increasing, it will only get worse in a few years.

Social Security’s Impact How does Social Security impact the debt levels? The *Washington Times* says, “When Social Security began, there were 42 workers paying into Social Security for each retiree collecting benefits. By the time Medicare was put into effect in the 1960s, the ratio had fallen to 16-to-1. Today, the ratio is 3-to-1. Between now and mid-century, after retirement of the 77 million baby boomers, the ratio will decline to 2-to-1” (March 24).

This is a vital statistic because all the money that American workers and corporations have paid in payroll taxes to fund Social Security has not been set aside. It has been used to pay benefits to *today’s* retirees—but the surpluses, rather than being saved for the future, have been spent for the general budget and replaced with special-issue Treasury bonds (government IOUs). If Social Security surpluses were actually set aside, the federal deficits would be even larger. This pay-as-you-go system will create an inconceivable burden for tomorrow’s workers.

Moreover, the new Medicare prescription drug bill passed last year has wiped out the surpluses. “The addition of the prescription drug bill has changed ... projections so radically that Social Security and Medicare will now ... drain about \$60 billion from the general budget this year alone. ... Medicare will spend all it collects in payroll taxes, drain all of Social Security’s surplus for next year and require \$60 billion from the general fund to pay all its bills” (*ibid.*).

In February, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned Congress that the U.S. cannot afford the retirement benefits promised to baby boomers. He said that “the current deficit situation, with projected record red ink of \$521 billion this year, will worsen dramatically once the 77 million members of the baby boom generation start becoming eligible for Social Security benefits in just four years” (Associated Press, February 25).

Both political parties distanced themselves from Greenspan’s comments. This is one hot potato no one wants to handle, for obvious political reasons. So as deficits continue to pile up around us, what we have to look forward to, in Greenspan’s words, could well be a “very debilitating” rise in interest rates. When that happens, it will be the catalyst that will put multiple millions of Americans, already drowning in debt, completely under.

Interest Rates to Soar? Then there are the *trade* deficits. In the latter part of the 1990s, the U.S. trade deficit really started to worsen until last year the U.S. imported \$489 billion MORE in goods and services than it sold to other countries.

In the address to Congress mentioned earlier, Chairman Greenspan warned that the need to take action on the budget deficit was critical in light of the soaring trade deficits requiring the U.S. to borrow even more from foreigners. “Given the already substantial accumulation of dollar-denominated debt, foreign investors, both private and official, *may become less willing to absorb ever-growing claims on U.S. residents,*” Greenspan said (*International Herald Tribune*, February 13).

Do you understand that the ever-burgeoning deficits represent *claims* that foreigners have against each and every U.S. citizen? This magazine has been warning for years that the threat of foreign capital flight will indeed materialize—ever more quickly now as America’s twin budget and trade deficits *both*

spiral out of control. When foreign capital flight becomes a reality, we are going to have to make good on our debts and obligations or face the consequences!

Note this analysis posted on Middle East business resource website *ameinfo.com* on February 19: “Both the U.S. current account [mostly trade deficits] and budget deficits have been partially financed by foreign investment in U.S. fixed-income securities [primarily government bonds—IOUS]. . . .

“The combination of dollar depreciation [falling value of the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies] and rising long-term U.S. interest rates is strong incentive for foreign investors to sell their U.S. fixed-income assets [call in their IOUS]. This process, known as foreign capital flight, could feed continued dollar depreciation and rising long-term interest rates”—due largely to a decreasing money supply. Less money available means that the *cost* of borrowing money—the interest rate—will rise.

Is it realistic to expect interest rates to rise? Paul Krugman is a prominent economist who foresaw the 1997 Asian financial crisis. In an October 2003 *New York Times* column, he said that the U.S. economy was close to taking a dive that would involve a sharp fall in the dollar and a sharp rise in interest rates. Since then, the dollar *has* plunged. And the strong indication is he’s right on interest rates too. “In the worst-case scenario, the government’s access to borrowing will be cut off, creating a cash crisis that throws the nation into chaos,” he wrote (Oct. 14, 2003). Bible prophecy reveals that the worst-case scenario will indeed occur! These prophecies are detailed in our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

According to textbook economics, the rising deficits should have caused higher interest rates already. The government makes up for deficits by selling Treasury bonds (long-term, interest-bearing IOUS). Normally this lowers the demand for bonds; thus, in order to attract more bond buyers, interest rates must rise. However, Japan and China are buying enormous amounts of U.S. Treasury bonds, keeping the demand high, which in turn helps keep interest rates low.

China and Japan continue to finance our deficits in order to keep the value of the dollar propped up as much as possible—so Americans will continue buying their exports. The more the dollar falls, the more expensive goods from

China and Japan become. Yet, in spite of staggering bond purchases, especially by Japan, the dollar has continued to decline in value relative to other currencies in recent months. According to the *Daily Reckoning* (UK edition), Japan spent \$250 billion in 2003 and another \$70 billion just in January of this year to finance U.S. deficits (March 8).

In essence, because of ballooning deficits, there’s just too much pressure on the dollar for it to retain its value relative to currencies of other countries that are *producing and selling* the goods Americans consume. A *Wall Street Journal* column on January 12 said the weaker dollar will inevitably lead to inflationary pressures, and “higher interest rates [are] rather a foregone conclusion.” Although the Federal Reserve is doing all it can to forestall that event until after the November elections, even Mr. Greenspan has said that interest rates “cannot stay low indefinitely.”

Once interest rates start going up, it’s going to be disastrous for those who carry high levels of household debt. Many, as we’ve seen, are already “living on the edge” with interest rates at historically low levels. What’s going to happen when they have to pay *more* to service their debt burden?

The American consumer accounts for more than 70 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the U.S. economy. That simply cannot continue, because it is a *debt-fed* consumption and some have estimated that America has already

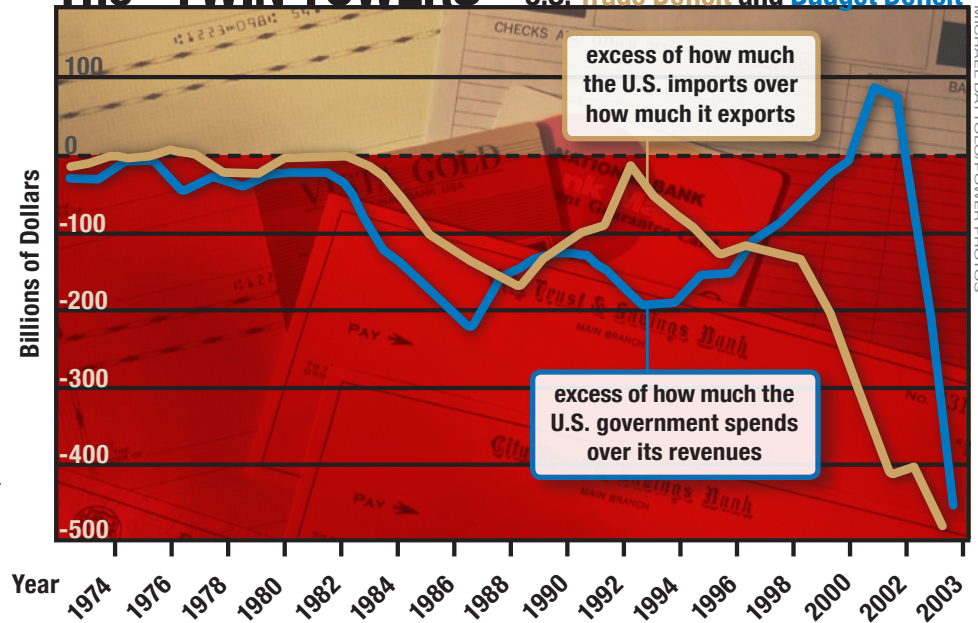
amassed 80 percent of the world’s savings in order to feed its voracious appetite!

The Trouble With Economics Some economists will be quick to point out that the deficits as a percentage of GDP are not all that high—that deficits as a ratio of total output have not changed that much since President Ronald Reagan was in office. The theory is that we can live with humongous deficits if the economy keeps “growing.” But remember, 70 percent of the U.S. economy’s “output” is due to consumer spending—largely aided by the inflow of overseas funds to the U.S. government! Without foreign capital inflows, the government would have to cut benefits, and the standard of living would fall—ultimately leading to unemployment and recession. The problem with the GDP model is that it measures *quantitative* flow of dollar output only, regardless of the *source* of wealth. There’s no *qualitative* measurement. It is an incomplete and dangerously deceptive analysis of the situation.

For example, if we take a look at the government deficits as a percentage of *gross savings* instead of GDP, we find that the deficits were about 11 percent of savings in the 1970s, about 20 percent of savings as late as 2002 and now are projected to be almost 30 percent of savings this year. So if we compare the deficits relative to the funds available for borrowing, it reveals a very dangerous trend.

Government borrowing on such a massive scale crowds out what is available

The “TWIN TOWERS” U.S. Trade Deficit and Budget Deficit



for *productive* business investment, so the long-term ability of the economy to create capital and produce wealth is jeopardized more and more. In addition, the huge amount of foreign funds now flowing into the U.S. Treasury to buy bonds, in order to finance the deficits, is money not available to buy U.S. exports and is one reason the U.S. trade deficit is growing so quickly. In essence, we are digging ourselves deeper and deeper into a gigantic hole.

There was a time when America made things that the rest of the world purchased—when manufacturers were the biggest U.S. employers and the balance of trade was in America's favor. There was a time when the U.S.'s creditors were those in America who saved and had money to invest back into the economy—resulting in *real* growth, not *phony* growth that economic models do not distinguish very well.

In the words of the *Daily Reckoning*, America has “switched from making things to buying things, from saving money to spending it, and from lending money to the rest of the world to borrowing from it. The economy gradually changed from *production* to *consumption*, from manufacturing to retailing, from GM [General Motors] to Wal-Mart. ...

“There's the kind of economy that makes people wealthy—in which people make things and sell them at a profit. And there's the economy that helps rich people get rid of their money ... a consumption-led economy, with few factories, but plenty of credit and shopping malls.

“Unfortunately, most economists can't tell the difference. And the GDP numbers make no distinction between a productive, wealth-creating economy and a declining, wealth-consuming one. GDP only measures activity” (UK edition, March 9).

A More Sure Word The American economy is more precarious than most people think. The burgeoning consumer debt, the ballooning federal and state government deficits, the Social Security shortfalls and the gaping trade deficits are all leading to a day of reckoning in the not-too-distant future.

The U.S. economy has witnessed enormous changes in financial institutions, and financial markets have become more and more globally interdependent. This has complicated economic models and the analytical process considerably.

Since the U.S. relies on foreign capital flows so extensively, *geopolitical* ramifi-

cations can further obscure sound analysis. As a result, the variables that sustain today's U.S. economy are intricate and delicate. As the *Wall Street Journal* put it, “one little misplaced, or misunderstood, word could trigger a panic” (op. cit.).

In today's complex world, one can find “expert” opinions to suit whatever one's belief system happens to be. Some consider themselves to be “realists” and don't have much hope in what the future portends. Others consider themselves “optimists” and refuse to accept any sort of negative reality. They are comfortable with their heads in the sand.

Peggy Noonan, a former speech writer for President Reagan, observed the following regarding the 9/11 Commission hearings held this spring: “Why did the government [for the past decade] fail to see 9/11 coming? ...

“It was a failure of imagination, a failure to envision *that a terrible thing could happen*, that a particular terrorist group meant to do what it said it would do. THERE WAS A SUNNY AND EMPTY-HEADED ASSUMPTION THAT AMERICA WOULD STAY LUCKY ...” (*Wall Street Opinion Journal*, March 25).

So it is with the economy. Most people do not want to accept reality. They don't want to deal with negatives. They'd rather assume that somehow things will work out—that America will stay lucky.

But the *Trumpet* can state with certainty that the American economy will collapse—and collapse *hard*—bringing on a *global* crisis of unrivaled proportions!

How can we be so sure? There is only one Master Economist, who knows *all* the intricate equations, *all* the delicate variables and *all* the laws that govern our modern economy. He has revealed some of the most *fundamental* principles of economics in His Instruction Manual for mankind. For example, “the borrower is *servant* to the lender” (Prov. 22:7). That's a law of life, as sure as the law of gravity, that we are going to have to face up to sooner or later.

If you want to know “the rest of the story,” then request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Over 5 million people have requested this book over the years. It will prove to you where the U.S. economy is headed, which in turn will affect the world economy. Are you willing to face reality, or will you keep your head in the sand? That decision is yours. ■



tions and guidelines on how to *sustain* the perfect environment.

In Genesis 2:15, God gave Adam two principles to follow in managing this perfect environment—principles which, if practiced, would have caused the environment to *remain* perfect. “And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to *DRESS* it and to *KEEP* it.” *Dress* means to *work* and, by implication, to *serve* as a bondman, or become servant to. *Keep* means to *guard*, *hedge about*, *protect*, *preserve* and *look narrowly to* (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). In this one verse, God told Adam and mankind in general that they were to *work with* and *serve* the environment around them—to *GUARD* and *preserve* its beauty and perfection within the laws that governed this perfect environment.

Contrast this commission with man's track-record of environmental mismanagement since Adam—a record of abuse, greed, neglect, robbery and destruction! Mankind has done the *opposite* of what God instructed; we work *against* our environment. Through history, mankind has been looking to simply *GET* from our environment. Today, few farmers base their farming on the way of *GIVE*.

This world's agriculture needs to be revolutionized! Not only do the practices and methods of agriculture need to change, but our entire *approach* to the industry must change. Attitudes of *greed* and *self-interest* need to be discarded and replaced with the attitudes of *service* and *respect* for the environment. Mankind needs to reassume its role as leader of the environment and once again to *DRESS* and *KEEP* the environment as God intended. When we do this, the response from our soil, plants and animals will be wonderful. Soils, crops and animals will be abundantly healthy and robust, causing humans to be strong and healthy. Animals will be disease-free, and pervasive diseases like avian flu and mad cow will not exist. We can be sure that Earth will return to the former glory and magnificence described in Genesis. Our Bibles say so (Amos 9:13; Isa. 35:1-2, 6-7; 11:6-9). ■

To learn more about this coming time of environmental and agricultural bliss, request a free copy of Herbert Armstrong's book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



Job hunting? Changing careers? Here's ...

How to Find a Good Job



BY ERIC ANDERSON

THE DAILY NEWS IS FILLED with reports of company mergers, corporate downsizing and layoffs. Unemployment rates fluctuate constantly. Yet even in relatively stable times, when employment seems to be on an upswing, many suffer nagging fears of someday becoming jobless because of budget cutbacks or overseas outsourcing. Still others worry about being made redundant and forced to change careers.

Are you unemployed? If not, how *secure* is your job? Is there a chance you will—either *voluntarily* or *involuntarily*—change jobs in the near future?

Seven Steps to Finding a Job Being out of work can be an extremely painful experience, both emotionally and economically.

When a person is first let go from a job, more often than not he or she becomes somewhat dazed and bewildered. It's hard to cope with not having a job to report to each day—much less an in-

come. But once the initial shock is gone, it's easy to slip into a state of numbness and apathy.

Many jobless people dread waiting in long lines at employment offices and having to fill out stacks of applications. Still others become hopelessly discouraged about ever finding work again, especially if they are past a certain age. Some few even turn to drugs or alcohol to find solace.

If you find yourself jobless—or if you're likely to lose your job in the fu-

JOEL HILLIKER

ture—you'll want to take certain steps to become gainfully employed again as soon as possible. You'll also want to ensure you don't become depressed or hopeless about your situation.

What follows are seven steps you can take to help travel the road back to productivity and employment.

1. Assess your spending

IF YOU'VE JUST LOST YOUR JOB, OR IF YOU see the end of your present job in sight (and by the way, in today's tough labor market, don't ever quit your job unless you already have another one lined up), you should stop and take stock of your financial situation immediately.

Depending on how much money (if any) you have in savings, you may have to sharply curtail your monthly expenses. Start right away on working out a new budget that is realistic. Get help from a public credit counseling service if you can't work out a budget on your own.

Take a long, hard look at your spending habits. Don't hesitate to drastically reduce your standard of living. You may need to get rid of some, or all, of your non-essential bills in order to survive. For example, you may need to cancel such things as your cable TV, gym membership and magazine subscriptions. You may also need to curb your discretionary spending (e.g. dining out, entertainment, etc.).

Don't hesitate to drastically reduce your standard of living. You may need to get rid of some, or all, of your non-essential bills in order to survive.

In some cases, it may be advisable to quickly pay down—or pay off—as many of your short-term debts as you can. You might also consider refinancing your home mortgage or auto loan to a lower interest rate in order to further reduce your monthly debt payments.

Also, when jobless, you should resist the temptation to use credit and dig yourself into a hole that you might not get out of for a *long* time (see "When the Debt Bomb Explodes," p. 22).

When it is time for you to go job-hunting, first figure out how much income you will need to earn in order to make ends meet. In his classic career guide, *What Color Is Your Parachute?*, author Richard N. Bolles lists the following expenses to consider when determining your "mini-

mal survival salary": housing; cleaning, maintenance, repairs; food; clothing; automobile/transportation; insurance; medical expenses; support for other family members; charity giving/tithes; school/learning; pet care; bills and debts; taxes; savings; retirement fund; amusement/discretionary spending.

2. Prepare for the long haul

GETTING YOURSELF BACK INTO THE WORKING sector requires a lot of confidence and enthusiasm. But don't have unrealistic expectations of landing another job immediately, or your hopes may soon fade away. It could take some time. In fact, it might take six months to two years or more to find a job. "As of July 2001, the average number of weeks an unemployed person in the U.S. had been unemployed was 13 weeks, though at least 1,540,000 had been unemployed for 15 weeks or longer" (ibid.).

Because you might be without a regular paycheck for a number of months, it is vital to immediately assess your financial situation (step 1) and be prepared to curtail your spending. This is why it is also important to work diligently at reducing your debt load and getting into a good cash position when you *are* employed.

As we stated in the March-April 2000 issue of this magazine, it is wise to "have a *minimum* of debt and the *maximum* cash possible—six-months' income in savings, if possible, because there is nothing like cash to help you weather a crisis" ("The Snare of Debt").

3. Assess your skills

IN ORDER TO FIND THE RIGHT JOB OR CAREER for *you*, you may need to put yourself through a course of self-analysis to find where you really belong. In other words, you need to examine and evaluate yourself before you can know what position would fit you best.

The *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* states, "If you are uncertain in your own analysis, check into the vocational guidance tests available from many colleges, universities and private agencies. But *on your own*, think slowly and carefully over your entire life and write down a list of activities

in which you have excelled in school, in handicraft activities, in hobbies and all other extra-curricular activities. Be sure to note any specialized vocational training you may have received in school, in the armed forces, or in any other way.

"Also make a list of the various jobs you have actually held, and note the ones in which you have excelled or were particularly interested. Make a similar list of your main interests in life—what you like to do best in both work and in recreation. Remember that you usually enjoy the most the activities in which you excel.

"As you make and study these various lists, you will probably begin to see a pattern. You will begin to see the type of job in which you *CAN* employ your talents and in which you can excel, and also the type of job in which you would simply be a miserable, unhappy 'square peg in a round hole'" (Lesson 55).

Concerning self-assessment, Bolles says, "This involves sitting down and doing some inventory on what are called your functional or transferable skills. Your education and previous experience don't lock you into only finding a job in a particular sector of the economy or in a particular job title.

"You have to take the blinders off and think, 'I'm a person who' and fill in the blank. Not, 'I'm a human resources executive,' for instance. Rather, think 'I'm a person who's good at analyzing things' or 'I'm a person who's good at organizing things.' Then you look for an organization that needs these skills and interests" (www.BusinessWeek.com, op. cit.).

In other words, perhaps your skills can be adapted to some job other than what you have previously done.

In addition to looking upon your jobless situation as time for self-analysis, you can view it as a time for *education in new skills*. There are many training courses and seminars offered by vendors, local schools and government-sponsored institutions. Or, if you're Internet savvy, consider taking an online course or "webinar" to brush up on your skills.

You could also make good use of your time by reading up on the jobs or fields

that are on the rise. Your public library and a local bookstore are good sources to check. Here are a few recently published titles you might find worth reading: *Guide for Occupational Exploration* (U.S. Department of Labor); *The Pathfinder* (Simon and Schuster); *The Un-College Alternative* (HarperCollins Publishers); *What Color Is Your Parachute?* (Ten Speed Press).

But here's a word of caution if you're considering going back to school to get a degree in this or that "hot" field. Beware: A college degree will *not* guarantee you a job! While in some cases a college degree can help you find work, according to Danielle Wood's book *The UnCollege Alternative*, the majority—about 70 percent—of all jobs in the United States only require alternative education and on-the-job training.

4. Make a job out of finding a job

WE CANNOT EMPHASIZE THIS FOURTH step enough. Unhappily, too many tend to go about job-hunting halfheartedly. It's no wonder so many can't seem to find work or are living on public welfare today!

If you find yourself out of a job, determine to stay in your regular routine of leaving the house in the morning. Resist the temptation to sit around surfing the Internet aimlessly or watching TV for hours.

Being jobless is *not* a temporary extended holiday. If you want to be successful at finding a new job, you shouldn't view your seemingly endless "free" time as time you can fritter away on hobbies or backyard projects.

Force yourself to get up and get going each day! Resolve to go about finding a job with *zeal*. Work at it 40 hours a week. Be *resourceful* and *persistent*.

"Don't be a LAZY

job hunter. Get up EARLY in the morning—consistently—and start out either arranging interviews, or pounding the pavement *early* every morning, and DON'T QUIT until you've put in a full day's work looking for work! Either plan to eat in a restaurant

on the way, or take a sack lunch along with you, so you can keep at it throughout the entire eight or nine-hour 'work day.'

Being jobless is not an extended holiday. Force yourself to get up and get going each day. Be resourceful and persistent.

"Don't waste time! Don't sit and brood at home and feel sorry for yourself! Get out and HUSTLE!" (*Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course*, op. cit.).

"Job researchers insist the job-hunter should be able to make nearly one application an hour, 40 a week for nonexecutive jobs. ... Set a goal of a certain number of applications a day until you land your job" (*Plain Truth*, September/October 1982).



According to Bolles's best-selling job-hunting manual, "The key to job-hunting success is hope, and perseverance. Many people who are out of work fail to find work simply because they give up too soon" (op. cit.).

Besides doing a traditional job search—by looking for employment opportunities listed in classified ads, trade journals, professional publications, or at employment agencies and the like—try *networking*.

Get out and talk with friends, neighbors, relatives and business acquaintances who may be able to help you get a job. Word-of-mouth referrals are often much more effective at gaining job interviews than merely answering want ads. In fact, some employment experts say that the majority of jobs available on any given date aren't publicized. Bolles says that "80 percent of all vacancies that are filled are never advertised. They use their own grapevines within the company. ... [N]etworking is the single most important way of going job hunting" (*www.BusinessWeek.com*, op. cit.).

With this in mind, you may also want to use the Yellow Pages to look up potential employers. Call them and ask if they are hiring for the kind of position you are interested in applying for. According to Bolles, this method has a 69 percent success rate (*What Color Is Your Parachute?*).

The *Plain Truth* advocated this same job-hunting technique: "Call up and ask to speak with the directors of the various company divisions, the lab directors or the shop foreman. If you have good qualifications, the lab director may hire you even if there is no opening at the moment. He must look ahead to future needs" (op. cit.).

Another method in trying to find a job is to post your resume on major Internet websites where employers go to look for potential employees. A few of the more well-known job sites that allow you to do this include *hotjobs.yahoo.com*, *www.monster.com* and *www.spherion.com*.

But think twice about relying on the Internet alone to search for a job as this approach has a low success rate. "The Internet has obviously increased the ability of people to locate jobs. But sending your resume out unsolicited and using the Internet doesn't really work even during a good economy. These strategies are miserable failures when you have a sour economy. Forrester Research has found that 10 percent at best and 4 percent at worst find a job through the Internet" (*www.BusinessWeek.com*, op. cit.).

5. Knock on some doors

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO TRY TO FIND a job, says Bolles, is to "[knock] on the door of any employer, factory or office that interests you, whether they are known to have a vacancy or not" (*What Color Is Your Parachute?*). This may seem like an outmoded tactic; however, Bolles states this method has a 47 percent success rate.

Before you go knocking on doors, develop a plan. Avoid trudging up and down the streets at random, in hopes that some company out there will have a position available. "Don't go out blindly hunting a job from door to door. You will save yourself many fruitless, heart-breaking hours if you first take the effort to find out the exact name and location of business concerns who hire people who have your abilities and skills" (*Plain Truth*, op. cit.).

After targeting a business or employer you are interested in working for, try to get in to see the hiring manager. If you

can, avoid going through the Personnel Office—because their job is usually to screen out job-seekers. Strive to make a good first impression. Dress appropriately, be clean, and present yourself with poise and enthusiasm. Put your best foot forward. And, with each manager you meet, leave a neatly prepared resume and cover letter briefly detailing your education, work experience and personal information.

In big cities, and especially within big corporations, it may be difficult to get past security to talk to someone “in charge” without an appointment. Even so, Bolles says, “It’s uncanny how many people will say ‘Sure’ or ‘I’ll see if there’s someone who you can talk to ...’ It’s perfectly true that these monoliths that have 38 floors don’t pay off so well. But smaller companies are filled with people who are very interested in taking the time to talk to you” (*www.BusinessWeek.com*, op. cit.).

Bolles stated that, particularly in “a jobless recovery, normally it’s the small organizations with 50 or less employees ... that you should concentrate on. When you approach companies like that—and when you know enough about interviewing—you often come as the answer to their prayers.”

6. Be flexible

DID YOU KNOW THE AVERAGE PERSON changes jobs at least eight times in a lifetime? Sometimes job changes involve career changes. Accept the possibility that you may need to switch careers.

This involves thinking outside the box: You may have to consider changing from a white collar job to a blue collar job—or vice versa. You may need to adjust to a lower pay scale. You may have to take a temporary or part-time job—or maybe two part-time jobs—in order to get by. In some cases, you might be required to commute long-distance or even relocate.

In any case, be adaptable. Don’t become overly anxious about the transitions you may have to go through along

Smaller companies are filled with people who are very interested in talking to you.

Accept the possibility that you may need to switch careers.

Nailing the Interview

Yuwanda Black, a serial entrepreneur, small business columnist and author, notes that there is more to a job interview than being punctual, dressing appropriately and providing a prospective employer with a copy of your resume and references. In an Oct. 14, 2003, article on College Central, a job-search resources and employer services website, Black addressed some specific “human” aspects of interviewing.

Ms. Black prefaced her comments by stating, “Before you pick up the phone, turn on your computer or slide your resume into a fax machine, prepare mentally for your job search. How you feel begets what you think, which governs how you act.” Good advice, for our thoughts do direct our actions (Prov. 23:7; Luke 6:45).

She then offered six things you can do to increase your chances of finding a job:

- 1. Decide with your whole heart that you want the job before you apply.**
- 2. During the interview, smile and don’t be afraid to ask questions.**
- 3. As the interview is coming to a close, ask the interviewer if he or she has any other questions for you (i.e., demonstrate that you realize there may be points overlooked or not explained fully by you that the interviewer may be hesitant to address).**
- 4. Don’t appear desperate.**
- 5. Remember, hiring managers want you to be the best fit for the job (i.e. if you’ve gotten as far as an interview, they want you to be the one they hire because it means less work for them; so, go in knowing that they’re on the same side as you).**
- 6. Follow-up with a thank you note. “Without addressing all the obvious do’s and don’ts, these are the areas more applicants should pay attention to,” wrote Ms. Black.**

Source: “Career Corner: How to Get a Job In a Slow Economy,” by Yuwanda Black, www.CollegeCentral.com.

the way to becoming gainfully employed again. Excessive worry can be harmful to your health; besides, it is nonproductive and can even be counterproductive.

Be open-minded about seeking a new job or career. Ideally, though, you should try to find a job where you can use many of your abilities and talents.

7. Seek guidance

IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED OR ARE THINKING of changing jobs, be sure to seek advice and counsel (Prov. 11:14; 12:15; 20:18).

Talk to a career counselor. Visits to job sites and personal interviews with experienced people in a variety of careers are excellent ways to obtain information about the fields you may contemplate entering. Especially ask for help from close friends and relatives—those who know you best—since they may be able to see your strengths and weaknesses more objectively than you can and thus aid you in considering a career path or job that is right for you.

Above all, don’t forget to seek counsel from above—heavenly guidance from God. Many turn to God only out of desperation as a last resort. But the power of prayer can work, and has worked miracles in the lives of many who have experienced unemployment woes in the past.

God knows your needs even before you ask. However, He won’t necessarily supply what you don’t ask for (Matt. 6:8; James 4:2). Be sure to seek His help diligently. Be *persistent* and *wholehearted*. James 5:16 states that “The effectual *fervent* prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” If you expect God to hear, you must pray fervently, earnestly, zealously and without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17).

Pray, and then wait, with patient *faith*—and doing *your* part all the while—to see the amazing results! God will never fail you or forsake you (Heb. 13:5), so long as you put Him first in everything. Know that He can, most definitely, guide you to success in finding the job you need!

Above all, don’t forget to seek counsel from above—heavenly guidance from God. The power of prayer can work miracles.

Adapted from “Help Wanted! Make a Job Out of Getting a Job,” Plain Truth, Sept. 1983

Is it possible you may be guilty of some form of idolatry? The sin of idolatry is more common than you might think. Here is the next article in our series about the Ten Commandments. BY DENNIS LEAP

The Second Commandment

IDOLATRY SOUNDS SO OLD TESTAMENT. Is it possible that you have an idol?

Before you say no, consider these facts. Idolatry was one of ancient Israel's major problems. In fact, it was this specific sin that led to the destruction and captivity of both the kingdom of Israel and Judah.

Idolatry is not just an ancient sin uncovered by archaeology. It is far more than an Old Testament problem. Paul, the devoted apostle to the Gentile Christians, warned that idolatry is real trouble for true believers.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul recounted the tragic history of Israel. It is history that every human being needs to learn not to repeat. Referring expressly to Israel, he stated, "Now these things were our examples Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play" (1 Cor. 10:6-7).

Paul wanted the Corinthian Christians to be aware that idolatry is a problem that all must be on guard against—especially the religious. Why? This sin opens up the floodgate to a whole host of other sins. Study the passage through verse 14. Paul lists the sins of fornication, tempting (or testing) Christ, and murmuring—which means complaining against those in authority. He repeats that these sins were recorded for us, "upon whom the ends of the world are come" (v. 11). Then Paul warns that we must examine ourselves to see if we are guilty of such sins (v. 12).

In verse 13, Paul warns that we will be tempted to commit such sins—because the end times are lawless times (see also 2 Tim. 3:1-5). For emphasis, he repeats, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry" (1 Cor. 10:14). We must take this subject seriously.

Idolatry carries deadly consequences. The laws of ancient Israel demanded that idolaters be executed. Even though the leaders of ancient Israel didn't always exact that penalty, God eventually did—to millions. Jerusalem was literally burned to the ground at the

time of Nebuchadnezzar. The majority of its inhabitants were either starved to death or mercilessly slaughtered by the sword—including the elderly and young children. The rest went into captivity as slaves. We must learn this lesson of history or repeat it!

The truth of the matter is that idolatry is a common sin in our time. If not repented of by all nations and individuals, the outcome for our time will be far worse than for that of our ancestors. We are destined to face unparalleled disaster! Because of idolatry, God is allowing humankind to bring itself to a point just short of annihilation. Bible prophecy warns that just ahead of us there is certain to be drought, famine, starvation, disease epidemics and massive destruction brought about by nuclear war. If Jesus Christ does not stop short the Great Tribulation by His Second Coming, not one human would be left alive (Matt. 24:21-22). There has been no time like it on Earth—and *never* will be again—thankfully!

No one need suffer the penalty of idolatry. It is time to get to know the true God. It is time for us to *smash* our idols.

Teaching Commandment Keeping We must not take commandment keeping lightly. Many who call themselves Christians teach that Christ did away with the Ten Commandments. But that does not square with Christ's personal example. He said, "I have kept my Father's commandments" (John 15:10). Jesus Christ also taught the disciples to keep the Ten Commandments. In fact, Christ restored God's law to its deserved place of honor. So must we in our *modern* world.

Notice this all-important verse: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19-20). Throughout

this section of Scripture, often called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ clarified, illustrated and amplified the Ten Commandments.

He left no doubt that true ministers of Christ both *obey* and *teach* about all *ten* of God's commandments—not just a select few. In addition, He made it clear that God's leaders must not *change, misapply, dilute* or give a *private interpretation* of God's law. The scribes and Pharisees were guilty of such actions—as are many religious leaders today.

Study all the verses in this passage carefully. Christ showed that there was not just a physical application, or *letter* of the law, but also a deep *spiritual* dimension. For example, hatred for any human being is a *spirit* of murder (v. 22). Looking lustfully on a woman (or man) is a *spirit* of adultery (v. 28).

Although not specifically addressed by Christ in these passages, we could also be guilty of a *spirit of idolatry*. Speaking of our time, the Prophet Ezekiel wrote: "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart . . ." (Ezek. 14:3).

Last month, we discussed the first, the *great*, commandment. It establishes that there is one God, the Almighty Creator of heaven and Earth. To worship or obey any lesser, created being or *thing* is expressly forbidden. The Almighty God *requires* that the men, women and children of all nations obey Him. God administers government over the limitless universe. He must also rule our thoughts, actions and desires. The First Commandment has everything to do with the establishment of God's Kingdom, or government, on Earth and man's part in that government. The *true* gospel of Jesus Christ is all about government. (Write for a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential* by Herbert W. Armstrong. This book fully explains what the true gospel of Jesus Christ is.)

When men and nations break the First Commandment, they cut themselves off from the true God—the very source of their life, protection, peace and happiness. Men cut off from God are empty, frustrated, miserable—incomplete. They lead purposeless lives. They bring upon

themselves the inevitable penalty of suffering.

The true worship of the true God keeps men in the wonderful knowledge that God has a purpose for all men. Fulfilling that purpose makes life exciting, thrilling, exhilarating. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” is a command that carries with it fantastic and eternal rewards.

Second Commandment Continuing our history from Exodus, the Almighty God thundered out a second time, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Exod. 20:4-6).

The First Commandment forbids putting anything or anyone into the place of the true God. We could make an idol out of our family, friends, job, hobbies, interests—even celebrities. The Second Commandment shows us *how* to worship the true God. This commandment condemns idolatrous religious practices. God is the great Educator—He demands that we worship Him in the manner He chooses. God lovingly shows us what dangers to avoid with worship. And He explains the *penalty* and *blessings* that come upon our offspring as a result of the way we worship Him.

The natural, carnal mind of man desires some *aid* in the worship of God. Remember that the carnal mind wants to *look* righteous yet doesn't necessarily want to *be* righteous (Rom. 8:7-8). Men want some *physical* object to remind them about God. This is exactly what is forbidden by this commandment. We must never limit the all-powerful Creator God by making an image or picture of Him. Images and pictures give us a false *concept* of the true God. This commandment also demands that we take heed not to worship God in the wrong way.

God seeks true worshippers. Christ said, “But the hour cometh, and now is,

when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him” (John 4:23). Christ clearly states that there are true worshippers. Logic tells us then that there are also false worshippers. True worshippers worship God in *spirit* and in *truth*. This means that only truly converted people can actually worship God properly. They must have God's Spirit actively functioning in them (Rom. 8:9). They do not need aids to worship God. So it is the spirit and truth of this law that we must seek out, understand and do!

Christ continued, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (v. 24). As soon as anyone sets up any symbol of God, he or she denies the very being of the true God. Our God embodies all knowledge, all wisdom, all power and all love. He is unlimited. When we set up a mental or physical image of God, we limit God in our thoughts and worship. God commands that we not limit Him!

Test Commandment God had promised Israel incredible wealth and power. To obtain the blessings, they were required to obey God's Decalogue, the Ten Commandments. The great Creator revealed Himself to His people. They saw no image, but they did hear His voice. Moses reminded Israel of this fact. He said, “And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice” (Deut. 4:12).

God continually warned ancient Israel about idolatry. Never were they permitted to set up an image of God. “Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God” (Lev. 26:1). Here, God expressly forbade His people to make any kind of idol or image “to bow down unto it.” God wants to be worshiped directly.

Mr. Armstrong explained, “Notice carefully that two of the Ten Commandments are mentioned for emphasis. These were the main *test commandments!* They were the test of obedience, and of faith in and loyalty to God” (*The United States*

and Britain in Prophecy, p. 110). The Second and Fourth Commandments are special test commands. The Fourth Commandment deals with the keeping of God's seventh-day Sabbath (to be covered in detail in a future article). The keeping of the Second Commandment tests our obedience, faith and loyalty on how God desires to be worshiped.

Are we passing the test? It is time we examine ourselves deeply.

The true people of God are required to obey God's voice. Are we obedient to God's voice? God has a voice today. It comes through the *Key of David* television broadcast and through the pages of this magazine. Do we hear God's voice? He is broadcasting and publishing a warning message before it becomes too late to heed it. Passing the test of the Second Commandment will bring untold blessings. Disobedience will bring intense suffering.

Anyone who needs a picture or statue to worship God simply does not know the true God.

Recognize that God is a Father. God is building a family through mankind (Eph. 3:14-15). Jesus Christ came to Earth to declare the Father to us (John 1:18). God should be as real to us as our own Father. We should be in contact with God as a loving son or daughter would be in contact with a devoted father. Jesus Christ loved His Father and was always in communication with Him through prayer. We must develop that same kind of contact with God.

God desires to give us every good gift (James 1:17). This means God wants to give us the things that are good for our spiritual growth. But we must seek Him fervently and in the proper way (Matt. 7:7-11). God promises to reward us for our diligence when we come to have faith and trust in His great office, power and authority (Heb. 11:6).

Moses, a man extremely close to God, told Israel, “And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” (Deut. 10:12-13). What God truly requires of us

The Second Commandment tests our obedience, faith and loyalty on how God desires to be worshiped. Are we passing the test?

is very simple to understand. However, the sad history of mankind shows that few have truly surrendered themselves to obey God. Yes, there is a process for salvation (Acts 2:38). Yet very few have actually taken the first step. Very few have actually continually walked with God. Very few have allowed God to rule their thoughts, words and actions. We must learn to surrender our whole life to God. Our Father is a *living* and *active* God. He desires us to love Him as much as He loves us. That is true worship.

If God seems unreal to us, there is something seriously wrong with our religion. Using aids for worship will never bring us closer to God. In actual fact, these aids will drive us far from God. Such a practice shows a lack of real spiritual worship and is rank paganism!

Pictures of Christ Let's not misunderstand. God is not against art and sculpture. God's temple was full of beautiful, dazzling art. God simply states we're not to represent Him or a created thing (man, woman, sun, moon, planet, plant or animal) "to bow down unto it." It is

the use of art as an aid or form of worship that is condemned.

Millions of professing Christians make use of pictures that supposedly represent Jesus Christ in their worship. Many place such pictures in their homes and businesses. Some even put such pictures on their car bumpers. Recently, some church congregations purchased all the seats in certain movie theaters—

Jesus Christ is God.
Any picture, likeness or statue of His person is strictly prohibited.

giving tickets free—to promote Hollywood's most recent depiction of Jesus, represented by Jim Caviezel. What does the Bible say about all this?

The Second Commandment prohibits the use of anything that represents God or could become an object of worship. Jesus Christ is God (Heb. 1:8). Any picture,

likeness or statue of His person is strictly prohibited. The truth is, it is impossible to accurately represent Christ (see sidebar).

Some may claim that they do not worship such objects. However, all pictures and images set up a false concept of Christ in our minds, which also causes us to break this commandment. Remember: False pictures and false concepts separate the worshiper from Christ.

Idoltrous Pagan Celebrations The ancient Israelites were commanded not to worship God in the manner of the pagan peoples around them. The Second Commandment condemns following all such customs.

Moses instructed the people, "[I]nquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deut. 12:30-32). Moses showed the people that God forbids adapting pagan practices to worship the true God. God has a system of worship. Only that system should be followed—as God directs.

Modern Christianity has adopted into its worship system the very customs the Bible condemns. Any good encyclopedia will validate the fact that our most celebrated holidays stem from pre-Christian paganism. We must take heed to Jesus Christ's own words: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men ..." (Mark 7:7-8). Worshiping Christ with pagan customs and festivals is a direct violation of the Second Commandment. There is no knowledge of God and His plans for man in these festivals. All such worship is vain, useless and must be avoided.

All of *God's* festivals, on the other hand, are a yearly reminder of His plan of salvation. Keeping God's festivals increases a person's spiritual knowledge. When God's festivals are kept properly, life takes on deep meaning. For a thorough study of this subject, please write for a free copy of Mr. Armstrong's booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?*

Warning and Mercy It is a courageous step to walk away from pagan traditions. We

What Did Jesus Look Like?

A SIMPLE STUDY OF THE BIBLE SHOWS THAT CHRIST COULD NEVER HAVE looked as modern pictures or movies represent Him.

As a human being, Jesus Christ was a Jew (Heb. 7:14). He looked like a normal young Jewish man of His time. He was also a carpenter. This means He would have worked outdoors in all kinds of weather. He would have been tanned in the summer and wind-burnt in the winter. He would have had a healthy, weathered look about Him. Since carpenters at the time of Christ were also familiar with stone masonry, Christ would have been muscular enough to carry and place large stones in homes and buildings. He was not weak and sickly looking.

The Bible describes Jesus Christ this way: "[H]e hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Isa. 53:2). Jesus Christ had no distinguishing features or handsomeness that made Him stand out in a crowd. Christ used this fact to His own advantage many times. He was able to escape harm by blending safely into a mass of other Jews on more than one occasion. Remember, Judas had to point Him out to the authorities with a kiss (Matt. 26:48-50).

It is also important to recognize that the Jews of Christ's day considered it a great shame for a man to have long hair (1 Cor. 11:14). So Christ would never have looked like the pampered, long-haired, easy-to-point-out man modern pictures make Him appear to be.

When we think of Jesus Christ, we must think of Him as He actually is today. The Bible states, "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters" (Rev. 1:14-15). As the living Son of God, Jesus Christ's face shines with fiery brilliance. His spirit body burns like molten brass. We could not look into His face and not be harmed by the experience. Be sure to study and meditate on this entire passage. All crucifixes, pictures and statues of Jesus Christ fail miserably to represent Christ as He truly is. They are wholly false and must be discarded if we are going to worship God *in spirit and in truth*.

News of the Philadelphia Church of God—the organization behind the Trumpet

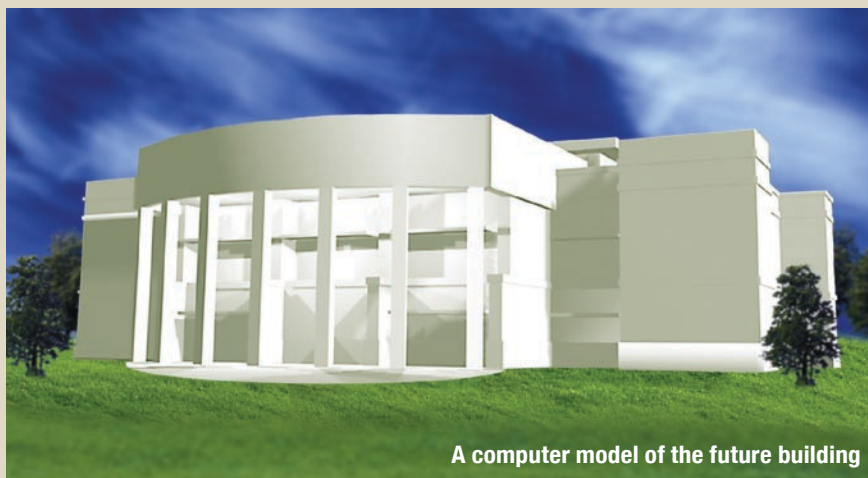
often fail to do so because of our family and our associates. Even one's family, church or associates could become a form of idolatry if we do not obey God. We must learn to fear God more than looking different or weird to people in this world. We must not conform to this world (Rom. 12:2). If we work hard at fitting in with the world, we are destined to also suffer with it.

Notice, God says, “[F]or I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Exod. 20:5-6). God is rightfully jealous over His people. For our own good, He forbids us to get into false worship. Why? It does incredible harm and damage.

If we stubbornly continue in idolatrous worship, God warns that He will visit our iniquity upon our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Study the book of Judges. It was one of the darkest times in ancient Israel's history. This book, more than any other in the Bible, proves that there are repetitive cycles in history. It is part of the Bible known as the *former prophets*. So it is not just a book of history—it contains prophecy for today!

Judges shows what happened to the children of those who worshiped idols. Study chapter 2—it is a summary of the entire book. The Prophet Samuel wrote, “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim: And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger. And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth [root for the word Easter]” (Jud. 2:11-13). These verses refer specifically to the Second Commandment.

What did God do to the people as a result of their sin? Samuel continued, “And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed” (vv. 14-15).



A computer model of the future building

■ Administration Building Planned

PLANS ARE BEING FINALIZED FOR AN administration building to be added to the Philadelphia Church of God's 170-acre Imperial College of Edmond campus. The project should break ground in early summer, with the goal of completing construction by summer 2005.

The administration building will be 22,000 square feet and have two floors. It will serve as the headquarters building for the PCG, replacing its current office complex in downtown Edmond and providing much-needed space for the growing needs of the work.

The outside of the administration building will have a classical Grecian appearance, featuring a seven-column portico with seven steps leading to the entrance. It will have an earthen, limestone color. The inside will have

different hues of purple and gold—the school colors of Imperial College.

The building will be located on the south side of Spurlin Lake, the campus's three-acre spring-fed pond. The area is near the future site of a proposed auditorium and will feature landscaping and footpaths to Spurlin Lake.

The first floor will house a reception area in the front and will contain the Church's business office, a library, and the Imperial College administration and information technology departments. The second floor will hold the News Bureau, the editorial department, a conference room and executive offices. The middle of the second floor will have an open design, allowing an atrium and skylight above to shed natural light into all parts of the office and library below.

God's just punishment for idolatry often lasted decades.

This means then that the children suffered famine, pestilence, oppression, slaughter and captivity.

Some scholars want to say Judges is myth. Let's not be fooled by wrong reasoning. Judges is a true history for all those of *faith*. It is a book that proves God doesn't play games with His people. The worst thing we could do to our children is teach them idolatrous customs. It is a horrible thing to give our children a false concept of Almighty God. We need to seriously ponder this warning. The time period of the Judges is about to be repeated.

This commandment also reveals that God is merciful to all who repent of idolatry. God will show mercy to the generations that “love me, and keep my

commandments.” When we repent of our law-breaking and turn back to God, our children are promised mercy and blessings. Judges also shows that when the people repented, God repeatedly reversed the deplorable conditions in Israel (v. 16). God doesn't continue His punishment forever. God punishes only to help us make the changes that we need to make.

It is time for us to *wake up* and forsake our idolatrous ways. Let's study into this Second Commandment. What an incredible blessing it is to know that God desires us to worship Him directly. All men ultimately can come to know the great God of this limitless universe as their personal Father. God has predestined that all men can, in time, choose to daily walk and talk with the very living God. ■



MARRIAGE

Too Little, Too Late

“SOME PSYCHOLOGISTS, taking a new look at the institution of marriage, are voicing shocking predictions for the near future. Indeed, in their professional eyes, the trend toward obsolescence of the marriage custom has already started, and is gaining momentum!” That’s how Herbert Armstrong introduced his wonderful little booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* back in 1968.

Today, those who oppose same-sex marriage unions worry that unless we uphold the sanctity of the marriage union, the institution itself may be on the down and out.

In truth, the drift toward marriage obsolescence began long before the latest debate on same-sex marriages, as Mr. Armstrong correctly noted in his booklet.

Society’s views on marriage and family took a turn for the worse at the beginning of the 20th century and became fully evident during the 1960s. Before the “new morality” set in, sexual intercourse was usually reserved for marriage. The stigma of premarital pregnancy was frightening enough to prevent many young gals from giving up their virginity. This, in turn, served as motivation for young men to commit to one woman—to be faithful and

devoted to that special one who was “saving herself” for him. Marriage meant something.

But with the onset of the sexual revolution, societal stigmas toppled like dominoes. The invention of the pill removed the fear of pregnancy and family responsibility. Young people

no longer had to wait until marriage for sex. Men discovered the “freedom” of sexual relationships without having to commit to one woman for life. Legalized abortion gave women yet another discreet

way to avoid stigma, just in case birth control failed.

Soon, however, the stigma against premarital pregnancy evaporated. By the end of the 1970s, 1 million teenage girls in America were getting pregnant every year. (Today, one third of all births in the U.S. occur out of wedlock.) Marriage, we were told, wasn’t necessary for raising children. Thus, the marriage rate plummeted—it has gone down 43 percent since 1960. Today, the most common living arrangement in America is that of two unmarried adults without children.

Then there is the onslaught of divorce. After the sexual revolution, it became quick and easy—without any social stigma attached. As has been commonly reported, half of those married today will one day divorce.

So the issue of same-sex marriage is not the beginning of something dreadful that is about to happen to the institution of marriage. As Donald Sensing wrote for the *Wall Street Journal* on March 15, *same-sex marriage is not the cause of the degeneration of the marriage union—IT’S THE RESULT OF IT.*

NATURE

Green Peace

RECENT STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT vegetation and greenery around the home or workplace helps to improve mental health.

According to the *Dallas Morning News*, “Adults are less overwhelmed by their problems when there’s green space near their inner-city homes” (April 13). At school, a few more shrubs and patches of green can even improve academic performance. “Children are better able to shrug off stress, and better able to concentrate, when they have contact with natural surroundings, studies show” (ibid.).

One study compared Chicago public housing developments that had no greenery with those that had plenty of landscaping. It found that crime rates were cut in half where there was vegetation.

This reminds us of the way Herbert W. Armstrong beautified and maintained his Ambassador College campuses. On three separate occasions, his Pasadena campus was awarded the most beautiful and best landscaped campus in the United States. At times, critics wondered if Ambassador College was *too* beautiful. Mr. Armstrong asked way back in November 1949, “Is God displeased with beautiful things, with things that are the very finest and best—combining His own

glorious and beautiful nature in a variety of stately, beautiful and rare trees, shrubs, vines, hedges, flowers with buildings, and furnishings that represent the very best and most conscientious of human effort and craftsmanship? Is God displeased because we at Ambassador take care to carefully dress and keep up the rare and magnificent place He provided for His college? Would we please Him more if we let it run down, go to weeds, and to rust and rot?” (*Plain Truth*).

While Mr. Armstrong was living, Ambassador College was a tremendous example of what mankind should have done with this Earth after God instructed us to “dress it and to keep it” (Gen. 2:15).

Well ahead of his time, Mr. Armstrong understood the positive impact a beautiful environment has on an individual’s productivity and mental health. He considered Ambassador College a modest foretaste of the beauty that will spring forth all over the world once Jesus Christ returns.



A Great Myth?

THE ARK WAS SIMPLY TOO big for a mere mortal like Noah to build—so said the BBC in its March 21 program “Noah’s Ark.” Given the technology available at the time, building an ark about two-thirds the size of Titanic would have been impossible, the program asserted.

“It’s time to forget the original story and start again,” said the show’s host, Jeremy Bowen. “The traditional notion of the Noah story does not pass any sort of rational or historical test. Maybe it was not meant to; maybe it was made up.”

Bowen interviewed a number of scientists and historians who categorize both Noah and the ark as myth and who reject the idea that a worldwide flood engulfed the Earth. According to Britain’s *Sunday Telegraph*, “They conclude that the Noah story was invented by Jewish scribes who embellished the story of Gilgamesh to evoke an all-powerful and vengeful God” (March 7).

Evidently, the Apostle Peter also got swept up in evoking these “stories” to depict a vengeful God. He not only referred to the worldwide destruction brought about by the Flood in 2 Peter 2, but also the region-wide destruction God caused by raining fire from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah. Peter used these examples to underscore the point of his message—that universal sin brings about universal destruction.

Jesus too was apparently not exempt from embellishing the yarn. He said in Matthew 24:37-39, “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage,



ART TODAY

until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Christ not only confirmed the events of Noah’s day, He said the same worldwide destruction would come about in our day—only this

time in the form of nuclear world war! (see verses 21-22).

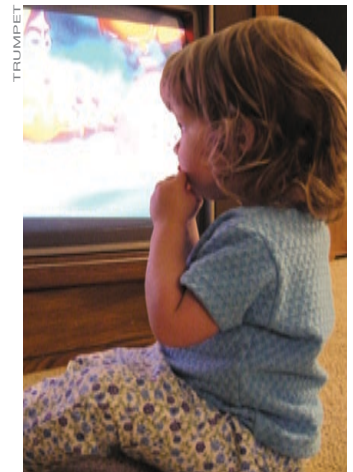
In Hebrews 11, the Apostle Paul wrote, “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (v. 7). God gave Noah absolutely no physical evidence to suggest that a flood would come. And yet he built the ark—believing and acting on what God SAID would happen.

If all of this is nothing more than a fabricated story, then it also casts doubt on statements made by Peter, Paul and Jesus. More important still, it makes God out to be a liar.

TV and Toddlers

A RECENT STUDY DISCUSSED in the April edition of *Pediatrics* links toddler television viewing to hyperactivity. According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, the study “suggests that the pace of today’s programs, including quick action, rapid scene changes, and high noise levels, might overstimulate and permanently ‘re-wire’ the developing brain” (April 9). Thus, researchers encouraged parents to prevent children under the age of 2 from watching television—period. Thereafter, TV viewing should be limited.

It remains to be seen whether or not the news will come as a wake-up call for parents. In America, about one fourth of children under age 2 have televisions in their bedrooms.



TRUMPET

FAMILY Dysfunctional Floor Plans

THE 21ST CENTURY FAMILY IS FAR DIFFERENT FROM the one of 10 years ago. Just ask any architect. Modern homes are being designed with less open floor plans—more walls, more privacy, leisure rooms at opposite ends of the house. The antisocial architecture is promoted in the name of domestic tranquility.

The seclusion offered by the new floor plans are “good for the dysfunctional family,” according to Gopal Ahluwalia, the National Association of Home Builders’ director of research.

“We call this the ultimate home for families who don’t want anything to do with one another,” says another executive in the building industry.

Architects have dropped the push for houses with a centralized “great room” and are now plugging one-person “Internet alcoves” and “escape rooms.” The new designs also include multiple main entryways, two-car “his” and two-car “her” garages on opposite ends of the house.

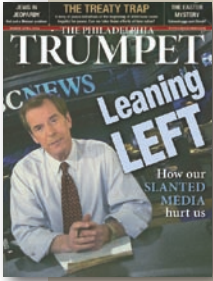
One industrial designer says his 7- and 11-year-old daughters “fight less, because their new house gives them so many ways to avoid each other” (*Wall Street Journal*, March 26). He says, “It just doesn’t make sense for us to do everything together all the time.”

Isn’t saying goodbye to the “family room” just an indicator that we’re saying goodbye to family?

To understand how your family can be happy, please request Herbert W. Armstrong’s free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

THE
MISSING
DIMENSION
IN SEX

HERBERT W.
ARMSTRONG



As one might imagine, the response we received from the March-April feature on media bias was wide-ranging. Some of the negative respondents were quite disappointed to see the **Trumpet** “take sides” on a political issue. One man in Ohio was so disgusted that he asked to have his subscription forwarded to Rush Limbaugh. To those who feel that way, we would encourage you to again read the conclusion of “The Media War” (page 14 of the issue). Our “bias,” as we tried to explain, is based on biblical prophecy and principles. While some may interpret certain aspects of that as being conservative or liberal, we have no political agenda. Our responsibility is to simply give you God’s perspective on the news.

One reader from East Africa accused us of being just as biased as the liberal press: “No matter how many military victories America and Britain win, no matter how far America has come from the Vietnam debacle and learned from that nasty experience, you are doggedly fixated with the Herbert W. Armstrong mentality of ‘America has won its last war.’ In that regard, you are exactly like the **New York Times**: the evidence glares at you in the face; but because you come from the Anglo-Israel theological background, you must reject every turn America takes for the better.” If you noticed in that media article especially, we devoted a lot of space to the many American successes in Iraq. But more than that, we always try to step back and see the flow of events in a much larger context. With Iraq, for instance, America did win a battle—swiftly and decisively. But that does not mean

America won the war on terror. Indeed, the bloody fighting in April proved that the war on terror is far from over.

The same reader also asked if the **Trumpet** would change its editorial tone if “America and Britain one day genuinely repented of their collective national sins.” He cited the example of Nineveh anciently, where an entire city avoided sure catastrophe after it heeded God’s warning message delivered through the Prophet Jonah. We would argue that Jonah’s warning is being delivered today—through the **Trumpet**. Our peoples could avoid catastrophic events if only they would heed and, as this reader said, “genuinely repent.” But that’s the key: genuine repentance toward God. Has that happened? God tells us to judge by visible fruits (Matt. 7:16, 20). To this point, all visible signs show that our peoples are wholly unrepentant, which is why we keep delivering God’s warning message. If at some point there is genuine repentance on a national level, then yes, our editorial tone would change.

Not all the response was negative, of course. “God’s Word is truth, and that is the **Trumpet**’s bias,” wrote one reader from Wisconsin. A reader from Florida related the article to the 3/11 bombing in Spain: “Spain has delivered a wrong message to the world. The liberal media appears to echo the message that terrorism can affect elections.” One final response: “I am not surprised by the quality of the **Trumpet**, in fact, I expect it—but after reading this I just had to respond. This is one of the most intelligent and truthful views of the media I have ever read!”

As always, we welcome your feedback—positive or negative—here at the **Trumpet**.

STEPHEN FLURRY

Anti-Semitism

REGARDING JOEL HILLIKER’S ARTICLE on anti-Semitism (“The Enemies of Jerusalem,” March-April): First, hatred toward any group of people is wrong, whatever race it comes from.

But why do you presuppose that all Jews are innately good? All humans, Jew or Gentile, are capable of good and evil. Being Jewish doesn’t make one automatically a good person, just as being black doesn’t make one incapable of racism. I have met good Jews and bad Jews. To imply that Jews are somehow totally innocent of any wrongdoing is naive. Let’s be fair in pointing out right and wrong on both sides.

E-MAIL RESPONSE

We are under no delusion that “all Jews are innately good” and “totally innocent of any wrongdoing.” That idea contradicts Romans 3:23, which says that all have sinned. The article was meant to show how events and world opinion are leading toward the fulfillment of the “abomination of desolation”—the destruction of Jerusalem described by Jesus Christ in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. Examine the hatred and violence being perpetrated against Jews today, and you can see this prophecy in embryo already. This fact stands regardless of what the Jews may or

may not be doing to provoke the anger of the world.

AS A LONGTIME READER, I WOULD LIKE to thank you for presenting an up-to-date, information-filled magazine that not only exposes the true nature of happenings around the world, but also shows the true scriptural prophecies of those happenings. Your magazine seems to be one (if not the only) magazine that isn’t afraid to tell it like it is.

Gordon Jones—COLUMBIAVILLE, MICH.

Origins of Lent

IN REFERENCE TO THE FAST—THE 40-DAY and 40-night fast was started by Jesus Christ when he went into the wilderness and was tempted by the devil. That is why we fast 40 days during Lent. It was the Lord himself that started the fast—not the pagan origin as you stated (“Where Did We Get Lent?”, March-April).

Eviginia Skodras—PAWTUCKET, R.I.

Jesus Christ went without food or water for 40 days and nights. No practitioner of Lent attempts to follow that example. Even if the observance were the same, however,

Christ did not continue this fast as a yearly observance. Neither did the disciples. Nor did the Apostle Paul. In fact, there is no record of any biblical figure observing Lent. No one kept Lent in any form, as the Catholic Encyclopedia explains, after Christ’s death. It took hundreds of years for the practice to gain acceptance in the Roman Catholic Church. However, its pagan observance preceding Christ’s birth is well documented.

I WAS GOING ABOUT MY EVERYDAY BUSINESS when I saw one of your magazines with a picture of Mars on it (February). I picked it up because I study astronomy, but what attracted me was the article “Superpower Under Siege.” It was well put together and painted a very graphic portrait of what the United States is faced with in the years to come. After reading this article, I found a lot of the other articles to be of interest. Please place me on your mailing list.

Chavez Washington—MICH.

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
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Return of the Religious War

Religion is meant to bring peace, but in reality it has fueled history's bloodiest wars. Regrettably, it appears the world is heading toward its next crusade. BY RON FRASER

THROUGHOUT THE 20TH CENTURY, RELIGION WAS INCREASINGLY UNFASHIONABLE in Western society. But with the decline of communism, religion returned with a vengeance.

Consider a few examples: escalating Islamist religious terror and aggressive Islamism within the Middle East, Eurasia, Pakistan and Southeast Asia; the rapid expansion of Roman Catholicism in competition with the Eastern Orthodox religions in the former Soviet satellite nations; the ongoing debate between the Anglican and Catholic churches about papal primacy; the pope's front-line efforts to bring the church's Protestant daughters and wayward Orthodox bedfellows back to the fold, his insistent efforts to have his religion written into the European Constitution, and his call for a new Catholic world order modeled on a united federal Europe; Britain's efforts to divorce the crown from direct control of Westminster Abbey; priestly abuse of minors; the furor created by Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*; the U.S. Supreme Court hearing a case on removing "under God" from the nation's Pledge of Allegiance; the adoption of religion as the vehicle for perverse causes such as homosexual rights, and the rise of the Christian right in North America in reaction to that cause. Truly, religion dominates our headlines!

The new assertiveness of religion today may not be so much reflected in church, synagogue or mosque attendance as it is in the power of the religious lobby and the media attention devoted to various religious controversies. In these times, many significant political issues exhibit religious overtones.

The trouble is, it seems religion is more often intent in *wreaking vengeance* rather than seeking peace. Hans J. Morgenthau wrote in *Politics Among Nations*, "The wars of religion have shown that the attempt to impose one's own religion as the only true one upon the rest of the world is as futile as it is costly."

In the Balkans, Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim were embroiled in a series of messy little wars, the effect of which is still observed in the smoldering hatred that bursts periodically onto the streets within Kosovo. The Irish question, still a running sore, involves conflict between Catholic and Protestant. It's Hindu against Christian in India, Muslim against Hindu in the Pakistan/India situation and Muslim against Christian in Indonesia. Israel reverberates regularly to the blast of Islamic suicide bombers blowing themselves to bits and taking Jewish civilians with them.

Even in the tiny, deprived nation of Cuba, Fidel Castro fetes both Catholic and Orthodox leaders as he seeks a patron to finance Cuban development following the loss of aid from the old Soviet Union. Will it be the Catholic EU, or Orthodox Russia, that moves in once the aging dictator fades from the scene?

Castro has enough of a mind for history to understand that unfashionable communism must be replaced by another ideology as an "opiate to the masses," to steal a phrase from Karl Marx.

Then there's the Muslim headscarf controversy in France. This legislation—supposedly aimed at preventing discrimination based on religion—effectively disenfranchises Jews from wearing yarmulkes and Christians from wearing "large" crosses. It had the Sikhs worried about their turbans and others, for whom

the beard is a badge of religion, worried about retention of their whiskers! Far from working to stabilize a potentially volatile situation, the French legislation may well ripple on to create even worse social tension than existed before its enactment. "The issue has sparked a culture war in France, where defeating the once-almighty Roman Catholic Church was a crucial step in creating a modern democracy" (Reuters, February 8).

In his April 13 press conference, U.S. President Bush said, in reference to the war on terror, "We are changing the world. And the world will be better off ... as a result of the actions we're taking."

That is *crusading* language, reflecting powerful overtones of religion. What is it that the U.S. is offering to change the world to? Simply to acceptance of the values of Western democracy. What is the source of those values? Judeo-Christian, Anglo-Saxon religion. From where did these beliefs come? Check the foundation of law in Britain and the U.S. Biblical law is its bedrock.

All that is historically basic to Western democracy is founded in that which claims belief in the God of Israel, the God of the book we call the Holy Bible—the most translated and widely published of all books in the history of man. The religions of Rome and of Mecca and Medina know this. Is it any wonder then that they perceive the hegemony of the U.S. and its English-speaking allies as a crusade to conquer the world with White Anglo-Saxon Protestantism? This simply puts the U.S. and its allies on a direct course to a clash of religiously based civilizations of a different order, particularly in the Middle East and Europe.

Political scientist Samuel Huntington rightly pointed out that people define themselves in terms of civilizations rooted in religion. Increasingly isolated and hated, an Anglo-American civilization struggles to maintain global peace along the lines of fracture that are increasingly separating and alienating civilizations across these religious divides. Cast in the light of history, illuminated by inspired Bible prophecy, these emerging civilizational divisions of seismic proportions are destined to consummate in history's most devastating racially and religiously inspired holocaust! Request our free booklet *Who or What is the Prophetic Beast?* to discover what you personally can do to escape its horrifying impact. ■



HEAD ON Young Muslim women demonstrate against France's ban on Islamic headscarves.

THE KEY OF DAVID

Television Listing



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

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

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

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Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOCE 9:00 am, Sun

Oregon, Portland KPDX 8:00 am, Sun

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Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun

El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun

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Tobago CCN 7:30 am, Sun

Trinidad CCN 7:30 am, Sun

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