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JANUARY 2006

THE PHILADELPHIA

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TRUMPET

YEAR IN REVIEW

2005

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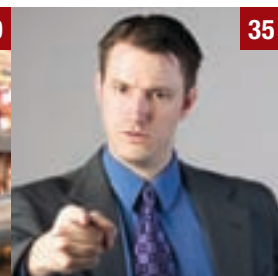
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STAFF Publisher and Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry
Executive Editor Stephen Flurry News Editor Ron Fraser
Senior Editor Dennis Leap Managing Editor Joel Hilliker
Assistant Managing Editor Ryan Malone
Contributing Editors Mark Jenkins, Brad Macdonald
Contributors Fred Dattolo, Andrew Hessong, Gary Rethford
Associate Editors Donna Grieves, Philip Nice
Production Assistant Michael Dattolo
Research Assistants Lisa Godeaux, David Vejil
Photo Research Aubrey Mercado
Prepress Production Ryan Malone
Circulation Mark Jenkins
International Editions Editor Wik Heerma
French, Italian Daniel Frendo
German Hans Schmidl
Spanish Edition Editor Carlos Heyer

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 Harold Flury


 Learn From
HISTORY
 —or Perish

GETTY IMAGES

 WINSTON
 CHURCHILL

Many colleges and universities no longer require students to take history. They don't think it has much value. But they are making a deadly mistake of the greatest magnitude! We need to understand why.

TODAY WE HEAR MANY ACADEMIC VOICES TELLING people that learning history is of little or no value. This is an *extremely dangerous* trend that may be too entrenched ever to correct.

This EDUCATIONAL PLAGUE is rampant among the American and British peoples. It seems that few of our leaders understand what a colossal disaster it is!

George Will wrote this in his Dec. 23, 2001, column: "When history is taught at all nowadays, often it is taught as the unfolding of inevitabilities—of vast, impersonal forces. The role of contingency in history is disparaged, so students are INOCULATED AGAINST THE 'UNDEMOCRATIC' NOTION THAT HISTORY CAN BE TURNED IN ITS COURSE BY GREAT INDIVIDUALS" (*Times Union*; emphasis mine throughout).

He then implied that our nation likely would not have been born without the bravery and leadership of George Washington. We came dangerously close to losing the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Will wrote, "Two hundred twenty-five Christmases ago, history was being made around here. And recently Lynne Cheney ... came here to advocate teaching history more extensively and more wisely than we currently do. ..."

"Cheney stressed that events around Christmas 1776 demonstrate 'that this nation was not inevitable.'

"General Washington, commanding ill-fed, ill-clad and barely trained forces against the world's mightiest power, had been in retreat, as he would be much of the war. By Christmas night 1776, he desperately needed a victory and got one with the surprise attack on Trenton. ..."

"The human story would have had different contours if the bullets that sliced through his clothing during the French and Indian War had struck him."

Great individuals do turn the course of history!

Mr. Will continued, "Cheney recalled a 1999 survey of college seniors at 55 elite colleges, from Princeton to Stanford, which revealed that only 22 percent knew that the words 'government of the people, by the people, for the people' are from the Gettysburg Address. Forty percent could not place the Civil War in the second half of the 19th century. ... Twenty-five percent thought the pilgrims signed the Magna Carta on the Mayflower. ... To the question of who commanded American forces at Yorktown, the most frequent answer was Ulysses S. Grant.

"Such questions should not be difficult for high school seniors. But at the time of the survey, *none of the 55 colleges and universities required a course in American history. And students could graduate from 78 percent of them without taking any history course*" (ibid.).

What a disturbing survey! OVER THREE FOURTHS OF THE STUDENTS DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE EVEN ONE HISTORY COURSE!

Why is this information so shocking? Here is Mr. Will's conclusion: "... because as Madison [one of America's Founding Fathers and former presidents] said, in words inscribed on a Princeton building, 'a well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people.'"

Are we about to lose our freedom? The answer is a resounding *yes!* If we don't wake up, we will lose our freedom and much more!

A Law of History

One of Winston Churchill's greatest biographers, William Manchester, said that Churchill "saved Western civilization"—not just Britain and Europe. More accurately, Mr. Churchill was *used by God* to save Western civilization.

How important is it that we learn from that civilization-saving history?

Henry Steele Commager wrote an introduction to Winston Churchill's biography of his ancestor, *Marlborough*. In it Mr. Commager said, "... Churchill's reading of history reinforced his early education to exalt the heroic virtues. He was Roman rather than Greek, and as he admired Roman accomplishments in law, government, empire, so he rejoiced in Roman virtues of order, justice, fortitude, resoluteness, magnanimity. These were British virtues too, and, because he was the very symbol of John Bull, Churchillian. He cherished, as A LAW OF HISTORY, the principle that a people who flout these virtues is doomed to decay and dissolution, and that a people who respect them will prosper and survive."

Learning lessons from great leaders of the past is critical to our national well-being. IF WE FLOUT THOSE HEROIC VIRTUES OF HISTORY, OUR NATIONS ARE "DOOMED TO DECAY AND DISSOLUTION." But if we respect and emulate them, we will "PROSPER AND SURVIVE."

That is A LAW OF HISTORY. OUR NATIONAL SURVIVAL IS AT STAKE!

Former Prophets

How often have we heard that history repeats itself? It does—time and time again.

The Bible contains many prophetic books, including what are classified as the "major" and "minor" prophets. But there are also "former prophets" in the Bible—comprised of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Samuel. These books are mostly about the *history* of Israel. (Request our free booklet *The Former Prophets*.) They are called *former prophets* for a reason. They were written by prophets and are filled with end-time prophecy. If we live the same lifestyles our forefathers did, we will attain virtually the same result—good or bad. History becomes prophecy. *History prophesies the fate of nations*, whether they will thrive or collapse!

This is "a law of history." It is not about luck or happenstance. It is a *law of history*. If we break that law, the law breaks us!

Our nations live today because great leaders of the past learned and practiced heroic virtues.

A survey revealed that British school children have a disgraceful ignorance of history before they go to college. Many of them believe Hitler was the prime minister who led Britain to victory in World War II!

These children are dangerously ignorant of even fairly recent events. OUR NATIONS CAME CLOSE TO LOSING WORLD WAR II BECAUSE WE REJECTED CHURCHILL'S WARNINGS TOO LONG!

How vital is it to learn that history?

Mr. Churchill warned for almost a *full decade* about Adolf Hitler, and the British and American people refused to listen. Civilization was almost beyond saving when the jarring gong of reality struck!

IF WE DON'T LEARN FROM CHURCHILL'S WARNINGS OF THE 1930S, WE WILL RESPOND TOO LATE TO PREVENT A NUCLEAR WAR!

This is the *historical perspective* we must have. God prepared Winston Churchill to save Western civilization in World War II.

No such man is being prepared to save us from World War III. But God is sending a warning of how we can be saved from a nuclear catastrophe!

Our warning message is from the great God, and you can prove it. Will you?

The Lessons of History

Commager wrote: "[Churchill] accepted, instinctively, the attitude toward history which that century took for granted: that history, in the words of Bolingbroke, was philosophy TEACHING BY EXAMPLES. What is more, he was quite ready to stand there and point to the examples. Indeed we can say of Churchill what he himself wrote of Rosebery, that 'the past stood ever at his elbow and was the counselor upon whom he most relied. He seemed to be attended by learning and history, and to carry into current events an air of ancient majesty.'

"Nowhere does this appear more simply than in the 'Grand Theme' which Churchill imposed upon his history of *The Second World War*: 'In War: Resolution; In Defeat: Defiance; In Victory: Magnanimity; In Peace: Good Will.' HE READ HISTORY AS A STUPENDOUS MORAL SCRIPTURE, and for him the writing was, if not divinely inspired, at least *authoritative*. More, it was straightforward and simple. History was a struggle between the forces of right or wrong, freedom and tyranny, the future and the past. By great good fortune Churchill's own people—'this island race,' as he called them—were on the side of right, progress and enlightenment; by great good fortune, too, it was given to him to buckle these virtues onto him as armor in the struggle for a righteous cause.

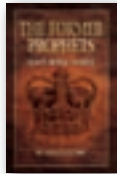
"If HISTORY WAS PHILOSOPHY TEACHING BY EXAMPLES, what lessons did it teach? ...

"First, history was not just the pursuit of idle hours but was, itself, philosophy and, rightly read, FURNISHED LESSONS WHICH STATESMEN COULD PONDER AND APPLY.

"Second, HISTORY WAS BOTH MEMORY AND PROPHECY. It provided the counsel and the solace of the LONG VIEW both to the past and to the future. The contemplation of the ages which mankind had somehow endured, and survived, infused the student with patience, with humility, and with courage; the prospect of a posterity which, a thousand years hence, might pronounce the verdict that one generation had given to a nation 'its finest hour' ENCOURAGED RESOLUTENESS AND HOPE, AND STRENGTHENED THE ABILITY TO CONFRONT CRISES THAT SEEMED INSURMOUNTABLE.

"Third, history followed great cycles: The same themes recurred, again and again, the same drama was played out, from age to age; and as men had somehow survived the vicissitudes of the past there was ground to hope that they might survive those of the present and the future. Thus four times Britain had fought to rescue Europe from the grip of a tyrant—Louis XIV, Napoleon, Kaiser William and Hitler—and four times Britain had succeeded in saving Europe and, with it, the cause of liberty and justice. Here was a RECURRING PATTERN which augured well for the future of 'this island race,' and of mankind, for, as Churchill saw it, the welfare of mankind was inextricably intertwined with that of the English-speaking peoples.

"Fourth, history bore witness to the VITAL IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL CHARACTER, FOR CHARACTER WAS AS IMPORTANT TO A PEOPLE AS TO AN INDIVIDUAL, AND EVERY NATION MUST BE ALERT TO DEFEND AND PRESERVE IT. That each nation had a special character Churchill did not doubt, and as he contemplated the long arch of centuries he was led to a fifth conclusion, that it was, above all, the English character which had lighted up the corridors of time, flickering now and then but mostly pure and clear and even luminous—the English



FREE UPON REQUEST

character and that of England's daughter nations around the globe." Today, character isn't even important enough to raise as a political issue in Britain and America!

Commager continued: "From all this flowed a sixth lesson, that the test of greatness was politics and war. ...

"Battles,' he wrote in the *Marlborough*, 'are the principal milestones in secular history. ... ALL GREAT STRUGGLES OF HISTORY HAVE BEEN WON BY SUPERIOR WILL POWER wresting victory in the teeth of odds.' [Our WILL POWER has been broken (Leviticus 26:19).] And elsewhere he concluded flatly that 'THE STORY OF THE HUMAN RACE IS WAR.' Like those states-



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN NEWMS
"We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation ever has grown, but we have forgotten God."

Abraham Lincoln, 1863

men he most admired, Marlborough, Chatham, Wolfe, Clive, Washington, Lee, he was himself a war leader; alone of great war leaders he was a great war historian.

"History—not least the history of war—taught a seventh lesson, and taught it not only *to* Churchill but *through* him: THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP"—another disastrous failure in Britain and America—modern-day Israel (Isaiah 3:1-4).

Nelson's History

In *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, Winston Churchill wrote about Britain's greatest military hero (before he was eclipsed by Churchill), Lord Nelson. He related the story of when the British Royal Navy had blockaded Europe with about 40 ships, preventing the French from crossing the Channel to attack. However, in the autumn of 1805, Napoleon massed his invasion barges at Boulogne, believing, as Churchill wrote, "that the British fleets were dispersed and that the moment had come for invasion."

The decisive battle took place in the waters off Cape Trafalgar, Spain. Nelson was outnumbered and outgunned. At daybreak on October 21, "he saw from the quarterdeck of the *Victory* the battle line of the enemy consisting of an advance squadron of 12 Spanish ships ... and 21 French ships of the line under Villeneuve." Nelson signaled his captains to form for the attack in two columns. Then notice what he did.

"Nelson went down to his cabin to compose a prayer," Churchill wrote. "May the great God whom I worship grant to my country and for the benefit of Europe in general a great and glorious victory. ... For myself, I commit my life to Him who made me, and may His blessing light upon my endeavors for serving my country faithfully."

"The fleets were drawing nearer and nearer. Another signal was run up upon the *Victory*, 'England expects every man will do his duty.'

"A deathly silence fell upon the fleet as the ships drew nearer. Each captain marked down his adversary, and within a few minutes the two English columns thundered into action. ... The *Victory* smashed through between Villeneuve's flagships, the *Bucentaure* and the *Redoubtable*. The three ships remained locked together, raking each other with broadsides. Nelson was pacing as if on parade on his quarterdeck when at 1:15 p.m. he was shot from the masthead of the *Redoubtable* ... in the shoulder. His backbone

was broken, and he was carried below amid the thunder of the *Victory's* guns. ... In the log of the *Victory* occurs the passage, 'Partial firing continued until 4:30, when a victory having been reported to the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Nelson, K.B. and commander in chief, he then died of his wound.'"

This was one of the greatest sea battles in history. It saved the British Empire. It appeared that Captain Nelson was outnumbered and outgunned. But was he? He turned to God with a beautiful prayer. He committed his life to his Creator.

Nelson sacrificed his life for the British Empire, and God gave him the victory.

How important is such a faithful example from our history books? What is the lesson of this inspiring leader?

Will we learn from history? Or will America and Britain have to learn the hard way—by being defeated as we trust ourselves instead of God—that God saves nations?

God Saved the Union

Most people don't realize how close we came to dividing this nation forever in the American Civil War. The reason we didn't is that God used one man to save the republic.

Abraham Lincoln deeply feared that the republic could collapse. He turned to God for help. Just feel the *emotion* in his words. Mr. Lincoln, in a proclamation on March 30, 1863, declared a day of *prayer* and *fasting*. "[I]t is the duty of nations, as well as of men," he wrote, "to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God ... and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations *only* are blessed whose God is the Lord. ... We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power *as no other nation ever has grown*, BUT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

How many of our leaders today would declare a day of fasting and prayer? Do they have enough Bible knowledge to know what Mr. Lincoln meant when he said that it was "announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations *only* are blessed whose God is the Lord"? Mr. Lincoln knew that was a "sublime truth." Beautifully sublime. This president knew that secular and biblical history *prove* that fact. God blesses for righteousness and curses for sin.

See **HISTORY** page 19 ▶

2 YEAR 0 IN 0 REV



SIGNS OF THE

Crossing into the latter half of the first decade of the new millennium, we reflect on the most profound events of the past year. Though they would appear to offer little hope of world peace, they do, in fact, point to the imminence of far, far better times to come! BY RON FRASER

CERTAIN PROFOUND EVENTS IN 2005 UNDERSCORED that the world has entered a period of deep crisis. It is the emerging crisis at the close of one age of man and foreshadowing entry into another. The transition is slated to become the most painful in all of mankind's history.

Any retrospective on the year 2005 must be viewed within this context of the crisis at the close of the age. It is only within such a context that it all makes sense. Without this perspective, one could perhaps be forgiven for thinking that the world is reaching a stage beyond hope, beyond help.

TIMES

But there is hope—real, genuine, practical hope—in these hugely negative events currently impacting this planet. Sadly, it's a hope realized by too few, rejected by too many, and denied to most, at present.

Yet for those who have eyes to see, embedded within the events of the year 2005 are real signs of the imminence of the coming of mankind's great, and *only*, hope for world peace and an end to all suffering for mankind.

Let us explain by pointing to a few of the most dramatic events that occurred last year, and showing how they are tangible signs of just how close we are to the end of the last hour of this age of man and the dawn of a totally new civilization.



WASHINGTON

IT WAS NOT A GOOD YEAR FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT OR THE nation as a whole.

As 2005 drew to a close, the Bush presidency took on a siege mentality. The running sore of Iraq, coupled with the bellicose stance of Iran on its nuclear power potential, kept eyes within the White House and the Pentagon riveted on the Middle East. North Korea faded into a mere distraction, while a rapidly rising China caused White House advisers to pay it closer attention. Russia's military linkage with China in war games and the potential power Russia can now wield in energy politics deepened the worry lines on the face of U.S. foreign policy.

Massive disasters hitting the deep south of the country, wiping out New Orleans and crippling part of the nation's key Mississippi ports infrastructure; announcements of more corporate bankruptcies (particularly in the key airline and automotive sectors); escalation in oil prices; further mass layoffs within fading home-based industry—all accompanied by a massive blowout in federal debt of unheard-of proportions and White House staff scandals—had the presidency batten-ing down the hatches. The greatest harbinger of this was the weakening of Republican support for the current presidency. Should this weakening become a rout, the United States is headed for unsteady times in the current year.

The U.S. is still, by far, the most militarily powerful nation on Earth. Yet if the government does not enjoy a reasonable level of support from the public, and if the president's own party support erodes, then the requisite degree of political will to exert an effective degree of global leadership will render that power of little or no effect (Leviticus 26:19).



LONDON

ON JULY 7, ISLAMIC SUICIDE BOMBERS HIT LONDON, PROVING that city's current level of security could be easily breached by Islamic youth toting their cruel wares in common backpacks.

London is no stranger to terrorist bombings. During the IRA's insurgency, it wreaked havoc and slaughter throughout Britain's capital city. But this was London's first experience with *Islamic* terrorist attack. Al Qaeda has promised more to come, even announcing a *jihad* against Queen Elizabeth II, as British newspapers reported on November 13. Chances are that when future attacks are attempted, they will, like the July bombings in London, be carried out by Islamic extremists of British nationality.

Londoners may not be edgy at this point, given their famous stiff upper lip. Yet having struck once, there can be no doubt that the Islamic terrorists, like their Catholic IRA predecessors, will commit more fanatical, religion-inspired attacks on the cities of the United Kingdom.

Signs of coming domestic political turbulence began to emerge when, during the final quarter of the year, Prime Minister Tony Blair was roundly defeated in a motion put to Parliament to enhance Britain's ability to detain suspected terrorists. Like the U.S. president, Mr. Blair appears to be suffering from diminishing support within his own party ranks. With little competition from an ineffective, divided Conservative opposition, and not much in terms of quality political leadership offering within the incumbent Labor (socialist) Party, Britain may be home to a very divided and fractious House of Commons during the current year.

In the meantime, stresses increased within British society from the twin challenges of ethnic violence (the legacy of mass immigration from Britain's old colonies) and the growing "yob" subculture of youth hooliganism tearing at the fabric of traditional British stability. Watch for further ructions from these twin blots on British society in the coming year (Deuteronomy 28:43).



ON SEPTEMBER 12, ISRAEL WITHDREW from the Gaza Strip, that strategic coastal strip of land that it won—along with the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank and the Golan Heights—in the victorious 1967 war against Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Gaza retreat followed the 1982 return of the Sinai to Egypt, with the resultant destruction of previous Israeli settlements on the peninsula. Now that Gaza is being handed over to the stateless Palestinians, there can be no doubt that the highly strategic Golan is next on the list of priorities for takeover by nations hostile to Israel, followed by the West Bank.

Coincidentally, even as the U.S. presidency and the British prime minister-ship became increasingly embattled in 2005, the year also initiated a period of political turmoil within Israel. During a matter of days in November, veteran politician Shimon Peres was ousted as leader of Israel's Labor Party and Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon resigned his post as leader of the Likud party, which he helped to found. Sharon's intent is to form a new party in order to

free himself from Likud detractors and ramrod through his vision for peace.

This current domestic political turmoil in Israel comes at a time when the EU has commenced monitoring the Gaza-Egypt border with a team of police and customs officials. Observers see this as the thin end of the wedge for increasing involvement by the EU in Israel's affairs—the EU already promising to swell the strength of this force of "monitors" in the future.

With the prospect of the EU (which has substantially funded the Palestinian cause against Israel) controlling the Palestinian border at strategic Gaza—coupled with Vatican moves to take over real estate on Mount Zion announced the same month—the average Israeli might be forgiven for feeling more besieged than ever in this small Jewish outpost clinging to the Middle East's Mediterranean coast.

Watch for a government to come to power in Israel seeking further liaison with Rome and Brussels. Watch for a strengthening of EU and Vatican involvement in Israel's affairs. Finally, watch for that ancient city Jerusalem to become, once again, a divided city (Zechariah 14:2). Events within and without Israel occurring in 2005 moved things definitely in that direction.



ONE SALIENT FACT THAT GUARANTEES a continuance, even a further heightening, of Islamic terrorism across the world came to the fore in June 2005—the election to the presidency of Iran of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Novice politician though he may be, this individual's terrorist rhetoric places him at the forefront of extremists around the globe, whose cry of *jihad* against the whole of Christendom rings louder than ever. This prime motivator of Islamic terrorists unabashedly spews his hatred of the Jews, broadcasting from the minarets of old Persia his call for the tiny nation of Israel to be rolled back into the sea. President Ahmadinejad may not presently enjoy the favor of many of his fellow Iranian politicians, but he is a favorite of the Iranian public and the new mentor for the droves of Islamic ter-

rorist cells scattered across Europe and embedded in Britain, the U.S. and other Western nations. Al Qaeda may have the edge in gaining publicity, but increasingly it is the extremist political voice of Iran's new leader that motivates Islam's extremists to unite against the West in global *jihad*. They bide their time. They await the signal. Suicide attack? Another train station, bus, public utility, oil refinery, government building—or just open slaughter in a nightclub or marketplace?

In the meantime, Tehran thumbs its nose at the world and continues its development of nuclear power apace. This has led former House speaker in the U.S. Congress Newt Gingrich to identify Iran as the single greatest threat to world peace to arise since Nazi Germany. Readers of this magazine will remember that our editor identified Iran as the world's leading terror threat more than a decade ago.

Perhaps the most amazing phenomenon surrounding Iran was the effort Western nations made to deny the harsh reality of Iran's declared and open intentions to become a nuclear power. It was as though the non-Islamic governments, their diplomats and largely blinded press and media mounted a mind-control program designed to create mass denial of this starkly obvious reality. Make no bones about it: Iran is advancing on course to become the next nuclear power. This foreign-policy initiative identifies that nation very clearly as beginning to fulfill an ancient prophecy that predicts an explosive reaction to its power potential from the European continent (Daniel 11:40).

Meanwhile, Iran has continued—with great success—to develop ties with and influence within Iraq. After 25 years, relations between Iran and Iraq have begun to normalize, with high-ranking officials from both countries visiting their counterparts during the past year.

To bring Iraq into its sphere of influence would boost Tehran's power throughout the Middle East. The *Trumpet* has long pointed to this eventually becoming a reality in fulfillment of the prophesied rise of an Islamic power; the past year has seen Iran take broad strides in this direction. Iraq has increasingly looked to Iran in the political, energy and military sectors, with major agreements being signed mid-year involving unprecedented military cooperation and energy collaboration.

It also became increasingly clear in recent months that Iran wields significant covert influence in Iraq as reports came to light of Iranian supply of ammunition

to terrorists for use against U.S. troops.

Watch: When the U.S. vacates Iraq, Iran will be there to fill the vacuum.



AS THE CHILL OF WINTER BEGAN TO DESCEND upon Russia toward the close of the year, signs appeared of that lumbering bear of a nation finally coming in from the cold. Russia's long hibernation from real impact on the world scene since the great USSR implosion in the 1990s may be over. It is already turning up the heat using the massive power of the world's largest energy corporation, Russian-owned Gazprom, to pressure neighboring nations to return to its fold.

Gazprom is exploiting price control, in addition to its control of cross-border oil and gas distribution networks, as a political weapon to bring Central Asian nations to book in efforts to stem the Westward drift of the former USSR's old satellite states.

Long knowing that a line would have to be drawn to stem the steady movement of Eastern European nations to the European Union, Russia is ratcheting up the pressure on the EU and Eurasia to force the clear demarcation of just where the EU's eastern border will eventually be drawn. Energy is Russia's current weapon of diplomacy.

The EU is a prime customer of Gazprom, heavily dependent upon Russia's oil and gas resources to energize its collective economy. Russia thus has a powerful strategic tool with which to bring the EU to the bargaining table on any issue of major concern. With the Middle East in constant turmoil, the EU has sought a more reliable supplier of energy by courting Russia through heavy capital investment. Now Russia, whose industry is recovering, is prepared to start using energy politics through its control of both supply and price in the European energy market. This it intends to do to stem the Westward drift of old Soviet satellite states. The line will probably be drawn at Ukraine. Seeing the writing on the wall, the EU issued a statement in November designed to deflate Ukrainian ambitions toward EU membership.

2005 signaled that Russia is setting

its sights on rebuilding a form of empire from those Central European nations that yet remain as the nation's buffer to the West.

A further stimulus to Russia's efforts at consolidation is the threat of Islamic incursion from the southern Eurasian states through which Russian oil and gas flow. A number of these states are heavily dependent, economically, on their middle-man status in the oil distribution network. Russia is using the oil and gas weapon, via its monopolistic control of state-run Gazprom, as a geopolitical tool to also meet its regional political goals within nations to its south.

Watch for Eurasia to be a hot spot as nations in that region feel their independence from Russia—which they have enjoyed since the USSR's failure in the 1990s—being eroded by Russia's energy politics. Watch for Russia to stop flirting with the West and to give its primary allegiances to the East (Ezekiel 38:1-4).



ON AUGUST 18, RUSSIA AND CHINA CONDUCTED joint military exercises, declaring the start of an era of unprecedented military cooperation. If this continues, then there may well be competition between the two during the current year to determine just how equal this partnership should be.

Obviously Russia has two strategic advantages—the continuing possession of a far greater nuclear capability than China, and tremendous oil and gas resources. The Chinese are working on catching up with the former. They are still highly dependent on the Middle East and Russia to provide them with the latter. On the other hand, Russia's economy is still struggling, while China is enjoying unprecedented economic growth. Watch for mutual trade-offs between these two nations as the initiatives for closer cooperation signaled in 2005 draw them closer together, each with the intention of balancing the other's power.

The trends in China's and Russia's diplomacy in 2005 also revealed a movement toward increasing liaison with India, which is rapidly gaining influence in the Far East and Asia.

Crucial also to Chinese foreign policy will be its possession of key strategic sea-ports over which it has quietly and steadily acquired control during the past 10 years.

Perhaps the gravest of dangers to the U.S. and world economies posed by China is the increasing risk of having that one single nation underwriting America's huge foreign debt. The U.S.'s loss of self-sufficiency because of its overwhelming and growing dependency upon one single nation for the supply of consumer goods would be risk enough—but for that nation to have declared the U.S. its number-one enemy should scare the daylights out of each and every American citizen. Should tensions escalate between the U.S. and China over, say, the issue of Taiwanese independence, and should such tensions provoke a military response, this interconnection of the U.S. and China's economies could prove decisive in deciding the outcome. As one commentator put it, “[I]f present trends continue, the Chinese will soon be able simply to pull the plug on our economy—and so we won't be able to fight . . .” (*American Conservative*, Nov. 7, 2005).

A resurgent Russia, in tandem with a belligerent China, is the last thing the U.S. needs with its foreign policy at present fixated on the war on extremist Islamic terror (Revelation 9:16).

Tokyo and Berlin—a Comparison

Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi scored a landslide victory at the polls last September. This cleared the way for the overthrow of the pacifist clause in Japan's post-World War II Constitution.

Thus we have a remarkable scenario created within just a few months last year, where the two powers vanquished by Britain, the U.S. and their allies in World War II are set to change the very constitutions that the Allies drafted in a manner such as to ensure they would never rise as belligerents in any future war.

Sixty years of history of the containment of the offensive capabilities of Germany and Japan is about to end, and it could not come at a worse time.

History demonstrates that no matter how passive a nation may appear under a given set of circumstances that may produce a certain period of collective peace, when circumstances change and nations feel a threat to their security, they simply revert to type. Both Germany and Japan are worthy of study in this respect.

Germany and Japan both feel their security threatened at present. Each of these

nations feels that its national identity, sovereignty and integrity have been adversely affected by the post-war intrusion of foreign powers. Neither nation has the type of character that will embrace liberal democracy. Both nations have natural tendencies to collectivism and state worship, which gravitate toward servile acceptance by their respective populations of strong authoritarian rule.

Neither of these nations has long traditions of civil liberties, human rights or political freedoms. Hence the determination of the framers of their post-war constitutions to write in the checks and balances designed to suppress the negative aspects of each of these talented nations should they be tempted to show their belligerent tendencies in the future. That's all about to end. With it an era will end. With the end of that era, the risk to the security and peace of the world will ratchet up more than just a few notches.



THE BIG STORY IN GERMANY STARTED in May, with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's call for a vote of confidence in his government. Knowing he would lose the vote, he initiated the ploy deliberately to force the calling of a general election in Germany. The outcome, initially a stalemate, morphed into a grand coalition of Germany's political parties with Christian Democrat leader Angela Merkel at the helm. Although this alliance stands on shaky political ground, its results may be far-reaching.

Merkel's grand alliance is slated to vote away some of the key federalism clauses of the German Constitution that were deliberately inserted to constrain any prospect of, as Stratfor put it, "the re-emergence of a dynamic, proactive German power" (Stratfor, Nov. 10, 2005). If this goes ahead, it could become the second event of greatest geopolitical significance to happen during 2005. If the parties put their imprimatur on these changes to the German Constitution, then with the stroke of a pen the way for the rise of a populist leader possessing power in Germany—such as has not been witnessed since the rise of the führer in 1939—will be a reality! "Mix in an altered

federal arrangement in which the Länder [states] are not even consulted on half of the issues over which the Bundesrat (made up of representatives of the various Länder governments) currently holds veto power, and *any new chancellor would suddenly have the power and freedom to rule largely as he—or she—sees fit*" (ibid.; emphasis mine throughout).

Having a real eye to history and its tendency for repetition on the European continent, Stratfor observed, "And although the Bundeswehr [German army] was not looking for a flat place to march across the last time we checked, Germany's neighbors have got to be developing a bit of a nervous twitch as their long-occupied-and-divided neighbor begins thinking for itself again" (ibid.).

This coalition may be inherently weak. It may be short-lived. But should these sweeping proposals to change the German Constitution be enacted, the legacy of Germany's latest grand alliance will be to have paved the way for the rise, one more time, of a Teutonic—dare we say Bavarian—dictator as savior of the German nation within a time of increasing domestic and global crisis.



ON APRIL 19, THE BAVARIAN JOSEPH Ratzinger was elected pope. A confidante of his predecessor, John Paul II (to the point where he personally drafted many of that pope's encyclicals during the last five years of his papacy), this German pope has wasted no time in creating a new image for himself. Bedogged by such appellations as *der Panzerkardinal*, the *pope's enforcer* and the like, the pope took the title Benedict XVI under which to forge a public image quite different from that of an extreme right-wing hatchet man.

Whereas the media-savvy John Paul II used mass media to his advantage to promote his performances in the public arena, early indications are that Benedict—himself having gained much from the mass broadcasting of his greatest public performances to date (John Paul's funeral, his own enthronement and the youth rally in Cologne)—may use the media to establish a much more intimate contact with the public. He has

already given the first of many intended interviews on camera, to be viewed worldwide—something unprecedented in Vatican history. Over 100 requests for televised interviews awaited his attention by the close of the year.

Observing that Benedict's first visit outside of Italy was to Germany—and that to address the Catholic Church's youth convention—some pundits drew intriguing conclusions as to the combination of his very Germanness and of his past as a member of the national youth fraternity of his age, the Nazi youth movement in the 1940s. The extent to which his ethnicity and youthful experiences still influence this pope's thinking remains to be seen. Yet the fact that Joseph Ratzinger has a tender spot in his heart for both the land and the state of his birth—Germany and Bavaria—itself leads to intriguing considerations in relation to the future direction of Europe.

One invitation Benedict received early in his papacy he enthusiastically embraced—an invitation by Israeli President Moshe Katsav to visit Jerusalem. Slated to take place during 2006, this visit will serve to strengthen ties already established by Pope John Paul.

The connections between these Vatican initiatives and the European Union's recent moves to mount a security task force in the Gaza Strip will leap into focus in the near future as an increasingly Vatican-influenced EU moves to extend its security force clear on into the very heart of Jerusalem. Not for nothing did the previous pope announce the Vatican's intention to move its headquarters eventually from Rome to Jerusalem. That dream of John Paul II could well become a reality during the papacy of Benedict XVI.



LAST NOVEMBER, GERMAN POLITICIAN Edmund Stoiber, leader of the Christian Social Union, headed a delegation to Rome. This followed hard on the heels of his rejection of direct involvement in grand alliance talks with other political party leaders following the German election stalemate.

At that point, many predicted the fall of the "pit bull" of German politics,

claiming he was a has-been. Indeed, on the surface, Stoiber's refusal of the Ministry for the Economy in a grand coalition government appeared political suicide. To the contrary, rather than suicidal, this action by the protégé of former Bavarian strongman Franz Josef Strauss will prove to be his saving grace. Stoiber has cleverly distanced himself from the imminent failure of what is destined to be a short-lived, muddling at best, deeply divisive at worst, coalition government. "Frustration, uncertainty and fear" dominate the coalition being led by Germany's first-ever woman chancellor, Angela Merkel (*Spiegel Online*, Nov. 15, 2005). "Public opinion and inner fears are no *lasting glue* to keep the coalition together" (*ibid.*).

Stoiber knows that Germany is not alone within Europe in evidencing the lack of anything to provide the "lasting glue" to bind its government together. This is a problem that bedevils the future of the entire European Union. And that's where Stoiber's eyes are set.



THE YEAR WAS NOT A GOOD ONE FOR the European Union.

Both France and the Netherlands rejected the much-touted European Constitution, causing that document to fade quickly from public attention.

The Franco-German engine, which has driven the expansion of the EU to 25 member nations, sputtered almost to a halt under the combined effects of the evident failure of the European public to lend their support to the constitution, and the domestic distractions that each of those nations found itself drawn to focus upon. Political turmoil in Germany, social disruption from France's migrant community, and economic woes in both countries all served to work against the previous binding solidarity that had enabled these two nations to force their agenda on other members of the EU for so long.

The EU ship drifted in 2005. Yet Brussels beavered away still, crafting regulation upon regulation designed to shore up the leaking European ship of state.

"In a sense, [the EU] has become the organizational equivalent of a headless

chicken, fully capable of motion but lacking in cohesion and purpose. ... What is left is a bureaucracy still tottering through the barnyard of Europe while the brains of the operation—the member states—grope about for some sort of new, more functional arrangement" (Stratfor, Nov. 22, 2005). What's missing is the "lasting glue" to bind this European Union together.

That which Germany presently lacks is no different from that which the entire European Union presently lacks to *bind it together* for its moment in history. This magazine has constantly pointed to the only single factor that has ever, and consistently in past history, bound Europe's divisive nation-states together: a shared ideology, Europe's dominant religion—the *religion of Rome!*

Where Rome and Bavaria Meet

On that sunny day in Rome last November, addressing the delegation that Edmund Stoiber had led to the Vatican, "Pope Benedict xvi paid homage to the cultural patrimony of his native Bavaria on November 3 as he met with a delegation of parliamentarians from the Christian Social Union, led by Bavarian Minister-President Edmund Stoiber. Bavaria, the pope said, 'unites a heritage of generosity and a rich religious harmony: elements which hold real promise for the future'" (*Catholic World News*, Nov. 3, 2005).

As the *Trumpet* pointed out last month, "No relationship may be more necessary to watch than that nurtured on this November 3 visit." We believe that *this event*, given little publicity in the world's media, *has greater potential than any other occurring in the year 2005 for impacting the immediate future of the world!*

Watch Pope Benedict. Watch Edmund Stoiber. Watch for a *connection* between these two leading figures in Europe, the one being Europe's spiritual figurehead, the other, his political career cast in the mold of Franz Josef Strauss's *Grand Design* for Europe, biding his time for the call to rescue Germany from crisis.

No leaders in Europe, other than Ratzinger and Stoiber, are so well positioned to take advantage of Germany's and Europe's present crisis of leadership. No other team comes close to these two Bavarians in terms of having the power potential to provide the "lasting glue" to unite both Germany and the papacy in one great final, yet short-lived, resurrection of the old Holy Roman Empire!

Three-Way Collision

In summation, given all that happened on the volatile world stage of the year 2005, three specific events stand out that are destined to coalesce in a grand smash climax at the close of this age. Each event surrounds a personality: the election of Pope Benedict xvi, the election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the presidency of Iran, and the outcome of the German elections.

The increasing belligerence of Iran under its latest populist leader is bound to echo across the whole of Europe, raising the prospect of further outbreaks of violence such as occurred in France last November. This will fuel the sense of besieging crisis that already is rising within Europe, most particularly in Germany.

Add to this the deep concern that the European Union has to limit the prospects of the Islamic nuclear potential, as witnessed by its tortuous efforts to constrain Iran's nuclear power capacity during 2005, and we already see reaction mounting against a perceived foreign-policy "push" by Islamic Iran against a largely Catholicized Europe.

One can hardly escape comparing this mounting tension between the Catholic north and the Islamic south of today to those tensions that led to the crusades of both the Ottoman and Holy Roman Empires of old.

The twin pressures of hoards of agitated Islamic migrants at home and threats of an Iranian manufactured nuclear device coming from abroad are bound to affect German foreign policy heavily in 2006. This, at a time when Germany sadly lacks decisive leadership.

In the wings one man awaits his call, the Bavarian Edmund Stoiber.

Will the year 2006 see a third powerful personality rise, within Germany, in tandem with the vicar of Rome, to turn and stem the tide of Islamicism sweeping its crescent ever northward? Will this all stir the Eastern nations into a closer alliance, destined to clash with the victor between the "king of the north" and the "king of the south" in a final climax at the close of one civilization, and the dawning of another?

Keep watching world events. Watch these personalities. And as you watch—pray! But let your prayer be a prayer of rejoicing! For as these events unfold, as the Savior of the world has admonished, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh." ■

PUZZLE

Terrorism has become one of Tony Blair's top worries.

The OSTRICH, the WARRIORS the WHIRLWIND

A real-life fable about a losing battle **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

THIS IS A STORY ABOUT two opposing strategies to defeating Islamist terrorism.

One approach is fated to fail. In its most robust form, it is represented by America's "polite war" in Iraq—surgical warfare that lances crooked leaders and preserves people, warfare that of necessity devolves into costly and knotty nation-building. In its weakest, silliest form, it involves trying to fight the problem with pillows—refusing to recognize terrorism's correlation to a religion, striving not to eliminate but to "understand" and appease the enemy.

The other approach has not yet been tried. But once America and its associates have thoroughly exhausted themselves with theirs, and the problem of terrorism is exponentially more devastating than it was before they began fighting it, the time for this second approach will have arrived.

The Holy Bible prophesies of it. It will

be shocking. It will be overwhelming. And it will be successful. Islamism *will* be defeated.

Homegrown Extremists

July 7, 2005, was a black day for Britain. That morning in downtown London, four coordinated terrorist attacks wounded 700 people and snuffed out 56 lives.

The shocking nature of the bombings intensified when it was discovered that the four attackers were homegrown British Muslims. The model of multiculturalism the UK had cultivated in recent years, intended to engender interracial and interfaith harmony, suddenly came under withering scrutiny. Inquiry into the attacks lifted the lid on a spiteful counter-culture that despised its host country.

The investigation suggested that the men had actually been recruited at the Hamara Youth Access Point—a youth center *funded in part by the British government and the European Union*. Workers verified that at least two of the

men were regular visitors to the center, which had become, in the words of the *Globe and Mail*, "a hub of radical Muslim politics and a hotbed of Islamic organizing, routinely hosting mysterious figures to speak about extremist politics" (July 14, 2005).

Any notion that these bombers were isolated fringers was killed by a disturbing post-7/7 survey. A *Telegraph*-sponsored YouGov poll of British Muslims found that fully 6 percent of them consider the attacks "on balance justified"; 24 percent sympathize with the "thoughts and motives" of the attackers; 26 percent disagree with Prime Minister Tony Blair's characterization of their ideas as being "perverted and poisonous." The poll also revealed a prevalent conviction in the Islamic community that British politicians, police and judges are prejudiced against Muslims and that British law enforcement has no business trying to squash extremism. Almost a third believe that "Western society is decadent and immoral, and

REUTERS

Muslims should seek to bring it to an end, but only by nonviolent means”—while 1 percent say the West’s end should come “if necessary by violence.”

That stunner confirmed a finding in an April 2004 joint report by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office: “Intelligence indicates that the number of British Muslims actively engaged in terrorist activity, whether at home or abroad, or supporting such activity is *extremely small* and estimated at less than 1 percent” (emphasis mine throughout). Given that Britain is home to somewhere between 1.6 million and 3 million Muslims, that could amount to as many as 30,000 British Muslims “actively engaged in terrorist activity”! (That the government considered this number “extremely small” provides some insight into its thinking.)

Thus came the big question: Was Britain too tolerant,

lims in Britain’s midst. To show community solidarity with them, he ordered 20,000 green ribbons to be sent to local public offices and urged his officers to wear them. “[B]y far the biggest task which we have undertaken [since July] has been giving reassurance to the community,” he explained.

To prove its understanding of the Muslim community’s mistrust of counterterrorism operations, the Bedfordshire Police reissued an 18-point guide on how to handle Muslims suspected of terrorist offenses. The bulletin tells officers to use rapid entry only as a last resort and to stand aside when people are praying so as not to disrupt them. Officers are not to touch holy books, Korans or religious artifacts unless they are *Muslim* officers in a state of ritual purity. And England’s finest are encouraged to remove their shoes when entering Muslim homes, “especially in areas that might be kept pure for prayer purposes.”

Imagine how moved an impressionable young Muslim contemplating a switch to the dark side would be to see police raiding his home in their socks. *Maybe these guys aren’t so bad after all.*

has called Osama bin Laden a “freedom fighter”), Tariq Ramadan (a Muslim professor at Oxford who had been previously banned from France and the U.S. for praising suicide killings) and Yusef Islam (aka Cat Stevens, the pop-singer-turned-Muslim who blames British foreign policy for the London bombings and is excluded from the U.S. because of “alleged association with possible terrorists”).

Within weeks came one of the task force’s first recommendations to “tackle extremism head on”: scrapping Britain’s annual Holocaust Memorial Day—which Blair established in 2001—in favor of “World Genocide Day.” Thus, rather than remembering the 6 million Jews killed by Hitler, Britons would “recognize the mass murder of Muslims in Palestine, Chechnya and Bosnia as well as people of other faiths” (*Sunday Times*, Sept. 11, 2005). A task force member explained, “The very name Holocaust Memorial Day sounds too exclusive to many young Muslims. It sends out the wrong signals: that the lives of one people are to be remembered more than others. It’s a grievance that extremists are able to exploit.”

Yes, it’s no wonder Muslims growing up in the UK end up blowing themselves up in subways. After all, Britain memorializes the slaughter of 6 million people that extremist Muslims hate. Or so the twisted thinking goes.

In this upside-down, black-is-white climate, even Tony Blair lies to the right of the British political mainstream. In November, when he threw all his support behind a proposal to expand the state’s powers over suspected terrorists, he suffered his *first loss in a parliamentary vote in his eight years as prime minister*. Forty-nine members of his own party defected to oppose him—a Commons record.

The prime minister was baffled. “What I can’t understand,” Blair said, “is how we can say, given the strength of the terrorist threat we face, that the civil liberties of a small number of terrorist suspects ... come before the fundamental civil liberty of this country to protection from terrorism.” The reason for that which Mr. Blair can’t understand is the blindly obstinate commitment to politically correct conduct—no matter what the cost—no matter how deep the handicap it places on the British in the business of battling terrorism.

The idea that policemen wearing shoes on a prayer mat during an antiter-

The idea that policemen wearing shoes on a prayer mat during an antiterrorism raid are responsible for terrorist violence is a farce. The idea that a Holocaust memorial is to blame for terrorist violence is a farce.

or not tolerant enough? It demanded an answer. With its malignant extremism diagnosed and 56 of its citizens dead, would Britain clamp down on the problem, or would it push the multiculturalist ideal even further?

It chose the latter route.

Tackling the Problem “Head On”

Britain’s police forces immediately set out to prove that their evenhanded treatment of Muslims would not change simply because of four misguided, misunderstood young Islamic men.

After one of the suicide bombers was called “a hero of Islam” at his funeral, the deputy assistant commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Brian Paddick, remained undaunted. “Islam and terrorists are two words that do not go together,” he said. His boss, Ian Blair, said there is “nothing wrong with being a fundamentalist Muslim.”

The Nottinghamshire chief constable considered it job one to mollify the Mus-

Whatever one may think of those inane initiatives, they fell in step with those of the British government.

On July 19, Prime Minister Blair gave a stern speech unveiling a plan to “tackle extremism” and confront the rise in radicalism “head on.” What was his plan? It was the creation of a task force of advisory committees made up of prominent British Muslims who were instructed to produce proposals to solve the problem (since any solutions proposed by non-Muslims would undoubtedly be insufficiently sensitive to the needs of that community).

Thus the full counterterrorist force of the British government was unleashed. Surely the minions of extremism in Britain trembled with fear.

If onlookers doubted the wisdom in this approach, their qualms multiplied when the appointees to the task force were announced. Among them were extremist sympathizers such as Inayat Bunglawala (the anti-Semitic media secretary for the Muslim Council of Britain, who

rorism raid are responsible for terrorist violence is a farce. The idea that a Holocaust memorial is to blame for terrorist violence is a farce.

And the idea that terrorism that is clearly rooted in Islamic ideology can be eradicated *without offending Muslims* is just as much a farce.

Yet this is the ostrich-like approach of the West—marked by a head-in-the-sand unwillingness to acknowledge the true nature of the enemy.

America the Apologist

The United States has historically done its level best to keep religion out of matters of state. Thus, it doesn't have a comfortable means of dealing with a religion that is perceived as a security threat. Since 9/11, however, discussion about Islam has increasingly entered the public sphere, and many American politicians have taken up the subject.

In their essay "The U.S. Government, Patron of Islam?", Daniel Pipes and Mimi Stillman document the primary strands of what has emerged as

U.S. policy regarding Islam. Politicians have been consistent in saying that there is nothing inherently threatening about the religion—that, in fact, Islam and terrorism are incompatible. Thus President Bush claims that Muslim scholars and the vast majority of clerics reject the extremist view and says that "[Islam's] teachings are good and peaceful, and those who commit evil in the name of Allah *blaspheme the name of Allah.*"

U.S. officials have gone further by arguing that Islam is compatible with American ideals and actually beneficial for the country. "America is made stronger by

Australia's Homegrown Terrorists



CLOSE TO HOME An Australian policeman inspects a bomb disposal robot in Sydney after authorities uncovered a major terrorist plot in the city and in Melbourne.

Although this island nation has yet to experience a terrorist strike within its coasts, Muslim terror has struck close to home. The bombing of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2002 took the lives of 88 Australian citizens. Since then, the Australian government has stepped up its counterterrorist efforts.

With its interior and far north filled with vast and empty spaces, its massive coastline largely porous, and a scant population barely surpassing that of greater Los Angeles spread largely around the perimeter of a land mass as big as the U.S., Australia faces unique challenges in keeping terrorists at bay.

ISLAMIC MIGRATION

Australia's population was built by migration. Because of its original "White Australia" policy, the bulk of the nation's immigrants up to the mid-20th century came from Britain and Europe. During the heady days of the 1960s, the intelligentsia of the nation exaggerated and publicized myths about the mistreatment of ethnic groups within Australia, and the government's stance on immigration changed.

Australia's immigration policies of recent years have produced a climate ripe for the growth of Islamic extremism.

In the wake of the Vietnam War, boatloads of Asians penetrated the northern shores of Australia and were absorbed into its society. Buddhist temples, something quite alien to the Australian Judeo-Christian culture, started to pop up around the country. This was later followed by waves of Islamic immigrants from the Middle East. Mosques appeared and the cries of the mullahs were heard ringing out across the cities of Australian suburbs mixing with those of goats being slaughtered in suburban backyards.

By comparison with other nations, Australia's absorption of ethnic minorities has been relatively smooth. Following federation, generations of Australians came to the nation's shores from cultures quite foreign to that of their new homeland. Their progeny readily accepted Australian citizenship and, thus, Australian national aspirations—until recently.

Among those arrested on November 8 were Australian citizens. But they are not Australian ethnics. The culture and the religion they practice are foreign to the majority within the nation of their citizenship. They have not assimilated. Like their compatriots in Britain and Europe, they have elected to use the freedoms granted by their citizenship to perpetrate terror on the nation that has granted them a haven from other societies still stuck in a medieval culture of cruelty toward, and deprivation of, their citizenry. Their extremist loyalty to the cause of pan-Islamism via *jihad* poses a real threat to the nation that feeds,

Any dream of Australia being isolated from the Islamic terrorist crusade was shattered last November when police in Sydney and Melbourne uncovered a major terrorist plot. On Nov. 8, 2005, 17 people were arrested when 500 police raided 23 locations in the two Australian cities.

Though the scheme was foiled, the incident indicates the extent of the homegrown terrorist problem Australia faces.

Australia's immigration policies of recent years—and the freedoms awarded immigrants without corresponding responsibilities—have produced a climate ripe for the growth of Islamic extremism.

Australia became the enemy of Islamic terrorists when it joined with the United States and Britain in the war on terror.

the core values of Islam—commitment to family, compassion for the disadvantaged, and respect for difference,” said President Clinton on one occasion. His secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, praised the religion as being “a faith that honors consultation, cherishes peace, and has as one of its fundamental principles the inherent equality of all who embrace it.” It almost goes without saying that Islam as it is actually practiced by many worldwide embodies *precisely the opposite* of the ideals that exist in Mrs. Albright’s mind.

Like British leaders, U.S. officials have gone out of their way to demonstrate soli-

clothes, shelters and educates them, and provides them with a means to make a living.

STRANGERS WITHIN THE GATES

The insurgents arrested in Melbourne and Sydney were charged with participating in paramilitary training in remote areas of Australia, planning to produce bombs and using firearms and funding for their nefarious operations. Although Australian authorities broke this cell before it struck, one is forced to consider just how many other such cells are embedded around this vast island nation.

Over 200 million Muslims populate the Indonesian archipelago, the southern extremity of which lies only 200 miles north of Australia. Any terrorist could find a warm, hospitable haven in this island complex while awaiting safe passage to the land down under.

Yet Australia’s greatest challenge is not so much keeping extremist imams and their terrorist protégés from migrating into the country. The most significant terrorist potential lies within the hearts of extremist Islamic Australian citizens already embedded within that continent—the sons of earlier migrants, who speak with an Aussie twang but who never assimilated into Australian society. This is the stranger within Australia’s gates mentioned in Deuteronomy 28:43!

Match that prophecy with Deuteronomy 32:25, and it is clear to those with a perspective on the biblical identity of Australia, and on prophecy for these times, that the future does not bode well for Australia in respect of this terrorist threat. If you want to know why, turn to Leviticus 26 and read verses 14-16. That’s not a message for the faint-hearted. Nevertheless it’s the binding reality of our day.

RON FRASER



If you would like to learn more about Australia’s future, read our booklet ***Australia in Prophecy***.

darity with Muslims—even to the point of insisting that Americans learn to appreciate Islam. They regard citizens who fear the religion or equate it with terrorism as misinformed—in need of education; several officials have spoken on the need for more Islamic instruction. President Bush has assigned American Muslims the commission of spreading their message: “By educating others about your religious traditions, you enrich the lives of others in your local communities.”

Pipes and Stillman make the obvious comment: “In adopting a determinedly apologetic stance, [American politicians] have made themselves an adjunct of the country’s Islamic organizations. By dismissing any connection between Islam and terrorism, complaining about media distortions, and claiming that America needs Islam, they have turned the U.S. government into a discreet missionary for the faith” (*Militant Islam Reaches America*).

Meanwhile, the extremists, it should come as no surprise, strenuously reject the airbrushed Western version of what constitutes “true Islam.” A Taliban representative said this: “I am astonished by President Bush when he claims there is nothing in the Koran that justifies *jihad* or violence in the name of Islam. Is he some kind of Islamic scholar? Has he ever actually read the Koran?”

Is Islam a Peaceful Religion?

Of course not every Muslim—not even the majority of Muslims—pine for the destruction of the Western world. But a substantial slice of Muslims understand their religion to promote militant behavior, no matter how vociferously some may condemn that as a perversion of Islamic orthodoxy.

The fact is, there *is* no Islamic orthodoxy.

Islam—practiced by one out of every five people sprawled over the globe (only 12 percent of whom are Arab)—takes many forms. It has no centralized government, no established hierarchy, no denominations. Where Roman Catholics, for example, can look to the pope to define Catholic doctrine (as can the rest of the world), Islam has no such singular authority.

Thus, those who interpret Islam to advocate terrorism cannot simply be dismissed as misunderstanding their religion. The idea has a distinguished

pedigree among dedicated Muslims.

The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who orchestrated the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, is one of the most respected Shiite clerics in modern times. Sixteen years after his death, his picture is still prominently featured at rallies in several Middle East countries. Here is how he weighed in on the subject: “Those who know nothing of Islam pretend that Islam counsels against war. Those [who say this] are witless. Islam says: Kill all the unbelievers just as they would kill you all! ... Islam says: Whatever good there is exists thanks to the sword and in the shadow of the sword! People cannot be made obedient except with the sword! The sword is the key to paradise, which can be opened only for holy warriors! There are hundreds of other [koranic] psalms and *hadiths* [sayings of the prophet] urging Muslims to value war and to fight. Does all that mean that Islam is a religion that prevents men from waging war? I spit on those foolish souls who make such a claim” (“Islam Is Not a Religion of Pacifists,” translation from *Holy Terror* by Amir Taheri).

Misunderstanding or no, Khomeini derived his religion from the Koran. The young men and women sacrificing their lives in suicide missions against Jews and other Westerners are receiving their training from mosques and *madrasas*. You can’t convince them they misinterpret Islam. These warriors are true believers. Not even cops in socks can deter them.

“Mainstream Tradition”

It is not difficult to find compelling support for the Khomeinist version of Islam.

There are verses in the Koran that condemn killing innocent people, which those who claim that Islam is a peaceful religion often cite. But who is “innocent”? One prominent Saudi sheikh strongly disagreed with those who condemned the 9/11 attacks because they killed innocents: “This was *jihad* and those people were not innocent people.” Bin Laden also insists that his victims are not innocent.

Though some koranic verses advocate peace, at least 18 other verses (Khomeini found “hundreds”) oblige every Muslim to kill infidels when and where the opportunity arises. Islamic scholars resolve these scriptural contradictions with the rule of abrogation, which upholds the authority of later verses above those of earlier verses. Unfortunately, the peaceful verses mostly come early.

One scripture, usually called the “verse of the sword,” is considered by some

to abrogate all others on questions of war and peace. It states, "Then, when the sacred months are over, kill the idolaters wherever you find them, take them [captive], besiege them, and lie in wait for them at every point of observation" (Sura 9:5). David Cook, assistant professor of religious studies at Rice University, states that though, historically speaking, this verse's "immediate subject is the pagan Arabs—a narrow application sustained by early commentators," the fact is that "later Muslim jurists would use the verse to proclaim a *universal jihad against all non-Muslims*" (*Understanding Jihad*). Cook also says that Sura was "revealed" toward the end of Mohammad's life, a few years before the conquests, "making the *final revelation a declaration of war.*"

While Professor Cook acknowledges that Islam began as a peaceful proclamation of Mohammad's teachings, he documents how in the prophet's later years this new religion came to embrace warfare aimed at gaining converts and controlling territory: "Mohammad is recorded as having participated in at least 27 campaigns and deputized some 59 others—an average of no fewer than nine campaigns annually. ... This evidence demonstrates categorically the importance of *jihad* to the early Muslim community. It is no coincidence that a number of the Prophet Mohammed's early biographers refer to the last 10 years of his life as *al-maghazi* (the raids)" (ibid.). Thus, the personal example of Islam's founder shows that he interpreted *jihad* as literal warfare.

Even as far back as the eighth century, Hajjaj, the governor of what is now Iraq, invoked the Koran after a battle with these words: "The great God says in the Koran, 'O true believers, when you encounter the unbelievers, strike off their heads.' The above command of the great God is a great command and must be respected and followed." The koranic verse he referred to was Sura 47:4.

As Spengler wrote in *Asia Times*, "It is a fact of history that *jihad*, by which I mean specifically the propagation of the faith by violence, is a mainstream tradition" (June 15, 2005).

Any Westerner who argues that the war against terrorism is a war against a minority of misinformed, anti-Islamic



ISLAMIC ICON

Iraqi Shiites display images of the late Ayatollah Khomeini—an indication of their sympathy with his version of Islam.

extremists is arguing against 1,400 years of history.

Universal Conversion

Islam, like Roman Catholicism, is a religion whose ultimate goal is *universal conversion*.

Reputed Islam scholar Bernard Lewis explains, "In the classical Islamic view, to which many Muslims are beginning to return, the world and all mankind are divided into two: the House of Islam, where the Muslim law and faith prevail, and the rest, known as the House of Unbelief or the House of War, which it is the duty of Muslims ultimately to bring to Islam" (*Atlantic Monthly*, September 1990).

In the writings and speeches of many influential Muslims, the language of religious conquest appears again and again. Even moderate Muslims speak of Islam as being a universal religion aimed at encompassing the world. Dr. Zaki Badawi, the moderate former director of London's Islamic Cultural Center, said Islam "hopes that one day the whole of humanity will be one Muslim community."

While the number of individuals willing to blow themselves up may be few, the goal of engulfing the globe in a single colossal caliphate is one held by a substantial share of the world's Muslims. The vast majority of Muslims who seek to spread the religion globally are non-violent, but they seek to "save" degenerate Western society nevertheless.

Among these would be the 31 percent of British Muslims polled in the post-7/7 YouGov survey who believe that "Western society is decadent and immoral, and *Muslims should seek to bring it to an end*, but only by nonviolent means." Think about that. If that poll is to be believed, *only 56 percent* of the at least 1.6 million Muslims in the UK agree that "Western society may not be perfect but Muslims should live with it and not seek to bring it to an end."

Sadly, many Muslims disagree with the violence perpetrated by Islamist terrorists *not* because they condemn killing innocent people—but because *nonviolent methods simply work better*. The ultimate goal is the same, but they feel that achieving it will be easier if they don't awaken the West from its slumber.

Of course, if Britain's toothless reaction to 7/7 is any indication, they have nothing to worry about.

Stoking the Flames

The effectiveness of the "silent spread" of Islam is hard to deny.

Proponents of this strategy seek to increase the number of believers through reproduction and conversion—and, in the case of Western nations, immigration. This effort is to be matched by the expansion of Islamic culture and gradual application and enforcement of Islamic law in place of the secular laws of individual countries.

A careful study of Muslim populations worldwide shows how they are systematically pushing for these aims.

Consider demographics alone. Islam has become the second-largest religion in America, Europe and Australia. The French government estimates that 50,000 Christians in France convert to Islam each year; in Britain, mosque attendance has outpaced that of the Church of England.

The inroads Muslims have made in implementing *sharia* law are even more shocking. Pakistani-Muslim-turned-Anglican-priest Patrick Sookhdeo wrote, "British Muslims now have *sharia* in areas of finance and mortgages; halal food in schools, hospitals and prisons; faith schools funded by the state; prayer rooms in every police station in London; and much more. This process has been assisted by the British government through

its philosophy of multiculturalism, which has allowed some Muslims to consolidate and create a parallel society in the UK. ...

“It is said that within 10 to 15 years most British cities in these areas will have Muslim-majority populations, and will be under local Islamic political control, with the Muslim community living under *sharia*” (*Spectator*, July 30, 2005).

While this evolutionary approach is a serious enough threat to the West, some few Muslims advocate a speedier, more *revolutionary* method. Though bin Laden is the most notable example, his thinking is not as far on the fringe as most Westerners would like to believe.

Sookhdeo continued: “The Deobandi minority argue for a quicker process using politics and violence to achieve the same result. Ultimately, both believe in the goal of an Islamic state in Britain where Muslims will govern their own affairs and, as the finishing touch, everyone else’s affairs as well. Islamism is now the dominant voice in contemporary Islam, and has become the seedbed of the radical movements. It is this that Sir Ian Blair [the police commissioner we met earlier] has not grasped” (*ibid.*).

This is the true nature of the problem the ostrich-like West faces. A failure to grasp this reality results in misguided and fruitless efforts to negotiate, compromise and appease. This insipidly polite approach produces only failure—actually, *worse than failure*. It stokes the flames of the problem!

Losing the Battle for Hearts and Minds

In Iraq, because the U.S. didn’t want to be perceived as the bully—applying too much force, especially against Muslim victims—it fastidiously sliced off the top level of autocracy and hoped that democracy would flourish in its absence. The

The “battle for hearts and minds” is a battle the West cannot win. *The very effort is proving to have the opposite of its intended effect.* Among many Muslims, it is perceived as condescension and it foments resentment; among others, it is taken as a sign of rank weakness.

As the *Trumpet* has often pointed out, it is Western *naivety, weakness and lack of will* in eradicating terrorism that enabled it to flower into such a monstrous challenge today. Never in human history has the potential for such devastation been placed in so few hands! A mere handful of suicidal terrorists, with adequate coordination and appropriate technology, can wreak extraordinary destruction.

And that destruction is exactly what the Bible prophesies will occur in Britain and America.

Meditate on these warnings from the great God of the Bible: “I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror ... that shall ... cause sorrow of heart And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies ... and ye shall flee when none pursueth you” (Leviticus 26:16-17). In this age of terrorism, we are living these curses! (Read our online article “Ugly Truths About Islamic Terrorism” and chapter four of Gerald Flurry’s book *Ezekiel—The End-Time Prophet* at www.theTrumpet.com for a thorough biblical explanation of how terrorism will affect these nations.)

The peoples of Britain, America and the rest of the world *must understand the nature of the enemy they face*. It is bigger, angrier, more violent, more elusive, more terrible than they understand. And rather than trusting in God to deliver them, they are trusting in their own ridiculous initiatives. Unless they repent, their sins, their stubbornness, their faithlessness, will lead to their defeat and to the death

20 million Muslims—equal to the combined populations of Ireland, Belgium and Denmark. UN reports say that Muslim communities throughout Europe have grown over 100 percent in just a decade and a half. Islam has become Europe’s *second-largest religion*. Says Bernard Lewis: “Europe will be Islamic by the end of the century.”

This transformation is widely seen within largely Catholic and secular European society as a crisis. The issue has become one of the most contentious in continental politics today. Several political parties are incorporating anti-immigrant (read anti-Muslim) policies into their platforms and are reaping greater support as a result.

In addition to the London bombings, Islamist terrorist attacks in Madrid and Amsterdam have stirred European politicians and the public to act. Berlin established an anti-terrorism command headquarters, consolidating the efforts of the nation’s security offices and beefing up police power to detain people suspected to have terrorist ties. The brutal slaying in November 2004 of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh provoked a fierce backlash against Muslims in the Netherlands; the conservative Dutch government passed tough anti-terrorism laws—broadening the police’s power to conduct searches and wiretaps and to hold suspects, requiring courts to admit evidence against terrorists even if obtained by questionable means. In France, weeks of widespread rioting and burning by Muslim youths throughout the country in November—though treated delicately by French officials—drove thousands of people into the ranks of the far-right anti-immigration National Front party of Jean-Marie Le Pen. Across Europe, efforts are increasing to expel radical Islamic clerics who incite extremism and condone terrorism.

The simple truth is, *Europe is waking up to the Islamic threat.*

Observers must watch for growing evidence of this development, because the narrative of end-time events provided us by biblical prophecy explicitly describes a dramatic clash between the most violent of Islamic forces and the European beast they are already beginning to provoke.

By that time, the U.S. and Britain will have been crippled so severely by terrorist attacks, domestic infighting and economic disaster, they will not even be a factor; their ostrich-like tactics will have utterly failed. And a united Europe,

31 percent of British Muslims polled after the London bombing agreed that “Western society is decadent and immoral, and Muslims should seek to bring it to an end, but only by nonviolent means.”

chances for this policy’s success are essentially pinned on the idea that, when Muslims are permitted to govern themselves and forced to deal with fixing the potholes in their streets, they lose interest in *jihad*. That may be true for some. But that assumption totally underestimates the depth of conviction among those for whom *jihad* is a form of worship.

of their wishy-washy methods of dealing with Islamist terrorism.

At that point, the time for a new approach to the problem will have arrived.

The Whirlwind

Europe has identified the gathering threat posed by Islam. In the last 30 years, the Continent has absorbed some

watching from the sidelines, will have taken scrupulous notes and learned the lessons. Determined not to make the same mistake, it will take precisely the opposite approach!

Note the Bible's description of this coming crusade: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [a radicalized Middle Eastern, Islamic power] push at him: and the king of the north [a combine of European nations led by Germany] shall come against him LIKE A WHIRLWIND, with *chariots*, and with *horsemen*, and with *many ships*; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall *overflow* and *pass over* [conquer and overwhelm]. He shall enter also into the *glorious land* [Jerusalem], and MANY COUNTRIES SHALL BE OVERTHROWN ..." (Daniel 11:40-41).

Europe will not seek to demonstrate its solidarity with the Muslim community. It won't single out specific terrorists or set its sights on a single dictator within one country. It won't be squeamish about civilian casualties. It won't strive to win hearts and minds. Europe will come in a storm of fury! And it certainly won't remove its shoes in the process. It will "overflow"—meaning inundate, cleanse, drown, conquer. *Whole countries* will be "overthrown"!

This is how the war on radical Islamic terrorism will end. In fact, this is the only way this war could end! The problem is so entrenched and widespread—the enemy is so committed—that nothing short of a sudden, furious and indiscriminate *whirlwind* will get rid of it!

But the prophecy doesn't end there. And while the *Trumpet* highlights the failures of the Anglo-American approach and acknowledges the certain success of Europe's blitzkrieg into the Middle East, by no means do we advocate the latter. In fact, Daniel's prophecy describes one of the seminal events of what will prove to be the worst time of torment in human history.

But just as surely as the Bible foretells these events, it shows how they mark a definitive countdown of days until the sun sets on this anguished age of man. At that point, as the world endures a short period of unimaginable darkness, we will know that it is about to be engulfed in the brilliance of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. ■

With reporting by LISA GODEAUX



Borderline Bargain

The Gaza Strip border with Egypt must be looked after. Israel has been pressured to turn the job over to the EU. What might the consequences be? BY JOEL HILLIKER

ISRAEL'S DECISION TO VACATE THE Gaza Strip last year is taking the Jewish State into dangerous territory.

Despite deep apprehensions by the Israelis, on Nov. 25, 2005, for the first time in their history, the Palestinians took control of one of their borders—the Rafah crossing straddling Gaza and Egypt. Israel's reluctance to relinquish jurisdiction over this crucial land gate was a simple matter of self-defense: Even when Israel controlled it, Rafah had a history of gun-running, arms dealing and terrorist smuggling. Thus, just days before Israel completed its withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, it shut the crossing down completely.

But the issue still needed to be resolved. After all, the Gazan Palestinians had no direct access to the outside world without

going through Israel. Controlling their own border represented an important milestone to Palestinian statehood. But the Jews, especially their defense forces, knew it would be suicidal to abandon Rafah altogether. Already in the time since the pullout, the Gaza Strip has visibly fallen under the growing influence of Hamas and al Qaeda. Israeli President Moshe Katsav has stated that because of the evacuation, "more sophisticated weapons have entered, and terror groups, including some al Qaeda cells, have formed" (Associated Press, Nov. 15, 2005).

In the end, it appears that what mollified Israel's concerns was the entrance of a third party—one it apparently considered trustworthy and fair: *the European Union*.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon



REUTERS

THE EDGE

Palestinians celebrate taking control of the Egyptian border.

cess—the moldering plank of compromise was placed across the Israeli-Palestinian political divide.

That plank involved three players: Israel, the Palestinians and Europe. It grants control of the Rafah border to the Palestinians *under* European supervision. Europe is sending 70 monitors to the Gaza-Egypt border, led by an Italian major-general.

This compromise marks a watershed moment for both Israel and Europe.

The invitation by Israel to monitor this strategic border crossing means that, after more than 10 years of struggling with America to gain control of the peace process, *the EU is one step closer to realizing its vision for the Middle East.*

A Failure in the Making

For Israel, releasing control of this strategic land gate means deepening the wound caused by the Gaza Strip retreat, the effects of which could be lethal to its nationhood.

Consider the fact that Israel sought *Europe's* help to guarantee its own security. This historic agreement represents the most significant role Europe has assumed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to date, and certainly sets a precedent for a shrinking American role and an increasingly muscular European presence in the Middle East. Seen in light of Bible prophecy, this is an extraordinary development, as we will see in a moment.

Consider too the implications of EU monitors and police experts being denied “real powers” and “enforcement capabilities” despite Sharon’s wishes. Under the conditions of the agreement, the Palestinians are to deny entrance to known terrorists. But with no outside troops at the border crossing, as the situation stands, the best Israel can do is watch border activity via closed-circuit television; it has no authority to prevent any Palestinian from crossing. Though Europeans are keeping watch, Palestinians have final say on who makes it into Gaza.

Israel’s security branches, including the military, intelligence and police, state the obvious in claiming that this situation undermines Israel’s security. A December 2 report showed that the Palestinians were already allowing known terrorists through the Rafah checkpoint in violation of the agreement—including one of the founders of Hamas, a line item on Israel’s most-wanted list.

The plain truth is that toothless European observers *will not* provide the se-

curity guarantee Israel needs. The uselessness of the compromise agreement will quickly become obvious. Sterner steps will be necessary—and quite soon.

Trumpet readers should expect Europe’s role to grow.

Counterfeit Peacemakers

European designs on the Middle East are not secret. For years, Europe and the Vatican have attempted to curb America’s influence on Israel and bolster their own reputation with the Palestinians through cash injections and backroom politicking. Their efforts have taken many forms: from the 1993 deal concluded between Pope John Paul II and Shimon Peres that offered sovereignty of Jerusalem’s Old City to the Vatican and the accord between the pope and Yasser Arafat that regularized relations between the Palestinian Authority and the Roman Catholic Church—to Europe’s buying influence through donations and invitations to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians as distractions pile up on America.

Yet as the *Trumpet* pointed out in an August 2001 article, Europe and the Vatican are not interested in making peace. In fact, they are counterfeit peacemakers. Their goal is to *control the Middle East*. This invitation by Israel plays into their hands.

The Bible speaks of a time shortly ahead of us when Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies. This event is one of *the principal signs* Jesus Christ gave to His disciples that His return was imminent (Luke 21:20, 31).

Indeed, what Christ foretold was a great, blood-curdling betrayal.

Nothing in the biblical account suggests that these European armies enter the Holy Land with force. The *Trumpet’s* editor in chief has long suggested that they enter at the invitation of the Jews, who are, by that point, desperate for help.

This conglomerate of nations, led by Germany, is going to double-cross the tiny nation of Israel and use its formidable military to attack. *The attack will be a surprise* (verses 21-23).

This new accord between Europe, Israel and the Palestinians signals that we are racing closer to the precipice of a prophesied global change—a change destined to profoundly affect all of our lives. Prove it for yourself in *The Rising Beast* and *The King of the South*, and come to know what lies in store for you and the whole world in just a few short years. ■

With reporting by TIM OOSTENDARP



OUTPOSTS OF EUROPE The Balkan states are being sewed up by none other than a German-led Europe. Former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari (below) is leading final-status talks over the territories.

It was a masterful piece of political subterfuge which served to demonstrate that the old Teutonic masters of the ancient, ever-reviving Holy Roman Empire learned much from their failure to win Europe in two great world wars. Simply let others fight the wars—preferably at their own expense—and always appear reluctant to enter the offensive; then follow along, cap-in-hand, and offer to be the peacemaker at the end of the major conflict. *Fait accompli!*

With Bosnia now due to be handed to a German nominee high representative, one festering sore yet remains within this revamped, 21st-century Balkan Peninsula—*Kosovo*.

To the Victor Go the Spoils

The Kosovo debacle is finally coming to a close. Albania's gain will be Serbia's loss. But who is the real winner?

BY RON FRASER

"GAME, SET AND MATCH to Germany," wrote the *Trumpet* six years ago. "Germany: the peace-broker in Kosovo, the future administrator of Kosovo and of the whole Balkan Peninsula—the lead nation in the Eurocombine shortly to rule the European continent and extend its powerful reach globally to impact all nations" (June 1999).

That's the way the *Trumpet* called the outcome of the grand Vatican/German-inspired strategic game to sew up the Balkan Peninsula to enable the expansion of the empire of the European Union eastward from Central Europe. This action paved the way for 10 more nations from Eastern Europe to join the grand Germanic design for a pan-European Union, which occurred half a decade later. It literally enabled the build-

ing of the eastern leg of the iron empire prophesied in Daniel 2 to burst onto the scene in our time.

The game began in 1991 with Germany—quickly followed by the Vatican—formally recognizing the Catholic states of Slovenia and Croatia as sovereign nations outside the Yugoslavian federation of Balkan states. To that point, the Balkan nations had survived 46 years in union since World War II. The first foreign-policy initiative of the newly united Germany—this act of contempt for global public opinion and the will of many Balkan peoples—was a deliberate attempt to initiate a crisis upon which Germany and the papal state could impose their own well-planned solution. By sparking an illegal war, funded by and fought for the EU largely by the United States and Britain via NATO, all that was left for the Vatican and Germany to do was to sit back and wait till the dust settled—then simply take over.

"Kosovo has been stewing in economic destitution and political no-man's-land for six years. And now the United Nations finally seems ready to admit that it will not get any better, and so let it move on. ... The urge to wash hands and simply dispose of the mess is palpable" (Stratfor, Oct. 25, 2005). Faced with no real progress toward resolving the hatred between the Serbian minority and the Albanian majority in Kosovo, the UN has basically decided to walk away from the problem as soon as it finds someone willing to take it on.

Enter former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, hand-picked to lead final-status talks on the future of this former territory of Yugoslavia that has existed as a de facto UN protectorate since the end of the Kosovo war.

Actually, it is a re-entry onto the Kosovo stage for Ahtisaari. He was originally charged with the responsibility of



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

delivering the ultimatum to former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic during the illegal NATO war in that region in 1999. At that time, the Finnish negotiator told Milosevic that pulling Serb forces out of Kosovo was the only way to prevent NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia. The bombing lasted 11 weeks, largely destroying the region's infrastructure and opening the way for an incursion by Albanian militants into Kosovo, leading to much bloodletting of Serbs at Albanian hands.

The UN's eagerness to wash its hands of the Kosovo mess comes after its rank failure to resolve the conflict between Serbia and Albania over control of the region, with Serbia seeking to retain political control, the Albanians holding out for independence. Unless a strong hand emerges to take firm control of this situation, the result could be another bloodbath when UN forces withdraw from Kosovo.

Watch for the future of Kosovo to be decided by an independence referendum, with the majority—the Albanians—holding sway. From there, the pattern is set, with most of the other pieces of Yugoslavia already talking about or eyeing EU membership.

Montenegro (the only other remaining piece of the old Yugoslavia, together with Serbia and Kosovo) plans to hold an independence referendum early next year. This vote is almost certain to pass. Once it does, it will set a precedent for the only remaining bit of the old Yugoslavian federation needing to be sorted out—Kosovo. It simply would be foolish for the United Nations to deny a similar vote to the German-backed Albanians in Kosovo. Poll results have consistently indicated that *such a referendum would pass by a ratio of nine to one.*

If this vote proceeds, the Kosovo Serbs' fate will be sealed. The German plan to subvert the Serbian influence in Kosovo will be a done deal. If Germany can break the historic Serbian yoke, then it will have a piece of land more pliable to German-EU designs.

With the future of that final piece of the Balkan Peninsula then firmly wedded to the Albanian bid for EU membership, the Vatican-German plan to sew up the Balkans crossroads will be finalized.

As we declared six years ago, "Game, set and match to Germany, the future administrator of Kosovo and of the whole Balkan Peninsula."

When it happens, remember—you

In the midst of the Civil War, Lincoln said, "WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD!" He had the faith and political courage to rebuke his country.

THAT IS HOW AMERICA WAS SAVED! CAN OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS LEARN FROM SUCH HISTORY? THE FATE OF OUR NATIONS DEPENDS ON IT! Those students should be learning from Mr. Lincoln's leadership and his *faith!*

We are now in a war against terrorism. WILL OUR PRESIDENT TELL US THAT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD? WE HAVE! It will take the faith Abraham Lincoln had to win this war. Without it, we will lose!

That is how important it is that we learn from our history.

Mein Kampf

Most people in the 1930s were almost totally unaware of Adolf Hitler's grand design. That is because they were ignorant of Hitler's own history. He had laid out his master plan in his book, *Mein Kampf*.

Around 50 million people were killed in World War II. How many lives could have been saved if we had read and heeded *Mein Kampf* and then used our power to stop Hitler before he could do so much damage?

The Russians made a pact with Hitler at the beginning of World War II. The Russians were delighted, though they should not have been. Hitler had written in *Mein Kampf* that he must conquer the Soviet Union. They were either ignorant of Hitler's history or didn't believe what he said and wrote.

As most people know, Hitler later marched into the Soviet Union.

THE WORLD FINALLY BELIEVED HITLER WHEN *MEIN KAMPF* BECAME A TERRIFYING REALITY!

Similarly, Osama bin Laden wrote and spoke about how he was going to attack and terrorize America. Most of our people ignored his declaration of war.

Even when he bombed the World Trade Center in 1993, we still didn't know about or believe his threats, even though that was the first time America had ever been attacked by terrorism inside its borders.

When the September 11 terrorist attack struck in 2001, we finally believed bin Laden's speeches and writings. But only after some of his rantings had deeply afflicted us.

The great tragedy is that we have

learned little, if anything, from the twisted history of Hitler and bin Laden.

Learning From History

Manfred Weidhorn, in his book *Sword and Pen*, said this about Winston Churchill: "In attempting to ASSESS THE ULTIMATE SIGNIFICANCE OF EVENTS, Churchill grapples with the problem of HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE. Incidents have one meaning at the time of their occurrence and another when they have become part of history."

Many people have called Mr. Churchill a *prophet*. Here is the main reason: He tried "to assess the ultimate significance of events" in a *historical perspective*. All human beings are weak in this area, but we must strive to see not just the present, but also the past and the future.

Mr. Churchill also said that the farther you see into the past, the farther you can see into the future.

What we really need is *God's perspective*. We should avoid human reasoning (2 Corinthians 10:5) and instead reason with God (Isaiah 1:18).

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:11). God left us *examples* in our history. They were recorded in the Old and New Testaments to educate us. But few people heed God's warnings. We are going to pay the ultimate price if we don't learn these God-inspired lessons.

In this end time, 95 percent of God's people have gone astray because they failed to follow Herbert W. Armstrong's example as he followed Christ. (For more information, request a free copy of *Malachi's Message*.)

The solution to all this is not in being a liberal or a conservative. Liberals believe in *individualism*, which often means they trust in their own human reasoning. Conservatives believe that people should learn from history, but God is often left out of the picture. Neither liberals nor conservatives rely on God as they should. Too many of their views are anti-God, and that is the worst plague of all. Generally they learn dangerously little from secular or biblical history.

However, the law of history is still there. Life will be extremely hard unless we learn this immutable LAW OF HISTORY. ■

BY MARK JENKINS

YOU ARE A GLUTTON FOR punishment. *Newsweek*, *Time*, *U.S. News & World Report*, every television network, every newspaper from Hong Kong to California—they've all covered the coming bird flu pandemic. It is the Y2K of Y2005, an unimaginable disaster that may never arrive. Reporters recycle the same speculations over and over about something that *hasn't happened yet*. A lot of readers/viewers are probably sick of it. Yet here you are just the same, reading your umpteen-kazillionth bird flu article.

So why read yet another article on this subject? Two reasons: 1) Because there is so much information out there about bird flu, it might be difficult to separate fact from fiction. We aim to provide you with the most accurate information about avian flu and its possible effects. 2) The *Trumpet* is uniquely able to place this information in its proper position *prophetically*. But not only is the *Trumpet* privileged to know what God says about pandemics in this end time, it is also REQUIRED to give a warning about the dangers plagues will pose. The first reason might not be that compelling to some, but the second reason—if what we say is true—makes this the most important article on bird flu you could possibly read.

What Bird Flu Is—and Is Not

Avian flu, also known as bird flu, is an influenza virus typically hosted only by birds, although other animals such as pigs have carried similar infections as well. In the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic, an avian flu killed more than 40 million human beings.

Typically, there are two forms of the disease, the first of which is called “low pathogenic.” It tends to have few symptoms and often goes undetected. This allows the avian flu to spread easily through a flock of birds. Scientists believe the viruses are introduced into the flocks in this less virulent form, which then mutates into the more serious, highly pathogenic forms of avian flu. Nearly every bird in a flock can be killed by these forms in less than 48 hours.

In this latest threat, the strain of bird flu in question is called H5N1, and millions have died—but, to this point, almost all the casualties have been birds. In the history of avian influenza, there has NEVER been a strain as large or as widespread as

H5N1; an estimated 150 million birds have died or been destroyed. Despite that phenomenal number, the virus is certainly not under control. Rather, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), H5N1 is now considered endemic in many parts of Indonesia and Vietnam and in some parts of Cambodia, China, Thailand, and possibly also the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Nov. 3, 2005).

Historically, these types of highly patho-

1) A new influenza type emerges. H5N1 easily meets this criterion. 2) It infects humans, causing serious illness. The human death toll is still less than 100 people—all of whom contracted the virus by

Is BIRD Really a

genic viruses have not migrated from region to region by migratory species because the birds that contracted it were all dead long before they could complete a migration. A chief concern in the latest outbreak is that migrating species may actually be spreading the bird flu around the world; historically, no strain of bird flu has ever appeared in so many countries at once.

According to WHO, three things are necessary for a human pandemic to occur:

direct contact with birds—but since over 50 percent of those who have contracted this strain of bird flu have died, H5N1 easily meets this criterion as well. 3) It spreads easily and sustainably among humans. This is where H5N1 falls short—for now.



Humans cannot pass this strain of bird flu on to other humans; until that happens, there absolutely will not be a pandemic. But before you get too comfortable, understand that bird flu viruses like that in the Spanish

a matter of time before an avian-flu virus—most likely H5N1—acquires the ability to be transmitted from human to human, sparking the outbreak of human pandemic influenza. We don't know when this will happen. But we do know that it will happen" (Nov. 7, 2005).

He isn't alone in that assessment; many scientists say there is no question that H5N1 will make the jump; the question is how soon it will happen and how prepared we will be.

World governments are taking the threat seriously; U.S. President George

promised to destroy all the poultry within 1 kilometer of the death of a 12-year-old girl who had been exposed to H5N1. Many families, though, said they couldn't afford to lose their chickens and ducks: "This outbreak has ruined our economy," one farmer said. "I don't want to kill my birds. They look very healthy to me" (ibid., Oct. 28, 2005). The article reported that the birds were still roaming free, except for those lying dead in the fields.

The reaction to an actual outbreak could be similar. At one point Hong Kong said it would seal its borders if there were an outbreak of H5N1, but quickly backpedaled because of the inconvenience to businesses and families if travel were stopped.

How Prepared Are We?

A pandemic of bird flu would be an unprecedented disaster. Economically, the World Bank warned that a bird flu pandemic could cause global gross domestic product to drop by 2 percent—or about \$800 billion a year.

It is difficult to estimate a reasonable death count, but WHO forecasts have consistently remained at 2 million to 7.4 million deaths worldwide. While calling that estimate "reasoned," a WHO spokesman also warned that "you could pick almost any number." The UN coordinator for avian and human influenza picked from 5 to 150 MILLION people dead.

No one says the world is adequately prepared for a pandemic. There are two general areas of preparation. The first is locating outbreaks. There are 110 WHO influenza centers in 83 countries, but according to *Scientific American*, the managers of those facilities acknowledge they are "too porous and too slow." Global surveillance has increased, but no one has claimed this will stop an eventual pandemic.

The second area of preparation involves stocking up on anti-viral drugs and creating vaccines.

Do these drugs even work? Some sources say no. Realistically, the question isn't even valid. Tamiflu undoubtedly works for something, but in order for H5N1 to make the jump required to cause a pandemic, it will have to mutate, probably by combining with some form of human flu. Until that mutation happens, there is no guaranteed way to test any vaccine or serum. WHO confirms that "Because the vaccine needs to closely match the pandemic virus, large-scale commercial production will not start

FLU Threat?



THE BIRDS

Workers at a poultry farm in Ogawa, Japan, prepare to gather some of the 82,000 chickens the region has destroyed since discovering signs of the Avian flu in its stocks.

REUTERS

Bush proposed spending \$7.1 billion to prevent a pandemic. The affected countries have culled millions of birds in hopes of preventing a pandemic. But at the same time, "A UN official warned that the repeated outbreaks in China suggested its surveillance systems had failed" (*South China Morning Post*, Oct. 27, 2005).

It is a simple matter to tell people to kill their birds, but experience shows that it may not happen. In Wantang village in the Hunan district of Xiangtan, authorities

have made this exact mutation before, and millions of human beings have died as a result. The question is, will it make that final mutation this time?

Lee Jong-Wook, leader of WHO, left no wiggle room on this issue: "It is only

until the new virus has emerged and a pandemic has been declared.”

Even if current treatments turned out to be perfect responses to the new virus, there is not enough to treat everyone. According to WHO, “On present trends, most developing countries will have no access to vaccines and antiviral drugs throughout the duration of a pandemic.”

A Warning Goes Out

Clearly, there is a tremendous danger posed by bird flu—one that could kill upwards of 100 million people under current levels of preparation. This falls in line with the warnings in Revelation 6 about the pale horse of the apocalypse, who kills, in part, using the “beasts of the earth” (verse 8). Matthew 24:7 adds that there will be pestilences in our day.

Deuteronomy 28 lists the following curses to come as a result of disobedience to God: “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The Lord shall smite thee with a *consumption* [chronic, degenerative diseases such as AIDS], and with a *fever*, and with an *inflammation* [malaria or communicative diseases such as influenzas], and with an extreme burning ... with the botch of Egypt [elephantiasis], and with the *emerald*s [tumors, cancer, etc.], and with the scab, and with the itch [aggravated psoriasis and other nutrient-deficiency diseases such as scurvy, rickets, etc.], whereof thou canst not be healed [incurable or drug-resistant diseases] ... with madness [mental illness, insanity] and blindness and astonishment of heart [emotional distresses such as depression]” (Deuteronomy 28:15, 21-22, 27-28; request our booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* for more details).

We can see the dangers approaching the nations of the world. When this pale horse rides, there will be plagues and diseases like SARS and bird flu. While we are not saying H5N1 will be

the ultimate fulfillment of the pale horse of the apocalypse, we can say without hesitation and with the full backing of the Bible that disease pandemics ARE COMING. How serious are these end-time curses? “And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:22).

When we look at 40 million deaths as a result of the Spanish flu pandemic, we should see how helpless mankind really is; the world is not prepared for an outbreak of H5N1. Men look at antiviral drugs, vaccines, and the advances of modern medicine as saviors, but the reality is that we are so helpless, there would be no flesh left on the Earth without God’s intervention.

When the pale horse rides, there will be plagues and diseases like SARS and bird flu.

Believe it or not, though, this is a message of HOPE—the only message of hope anyone can offer. If we seek God “while he may be found,” He will protect us from disease, from terrorism—from every modern threat there is (Isaiah 55:6). Today, He is giving us a warning that we heed by repenting. But do you know what repentance is?

In Volume 1 of his autobiography, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote: “I was never *converted* until I was brought to the place where I realized my own nothingness, and God’s all-encompassing GREATNESS—until I felt completely whipped, defeated. When I came to consider myself as a worthless burned-out ‘hunk of human junk’ not even worth throwing on the junk-pile of human derelicts, truly remorseful for having imagined I was a ‘somebody’—completely and totally and bitterly SORRY for the direction I had traveled and the things I had done—really and truly repentant”

That type of repentance will bring God into your life! God tells us in Psalm 91 that if He is our refuge and our fortress, we will not need to fear terrorism or pestilence; He can protect us from global flu pandemics as well: “A thousand shall fall at thy side, And ten thousand at thy right hand; But it shall not come nigh thee” (Psalms 91:7).

For more on repentance, request our free booklet *Repentance Toward God*.



The Wizard Steps Down

The outgoing Fed chairman leaves many circles. But he leaves

BY ROBERT MORLEY

REPUBLICAN SEN. JOHN MCCAIN said that if Alan Greenspan were to die, he would “prop him up and put a pair of dark glasses on him.”

When Mr. Greenspan retires as chairman of the Federal Reserve this January, President George W. Bush’s replacement nominee, Ben Bernanke, will have some large shoes to fill, to say the least.

Over his 18-year tenure, Mr. Greenspan has had many successes. In terms of crisis management, lower inflation and economic stability, he appears to deserve high marks.

Mr. Greenspan came to office just two months before Black Monday, Oct. 19, 1987—the day stock markets crashed and the Dow Jones lost more than 20 percent of its value. It was the largest crash since the Great Depression. On this fateful day, two major events occurred. First, Mr. Greenspan defined Federal Reserve Bank (Fed) policy in respect to “bubble crisis” and, second, he gained the markets’ confidence by doing so.

On that day, Mr. Greenspan revealed his future economic policy of letting bubbles pop of their own accord and then acting quickly to mop up the mess



has earned praise in an economy on the brink.

Most recently, we have witnessed Hurricane Katrina destroy New Orleans—America's chief port complex—and the ongoing war in Iraq.

To Mr. Greenspan's credit, throughout these crises he still engineered two of the longest economic expansions in American history.

However, the U.S. economy is not as healthy as Greenspan cheerleaders believe. Mr. Greenspan's "easy-money policy" of slashing interest rates and thereby making massive credit available for the markets every time there is an economic slowdown has been a major cause of the erosion of America's financial strength (*Financial Times*, Aug. 26, 2005).

This easy-money policy may help in the short term, but as economy columnist Peter Eavis says, it does much more harm in the long run by "preventing necessary restructuring of the economy, driving down savings, inhibiting future spending and endangering the long-term health of the banking system" (*TheStreet.com*, Feb. 12, 2004).

Mr. Greenspan's policies have had other side effects as well.

One of the not-so-obvious but enormously negative consequences of Mr. Greenspan's economic policy has been the continual erosion of the dollar's value. His guiding principle of managed low inflation, not zero inflation, is one factor that has led to the colossal loss in purchasing power of the dollar. According to *Barron's*, "the damage to the dollar's purchasing power ... came not in the onslaught of historically high inflation during the 1970s, but in the continuous drip-drip of compounding some inflation every year" (Oct. 24, 2005).

Exacerbating the weak-dollar problem is the massive 334 percent increase in the supply of money that has occurred over Mr. Greenspan's 18 years. As the supply of dollars has grown beyond demand, its value has fallen.

There are three other major problems with the economy that Ben Bernanke will have to confront.

First, federal government debt has been skyrocketing. Last October it reached a record \$8 trillion, more than triple the \$2.3 trillion the U.S. owed in August 1987. Just since June 2002, the national debt has increased by a third.

Frighteningly, the percentage of U.S. Treasury securities now owned by foreigners has also increased from 17 to 50 percent since 1987.

Second, Americans no longer save

money. When Mr. Greenspan took office, the personal savings rate was a comparatively healthy 7.5 percent. From June to September, the personal savings rate was actually *negative*.

For four months, Americans spent more than they earned by borrowing on credit cards or home equity, selling investments (stocks, bonds and other assets), or by using savings from previous months. A lack of savings does not bode well for future economic growth, since savings fuels investment and a nation's subsequent growth.

Third, the easy-money policy has helped create multiple bubbles and an economy more and more dependent on rising asset values to fund spending. In the late 1990s, people counted on the technology-stock mania to fund their retirement. Today it is the refinancing and home-equity-line-of-credit boom that is inflating the bubble.

Right now the markets believe the economy is as healthy as Mr. Greenspan says it is. Greenspan has the markets' confidence. But the question is, will Bernanke be as successful?

Ben Bernanke is likely to follow in Mr. Greenspan's footsteps, maybe carrying Greenspan policy even further. He too recently denied the existence of a housing bubble, and is also in favor of unconventional methods of monetary manipulation.

Individually, each of the above-mentioned problems may be manageable. Taken together, they pose a lethal threat to the health of the nation.

As Peter Schiff of Euro Pacific Capital says, "Never has a changing of the monetary guard taken place with the U.S. economy in so precarious a position" (Oct. 27, 2005).

Bible prophecy shows that natural disasters, terrorist attacks and violence in the cities will further weaken the U.S. As they do, asset values will collapse and the mountains of debt they support will bury the nation.

The Federal Reserve policies implemented in the last two decades have only hastened the economic Armageddon facing an unrepentant nation. ■

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REUTERS (2)

OUTRAGE Officials inspect Amman's Radisson Hotel, where a wedding had been struck by suicide blasts Nov. 10, 2005.

MIDDLE EAST

Al Qaeda Ops Go Beyond Iraq

ON NOVEMBER 9, VIRTUALLY simultaneous suicide attacks on three prominent American-owned chain hotels killed more than 67 people and left more than 300 wounded. The Amman attacks mark the first time Iraq's al Qaeda terrorist leader Abu Musab Zarqawi has pulled off a major attack in Jordan.

The attacks provide sobering insight into the status of terrorist operations in the Middle East. Evidence suggests that Islamic jihadists are seeking to expand their sphere of operations beyond the borders of Iraq. If this trend persists, deadly attacks by Islamic extremists will likely increase across the entire region.

That the attack occurred within four months of the July 22 bombings in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, strengthens the argument that it represents an expansion of extremist ambitions.

As al Qaeda looks to expand its operations throughout the Middle East, the terrorist group has some specific targets in its sights.

Topping al Qaeda's list will be Middle Eastern nations with pro-American and pro-West policies. Many analysts agree that Jordan's positive relationship with Washington was a primary reason it was targeted.

"Amman's hotel bombings

proved again that extremists like Abu Musab al Zarqawi remain determined to expand their deadly threat beyond U.S. troops—to Arabs who oppose their world views" (Associated Press, Nov. 10, 2005).

Islamic terrorists want more than just the removal of American influence from the Middle East; they want to re-align the foreign policies of every pro-American government in the region. They seek the establishment of radical Islamic governments throughout the region and are willing to use violent means to fulfill their goals.

If al Qaeda succeeds in expanding operations beyond Iraq, it will push America's war on terrorism beyond its limit.

In October last year, the United States released a letter in which Ayman al-Zawahri, al Qaeda's number-two leader, discussed the expansion of the war in Iraq with Zarqawi, the leader of al Qaeda's operations in Iraq.

In the letter, al-Zawahri recommended expanding the war in Iraq into neighboring Muslim countries. Al-Zawahri wrote, "It has always been my belief that the victory of Islam will never take place until a Muslim state is established ... in the heart of the Islamic world." November's bombings in Amman are only a sign of things to come.

In spite of the successes the U.S. has scored against terrorists around the world, these groups remain committed. America's decline and the terrorists' sustained willpower, fervency and desire have become *defining qualities* in the war against terrorism.

Bible prophecy proves that terrorism will continue to strike fear in the West, particularly Britain and America. In the book of Leviticus, God says to us, "I will even appoint over you terror" as a result of our sin. Only God can save America and its allies from the terror of the extremists' bombs!

Vatican Seeks Pieces of Jerusalem

LAST NOVEMBER, ISRAELI President Moshe Katsav met with Pope Benedict XVI in what was the first official visit by an Israeli head of state to the Vatican.

Prior to this meeting, Christian publications around the world—including the official Vatican newspaper *El Messagero*—had reported that an agreement was to be signed that would transfer sovereignty of parts of Jerusalem's Mount Zion to the Vatican. Specifically, as IsraelNationalNews.com reported in October, the proposed contract would give the Catholic Church control over what it claims is the location of the Last Supper (a room actually



AT THE VATICAN Israel's president presents pope with gifts.

built by the Crusaders in the 14th century)—one of Catholicism's most sacred sites. Currently, a Jewish religious school is located there, which Jews believe sits atop King David's tomb.

For seven years, the Catholic Church has been

trying to acquire various sites and buildings in Israel that it claims it used to control.

"Final details on a long-delayed accord on the status of Roman Catholic properties in the Holy Land are expected to be agreed during the visit, marking a new era of reconciliation between Christians and Jews," reported the *Times* of London (Oct. 14, 2005). Israel's Foreign Ministry confirmed that it had received a blueprint of the proposed agreement from the Vatican.

The agreement was not concluded, however, during the November visit—possibly due to pressure from Jewish groups to hold on to the territory. Also, Katsav denied Israel is prepared to relinquish David's Tomb.

President Purges Moderates

UNPERTURBED BY THE world's fiery reaction to his anti-Semitic comments in late October last year, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad didn't refrain from continuing with his controversial hard-line politics. November 2, the Iranian government announced it was sacking 40 ambassadors and senior diplomats whom it deemed too liberal and pro-Western in ideology.

Those fired include the representatives to London, Paris, Berlin and the United Nations—the four individuals who played key roles in Tehran's arduous nuclear negotiations with the EU-3 this past summer.

Purging such diplomats and politicians in the midst of the controversial geopolitical climate speaks volumes about the future of Iranian foreign policy. It would seem now is the time Iran needs its most experienced ambassadors to assuage international

It appears Israel is dragging its feet on this issue. The Vatican, no doubt getting antsy after years of negotiations, may have been attempting to pressure Israel by publicizing the possibility of this agreement.

We have not heard the last of this issue, however. The Catholic Church has an intense interest in Jerusalem—viewing it as its universal headquarters. The Vatican has even stated that Jerusalem should be an “international city”—which would open the way for papal control over much more than just parts of Mount Zion. One thing is certain: The Vatican isn't about to give up its designs on Jerusalem.

Today's tactics—negotia-

tion and diplomacy—contrast with those of centuries past, when the Roman Catholic Church sought to obtain real estate in Jerusalem by means of the Crusades. Jerusalem was of such importance to the Catholics that they repeatedly fought Muslims and Jews to gain possession of it.

But current methods will get the Vatican only so far. Using biblical prophecy as his guide, Gerald Flurry stated in his booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*, “The Vatican and Germany ... have conquered Jerusalem several times before. And they are destined to do so one last time!” Read this booklet yourself for biblical proof of this assertion.

concerns over its foreign policy. Instead, Tehran showed the world that it places little importance on mollifying international concern. Tehran is rigidly unconcerned about the radical and highly controversial image it projects to the world, and is remaining dedicated to its hard-line, anti-Western, anti-Semitic foreign policy. President Ahmadinejad has a definite plan for Iran—and the Middle East—and his recent actions have everything to do with bringing that plan to fruition.

According to Middle East Newswire, Iran is saying it plans to intervene in the affairs of neighboring Middle East nations, including Afghanistan and Iraq. “In the first such high-level assertion, a leading Islamic military commander has placed the United States on notice that Iran reserves the right to intervene in

the Middle East, Gulf and Central Asia. The commander said Iran would also seek to control events across the border in neighboring Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Iran is in the center of three strategic and sensitive regions—the Middle East, Central Asia and the Caucasus,” Maj. Gen. Yahya Rahim-Safavi, commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said. “The Islamic republic, for this reason, can play a decisive role in regional, political, economic, cultural and security arrangements” (Nov. 1, 2005). Complete domination of the oil-rich, strategically situated Middle East is the goal. Not since the heady days of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has Iran's foreign policy been so bold. A few years ago Iran barely made international news; nowadays, the nation publicly declares its aim to control the entire Middle East, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

It's not difficult to see the problems Iran could create for America in the Middle East. But consider the problems an Iran-dominated Middle East could cause Europe.

Iranian missiles can already reach the Continent. An even more dominant Iran would control a large portion of Europe's oil supply. It would have open access to



GETTY IMAGES

MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

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I R A N

Space Program Launched

Associated Press, Nov. 16, 2005

“IRAN SAID THE SATELLITE would be purely scientific. But a month after its launch—and only weeks after the president said Israel should be wiped off the map—the head of Tehran's space program now says the Sina-1 is capable of spying on the Jewish state. The launch of the Russian-made satellite into orbit aboard a Russian rocket last month marked the beginning of Iran's space program. ... The program represents Tehran's drive to prove it can produce advanced technology on its own. ... [The launch] was a major step in the country's long-term ambitions.”

the Mediterranean, the soft-underbelly of Europe. More importantly, an Iran-led Middle East would surround Jerusalem, the city dear to the hearts of many Catholic Europeans.

As Iran rallies the Middle East, and steadily moves away from rapprochement with the West, expect Europe to grow increasingly concerned with the direction this leader among Muslim nations is taking. It could even spur European nations to accelerate the process of unification.

President Ahmadinejad is filling his government with men of like mind. Iran will grow bolder in the face of Western nations. Watch to see how this prompts changes worldwide—in Europe's Middle East policy; in America's waning influence in the region; even in Asia's efforts to pull together and present a united front to the rest of the world.

ASIA

Russia, China Lead Key Alliance



ALEXEY PANOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NATO OF THE EAST The Shanghai Cooperation Organization meets in Moscow, Oct. 26, 2005. It could potentially rival NATO.

CONCEIVED IN 2001, THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was created to promote partnership among former Soviet nations. Since meeting that goal, the SCO has quickly evolved into a larger, more influential bloc spearheaded by Russia and China. Some believe the growing confederacy could potentially rival NATO in its military capabilities.

Last October, SCO member nations (Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan) met to mull over developing security and military ties, and to induct India, Pakistan and Iran into the organization.

Underlying the unification of these nations is a dangerous motive that should concern the United States. “The SCO’s swift rise has been fueled by deteriorating security conditions in ex-Soviet Central Asia, as well as a hunger in Moscow and Beijing for a vehicle that could counter U.S. influence in the region” (*Christian Science Monitor*, Oct. 26, 2005).

Watch for the SCO to grow more influential. With Russia and China at the helm, it is entirely conceivable that this organization could burgeon into a pan-

Asian coalition. “China’s ambitions are growing fast, and it also wants to turn the

SCO into something bigger and more effective” (*ibid.*).

Consider the resources at the disposal of such a military confederacy: It would have access to Russia’s military hardware and nuclear program as well as China’s massive army and growing technological capabilities—and it could freely inhabit the strategically situated land of Central Asia. Central Asian nations sit on the doorstep of both the Middle East and Europe. Include the possibility of India, Pakistan and Iran joining the club, and this military’s potential strategic capabilities grow even greater.

Ariel Cohen, senior researcher at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, is concerned with where

Russia and China are taking the SCO. “Four years ago, when the SCO was formed, officials in Washington pooh-poohed it and declared it was no cause for concern. ... Now they’re proven wrong.” In four years, the SCO has become a central component in Asian politics.

Continue to watch for alliances to form with the motive to marginalize America’s global influence. Anti-American sentiment pervades international politics as never before. As the anti-America wave rolls across the globe, the U.S. is finding itself dangerously short of allies while simultaneously getting embroiled in an increasing number of controversies and wars. The U.S. military will not be able to stand such pressure much longer.

Japan’s Constitution Makeover

ON NOV. 22, 2005, the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party unveiled a draft revision of the Japanese Constitution that includes changes to the war-renouncing Article 9. A month earlier, Tokyo welcomed Washington’s decision to station a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Japanese waters.

These moves highlight Japan’s current makeover from a pacifist nation into a proactive global leader.

The draft revision of Article 9 is simply a step toward formal recognition of what Tokyo has already done. Article 9 prohibits Japan from maintaining a military and pursuing war. However, Japan has already revised the article in all but name: It deployed Japanese police and Ground Self Defense Force troops to Iraq and to military operations in the Middle East and South Asia; it has taken a strong role in the joint development of missile defense systems; it



GETTY IMAGES

READY Japan’s military is about to get a constitutional nod.

is the second-largest defense spender in the world.

Clearly Japan is eager for a more dominant role on the world scene—the draft revision just makes it official. Whereas the Constitution currently states, “The Japanese people for ever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. Land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained”—the new draft says, “In order to secure peace and the independence of our country as well as the security

of the state and the people, military forces for self-defense shall be maintained. In addition, the defence forces can take part in efforts to maintain international peace and security under international cooperation.”

Removing the restrictions of Article 9 in its Constitution will enable Japan to use its military power, as well as its economic and political sway, to exert influence and protect its interests. An official, uninhibited military will also strengthen Japan’s bid for a permanent Security Council seat at the UN. After all, a strong, ca-

VENEZUELA

From Insult to Injury

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT Hugo Chavez seeks to exploit what little power he has in order to hurt the American government. He is infamous for his name-calling and insults; lately, however, his moves have really started to sting.

At September's end, Chavez announced that Venezuela had moved its central bank foreign reserves out of the United States—this just as America began to recover from the double-fisted attack of Katrina and Rita. All in all, he sold \$20 billion of U.S. Treasury bonds and moved it to Europe.

pable military is a prerequisite for a nation to become a global power. With the second-biggest navy and second-largest economy in the world, Japan is on its way.

This shift toward belligerency is meeting with America's approval. Desperate for allies, a militarily-stretched America is encouraging Japan in hopes of lightening its own security burden.

But Bible prophecy shows that Japan's interests will not lie with America's for much longer. When Japan acquires a greater ability to seek and protect its own interests free of the U.S.'s influence, it will shift its alliances toward Asia. Soon, a U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier will no longer be welcomed in Japan's waters.

Continue to watch for Japan to complete its make-over into a major global player. For more, read the *Trumpet's* February 2003 article "Japan's Place in the Future."

STAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



HUGO CHAVEZ

Some of that money may not be in Europe long, but one thing is certain: It will not be returning to the U.S. At some point, Washington might not be able to rely on 1.5 million barrels a day of Venezuelan oil either.

A Republican senator from Florida, Mel Martinez, has warned that if the U.S. doesn't take a more comprehensive, active approach in the region, Latin America risks sliding into a "populist Chavismo, anti-American sentiment" (*Miami Herald*, Oct. 1, 2005).

President Chavez has also, according to the *Washington Post*, "bashed the United States on the al Jazeera television network and traveled to Libya to receive an award from Moammar Gaddafi" (March 15, 2005). He has openly supported Iran's nuclear program, saying, "Faced with the threat of the U.S. government against our brother people in Iran, count on us for all our support" (*ibid.*). He has made a point of putting his friendship with Cuban President Fidel Castro in the public eye. In other words, if a country is an enemy of America, it is a friend of Hugo Chavez.

Now, when Chavez delivers his fiercest blow to date by selling off Venezuela's U.S. Treasury bonds, he turns to Europe. To long-time readers of the *Trumpet*, this should come as no surprise, as we have been warning that Latin American resources would

EUROPE

Indoctrinating Their Youth

THE EUROPEAN UNION'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION REQUIRES ratification by all 25 member states to go into effect. Last spring, France and the Netherlands rejected the document. However, the European Commission—the bloc's legislative body—said that, instead of the constitution being dead, it was time for a "period of reflection." In fact, the EU appears to be forging ahead almost as if nothing happened.

To take one somewhat disconcerting example, the Commission is ensuring that the constitution is taught to Europe's schoolchildren as though it were in full force.

A textbook, distributed to over 120,000 primary school children across the Continent, takes two children through the complexities of the EU, led by a character named Good Father Houquette. "You will be astonished by what I will tell you," Father Houquette tells them. "You will see that the EU is a necessity." ... When they arrive at the chapter on the constitution, the children are pictured reading the rules and regulations of an indoor sports hall. "Not long ago the European Union was given regulations such as these," Father Houquette says. "With this new constitution everything will go like clockwork, just like in your club." *There is no mention of the fact that the constitution was rejected by French and Dutch voters* (*Telegraph*, Nov. 20, 2005; emphasis ours).



HITLER YOUTH

Britain's Tories denounced the textbooks. Shadow Foreign Secretary Liam Fox said, "It is quite clear that the commission are determined to ram through the constitution, despite any democratic objections. And to do so they are using propaganda that would have been more at home in the brainwashing era of the Soviet-dominated Eastern Bloc. To top it all they are using our taxes to pay for it."

Like Soviet brainwashing propaganda, indeed. Or, we could add, like the propaganda of Hitler's National Socialist Party through his spin doctor Goebbels or his youth indoctrination program.

What kind of government would put something up for a vote only to ignore its rejection by the citizens—even to the point of teaching it to its school children as though it were in effect? Not a democracy. On a continent with fascist-imperialist tendencies, we must not ignore these trends.

ultimately go to Europe—not the U.S.—for 10 years.

Decades earlier, in May 1962, Herbert Armstrong's *Plain Truth* magazine declared, "[T]he United States is going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Latin America,

mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce." We are seeing that prediction realized today, and Hugo Chavez is a major driving force behind it. Bible prophecy warns us that Latin America will not be an ally of the U.S. for long.

Understanding the Bible

Do you understand the Bible? If you don't, then you are missing out on the most important dimension in all human knowledge. The Bible leads the way to true education. Here's how to understand the Bible. BY DENNIS LEAP

ICAN'T UNDERSTAND THE Bible," gripe many people—even the religious. Someone close to me exclaimed, "I've read the Bible from cover to cover and it didn't make any sense!" Why don't people understand the Bible? Just a few may complain about confusion over textbooks on math, biology, physics or chemistry. So, why is the Bible such a mystery for the majority of people?

Now, the Bible is not a mystery to everyone. A few have a full understanding of it. Do you grasp what is in your Bible? If you don't, here's how to understand it.

The Unique Book

There is no other book like the Bible. It contains pre-history, history, prophecy, spiritual knowledge, wisdom and truth. Within its pages is the most needed, key knowledge about the origins of all life. It is the basis of all true knowledge. No other book in the history of man reveals what the Bible reveals. It gives details about us—what we are and God's intended purpose for all mankind.

Think about it. Would a Creator—obviously holding such incredible intelligence, wisdom and love to think out, plan and bring about such an awesome universe and wonderful life on Earth—neglect to inform man why he exists? Herbert Armstrong described the Bible as our Maker's "instruction manual." He explained further: "Mankind is comparable to the one who purchased a technically designed instrument, but was unable to operate it because he ignored the manufacturer's operation manual. The human mind and body is the most perfectly designed mechanism ever produced from earthly material substance. Our Maker sent along with His product His operation manual. But this world's

bestseller has been the most ignored, distorted, falsely interpreted and least understood of all books" (*Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*).

Know this. The Bible contains God's divine revelation that mankind is not capable of discovering. Mankind is limited to acquiring material knowledge that comes by the five senses. Yet for man to live happily and peacefully with God and other humans, he needs spiritual knowledge. Only the Bible can provide

Good News

The great God has revealed the answers to the most pressing human questions. He has not hidden the very important answers from human minds. They are open to us in the Holy Bible. Yet men have, for the most part, tossed them into the trash. At this time, the number-one—bleak—question staring mankind *eyeball to eyeball* is: Will we survive? Daily news reports warn about a po-



this type of education. The Bible does not contain all knowledge. It is simply the starting point.

As a society, we have become science-minded. Supposedly, we have outgrown our need for religion. Yet science does not have the tools to inform us about vital spiritual matters. Science cannot tell us if man is a soul or has an immortal soul. Science cannot determine whether there is an afterlife. No scientist has instructed us on the purpose for being alive or how to live happily. Science has not shown the nations the way to universal peace and prosperity. Truly, scientists and others—world leaders, statesmen and the clergy—have failed to answer our most important questions.

tential avian flu or other pandemic and inevitable nuclear terrorist attacks on world cities. Newscasters give us pessimistic facts with no hope for a positive outcome. However, the Bible gives us the thrilling advance good news.

Although we are not capable of saving ourselves, mankind will be stopped short of wiping itself off the planet. Thankfully, there is a totally new and better world coming. This great news was prophesied in the Bible thousands of years ago. Why doesn't the world know about this incredible news?

Here is astounding truth. The main flow of human history was written down in the Bible—before it occurred. What happened to ancient Babylon, Egypt, Greece, Persia, Rome, modern America,

Britain, China, Germany and Russia was recorded 2,000 or more years ago. What is sure to happen to modern powerful nations in the next several decades was also written down in the Bible. It is God's desire to make these facts plain to any willing to see. Unfortunately, leaders in government, education and religion reject what God says is coming.

This is what is certain to occur. Man's corrupt rule over other men is at an end. The Prophet Daniel saw this in an astonishing vision. He wrote: "I saw in the night visions ... one like the Son of man ... there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him ... and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7:13-14, 27). Jesus Christ is going to return to Earth and stop all the insanity closing in on us. He will rule the whole Earth with the power and authority to bring *all* men, women and children unparalleled peace, prosperity and happiness. Unbelievably, this truth is not mentioned in the vast majority of Christian churches. Why aren't people told such important news?

Christianity disagrees as to what the Bible actually says on critical doctrines. The Christian world is thoroughly confused about Christ's return. We are a society plagued with Bible illiteracy.

Why So Few Understand

It is truly amazing that Bible ignorance is the hallmark of our time. The Bible remains a bestseller, but few actually read it.

Here is why only a small number of people understand it. Paul instructed Timothy: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Paul taught that God inspired *every* verse of Scripture. In verse 16, the Greek word for *inspiration* is *theopneustos* and literally means *God-breathed*. Paul knew that God took an active, *personal* part in the writing of the Bible.

Now, most people—even Bible scholars—dissect the Bible by picking out only a few verses, or small parts of verses, to support their own ideas. The

entire Bible is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Who teaches this vital truth today? What group of people believes and applies it in daily action?

God provided the Bible for the purpose of reproof and correcting mankind. That is the very crux of the issue related to Bible understanding. What human being readily admits error? Who honestly seeks out correction? Most resent having to admit wrong. We naturally seek praise and flattery. As a society, we hate to accept blame for even the smallest wrong. It is nearly always someone else's fault. That is precisely why it is so difficult for the majority of people—including major Christian denominations—to understand the Bible and agree on what it says.

The Bible is like a spiritual mirror. The Apostle James wrote: "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was" (James 1:23-24). The Bible gives us a real picture of ourselves. It shows us the flaws in our spiritual character. It exposes the error in our thinking and actions. It destroys our self-righteous fantasies. It shows us how God truly sees us. Of course, this can be painfully uncomfortable.

The Bible is God's spiritual power in action. It speaks to the individual directly. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). Essentially, the Bible uncovers the truth about our inner selves.

Misused by Men

For centuries now, men—not wanting correction—have read different meanings into the Scriptures. Many have taken great liberties by ignoring scriptures that give a clear rebuke. Others have worked tirelessly to inject meanings into verses to support their own false doctrines. The Bible has been mercilessly subjected to private interpretation (2 Peter 1:20). So the Bible has become mangled, deformed, garbled and even altered. There are literally hundreds of different interpretations for different verses. It is no wonder that people cannot see the plain truth so simply pre-

sented within its pages.

Bible scholars are the guiltiest concerning the assault on the Bible. Here is what we mean. Not willing to take correction, scholars have developed theories that the *pure* words of the apostles have been lost over the passing generations. So scholars—actually Bible critics—have labored to uncover the "true" texts. How? Through the process that is known as textual criticism.

Here is how textual criticism works: "The task of textual criticism ... is to try to extract the actual words written by the apostles and the evangelists from the great mass of divergent manuscripts in which their works have been preserved" (Frederic Kenyon, *Handbook to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*). An honest look at this quote reveals how arrogant and preposterous it is. Isn't it a clear-cut denial of 2 Timothy 3:16? Look at it this way. Men are hunting for the true text of the Bible by rummaging through bits and scraps of parchment and animal skins buried centuries ago. Then they are using their own *human reason* to determine if it is Scripture or not. No matter how high-sounding textual criticism may be, it is a vain and totally useless effort. It is an impossible task for men! Even Frederic Kenyon recognized the problems with textual criticism. He also wrote: "It is a task at once hopeful and hopeless. Hopeful because in so great a crowd of manuscripts ... the truth must, it would seem, somewhere be on record; hopeless, because the discernment of it requires a superhuman degree of knowledge and judgment and because means do not exist for demonstrating it conclusively" (ibid.). If the scholars would only listen to themselves, they would turn to occupations that are more productive. Why can't men simply accept that God has already given us the true text?

Sign of Our Time

There is nothing new here. Peter, when working to canonize the New Testament, wrote this about Paul's letters: "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:16). There have always been intelligent men who are *unstable* spiritually and *unlearned* in true Bible

knowledge, willing to publicly attack the Scriptures. Yet, the Bible shows that in our time—the end time—this condition would grow worse. In fact, our gross rejection of the Bible is a sign that we are in the end times. Jesus Christ warned us to know the signs of the times (Matthew 16:1-4). The fact that there is so much confusion about the Bible should motivate us to study ours even more.

Paul prophesied: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Men, women and children have turned their ears away from listening to the truth. They have come to believe spiritual tales palmed off as God’s Word. Yet, they are lies. Soon the faith of many will be shattered when the truth is made plain. This verse aptly describes our modern religion. Religious leaders have done a masterful job of dulling the Bible’s sharpness. People are encouraged to attend the church of their choice, which simply means finding the church of their own Bible interpretation.

One third of the Bible is prophecy. Mr. Armstrong taught that 90 percent of that prophecy is for our time. Few focus on prophecy, and those who do totally misunderstand it. Let’s be honest: The vast majority of people do not want to hear prophecy anyway. Most assume that prophecy is just doom and gloom. Just the reverse is true. The real thrust of prophecy is positive, thrilling—truly mind-stirring.

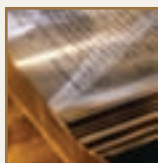
Isaiah says this about the people of our time: “Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us” (Isaiah 30:8-11).

We will not deny that there are some gloomy times just ahead of us. But the real reason for the “gloom and doom” is that people will not let prophecy motivate them to turn to God. People do not want to face the God of the Bible. Yet, any nation or individual that acknowl-

edges its sins against the Almighty God and changes does not have to suffer calamity. A real Bible student knows the truth of that statement. When the city of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, God did not punish it (Jonah 3:10).

How to Understand

No one can come to understand the Bible through human intellect or by human reason alone. We need help—spiritual help. Paul taught: “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14). The Bible is spiritual knowledge



No one can come to understand the Bible through human intellect or by human reason alone.

and must be understood *spiritually*. The natural, unconverted mind is not capable of understanding the Bible. The very important truths of your Bible must be revealed to you by God. He opens up the human mind to understand His incredible revelation through His Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ stated: “Howbeit when [it], the Spirit of truth, is come, [it] will guide you into all truth: for [it] shall not speak of [it]self; but whatsoever [it] shall hear, that shall [it] speak: and [it] will show you things to come” (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit is not a person but a power direct from God. Without it, Bible understanding cannot be unlocked.

The Holy Spirit is a great gift from God (Acts 2:38). When a person receives the Holy Spirit, he or she can be literally guided by it. This involves a *supernatural* course of action by God. Spiritual knowledge is revealed; then the spiritual mind can begin to understand. So you need to receive God’s Holy Spirit.

The Bible shows that there are two conditions to receiving the Holy Spirit: repentance and belief. To repent means to quit breaking the laws of God. Many have been falsely taught that the Ten Commandments are no longer binding on men since the arrival of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ taught no such thing. In fact, He said: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17). You need to understand more fully God’s Ten Commandments.

Please request our booklet *The Ten Commandments*. It will thoroughly explain that the Ten Commandments are an active, eternal law.

Sin is the breaking of God’s spiritual law (1 John 3:4). Repentance is much more than just feeling sorry for what we have done wrong. To repent is to keep God’s law. When we keep God’s law, we are submitting to the very will of God. The whole Bible is based on the two great spiritual principles of the Ten Commandments. You can study these in Matthew 22:36-40. When we keep God’s law, it means that we totally yield ourselves to the will of God as expressed in the Bible. If you truly want to understand the Bible, you must believe that it is the very Word of the living God. Many people read the Bible but refuse to believe what it says. We must learn to tremble before God’s Word (Isaiah 66:2).

True repentance becomes a way of living that involves an eagerness to accept and do what the Bible teaches—no matter the effort or sacrifice. There is also a willingness to suffer persecution for living God’s way. Jesus Christ promised that if we do God’s will, we will understand the Bible (John 7:16-17). Bible misunderstanding often comes because people fear men more than God. Most will not do what the Bible says because they fear what men think about them. All men need to be more concerned about what God thinks. Suffering under intense persecution, Peter and the other apostles said, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Whom do you fear most?

The Lighted Way

Most people today are unhappy, confused and distraught with life. But there is a way to live a truly extraordinary life. Our thinking and actions are the cause of our misery. Sin is not the fun way to live. A law-filled life is the truly free and happy life. Many laugh and scoff at living the way of life outlined in the Bible. We need to get this: Human beings need guidance to live a thrilling, abundant life. King David said: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalms 119:105). Like David, every human being has the right to live a noble life. Only the Bible can show us how.

The Apostle John tells us that God is light (1 John 1:5). God has a *loving* message for all mankind. He created hu-

man life for a stupendously wonderful purpose. Above all, God wants every human being to be happy. God deeply desires to give us light so we can walk in the right way.

We need to face the reality that our generation would rather live in darkness than light. Our generation is just like that of Jesus Christ's time. Christ warned: "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). God gave us the Bible to give us bright light. Are you willing to walk in the light? Stop what you are doing for a few minutes and take an honest look at what is happening in our world. World news headlines are desperately appalling. Isn't our world growing darker every day? The Prophet Isaiah saw our day and described it as "gross darkness" (Isaiah 60:2). At this time, most men choose to stumble in the darkness. However, you need not continue to stumble in the misery of spiritual darkness.

Steps to Understanding

Take these simple steps to understand the Bible. First, completely surrender to God and the authority of His inspired Word. Totally forsake your thoughts and actions contrary to God's magnificent laws outlined in the Ten Commandments. You must also abandon the ways of the society around you. Do as God says within the pages of the Bible.

Second, study the Bible to learn the truth and to show yourself approved by God (2 Timothy 2:15). Realize that this must be a daily—lifelong—effort. It is important that you ask God for guidance so you understand the real meaning of each verse. Some study the Bible on their knees, praying as they study. This yields incredible results. God promises to give you wisdom and understanding when you ask for it (James 1:5). Then, believe what God says and act upon it immediately. Before you read, settle your mind to trust that what you read in the Bible is true.

Third, be sure to prove all things (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Clear your mind of all prejudice. Don't jump to quick conclusions. Recognize that the Bible was written in a unique way. Mr. Armstrong taught that the Bible is a coded book. The truth on any one subject is scattered throughout the Bible. Isaiah stated: "Whom shall he teach knowledge? And

whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:9-10). To come to a full understanding of any one subject, all of the pieces, just like a jigsaw puzzle, must be fit together. Recognize that the chapter and verse divisions in your Bible were not inspired by God, but were put there for convenience by men. It may be necessary to read a whole chapter, or a whole book, to get the right understanding for any one verse. Always strive to get the context of verses.

Although simply reading the Bible is important, the fourth step to understanding the Bible requires that you study one subject at a time. Find every verse in the Bible relating to that subject. To do this, purchase a concordance or a Bible that provides marginal references. Several very good study Bibles include concordances in the back of the book.

Understanding the Bible should be the all-important goal of every human life. To understand the Bible, you need the right spirit and mental attitude, and you must be willing to be corrected, re-proved and instructed by it. Pay close attention to this: A truly educated person knows the Bible. ■

Which Bible Translation Is Best?

WHY so many different translations? Because scholars simply cannot fully agree with the work of other scholars. With so many versions available, which one is right for you?

First, it must be pointed out that *no Bible translation* is inspired. They were all put together by *men*. The only perfect translation of Scripture is what God Himself actually revealed to the apostles and prophets.

As most Bible students know, the Old Testament was preserved primarily in Hebrew while the New Testament was preserved in Greek. But most people don't know how to speak Hebrew and Greek. So how can we know God preserved His inspired words precisely the way He revealed them thousands of years ago? How can we know which original texts are most accurate? There are, after all, thousands of "original" texts from which we get our translations. We must go to God for the answer.

"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that *unto them were committed the oracles of God*" (Romans 3:1-2). God used the Jews to preserve the Old Testament. That is why it was originally inspired in Hebrew. Likewise, He used the Greeks to preserve the original writings of the New Testament. In preserving these original writings, God saw to it that the Jews and Greeks rejected the spurious manuscripts that have surfaced down through the centuries.

Based on a thorough study of today's Bible translations and how closely they adhere to the early Hebrew and Greek manuscripts, Herbert W. Armstrong recommended the King James Version, translated in 1611. That is not to say the King James is a perfect translation. It is, however, approximately 99 percent accurate. The small percentage of error in this translation is primarily due to the lack of understanding of the original meaning of certain Hebrew and Greek words by the translators. Nevertheless, the King James translation comes from accurate Hebrew and Greek texts (the Masorah and the Majority Text), unlike many modern translations.

Mr. Armstrong recommended that other translations be used only to *complement* the King James. The King James Version was written almost 400 years ago. Over that span of time, the English language has changed somewhat. Some of the awkward and archaic phrases in the King James can be cleared up by checking a few modern translations. Mr. Armstrong often used the Revised Standard Version and Moffatt translation. But it is the King James Version that should be the standard by which these new translations are judged for accuracy.

Be especially careful with the New International Version and the New American Standard Version. In addition to those two translations, *any* Bible version with a "new" in its title is guaranteed to be a less accurate translation than the King James Version. The New King James Version is not nearly as full of errors as many other "new" translations. But it still is not nearly as good as the old King James Version.

Be very careful about which Bible you use for your primary study. The changes in the new translations can distort your understanding in many areas without you even realizing it. Used improperly, we can be deceitfully led in the wrong direction. If we use different translations properly, we can enhance and invigorate our Bible study!

STEPHEN FLURRY

Glamorizing Illegitimacy

HOLLYWOOD. IT'S COOL. It's chic. It oozes glam and glitz. But the truth is that all that glitters from Hollywood is not gold.

"Out-of-wedlock births. Shotgun weddings. Catch phrases for 'illegitimate' pregnancies (and the quickie nuptials that may follow) have an almost criminal ring to them. But Hollywood has set to work changing the stigma of premarital babies" (*Fox News*, Nov. 10, 2005).

As the *Fox News* article wryly pointed out, a baby has replaced the diminutive, ornamented puppy as a fashion accessory to metrosexual Hollywood. Now the unmarried, star-crusted Hollywood scene is burgeoning with chips off the block—with household names like Cruise, Paltrow and Ledger.

The message is clear: Unwed parenting is something to celebrate.

But Hollywood is merely showcasing what is actually a growing social trend. For instance, according to *Maclean's*, Canada has more than 1 million single-parent families. The National Center for Health Statistics says that extramarital births in the United States have risen 8 percent since 2003, producing 1.5 million born to unwed parents in 2004—a mind-numbing 34 percent of all births.

"The entire phenomenon (in the real world and Hollywood) concerns marriage scholars, who say a volume of studies have shown two worrying findings: Marriages are more likely to crumble when cohabitation or children come before the walk down the aisle. And more troubles—including teen pregnancy, depression, drug use and dropping out of

school—befall children who aren't raised by both natural parents, according to the National Marriage Project" (*Fox News*, op. cit.).

It doesn't take a genius to realize what statistics prove: that premarital sex produces single-parent families. But statistics don't solve the puzzle of *why* unwed pregnancy, and why the Hollywood "love child" is such a fad. The answer is shocking and little-thought-of by academics and parents alike: *The world has lost the art of proper dating.*

The knowledge of how proper dating contributes to a healthy and happy society is completely missing. No

one in higher government knows the how and why about right dating. Hollywood does not know. Yet, the need to know about the right and proper uses of sex and dating is universal. The statistics illuminate this irrefutable point.

There is a missing dimension in sex knowledge. This missing dimension is causing the talented men and women of Hollywood, of America and elsewhere to make many life-changing mistakes—mistakes that are contributing to the collapse of Western society.

To the skeptic, right dating principles may seem like a trite, oversimplified solution. But you can prove this is true. Read *The Missing Dimension in*



REUTERS

MOM In 2003, Gwyneth Paltrow announced she was pregnant with boyfriend Chris Martin.

Sex by Herbert W. Armstrong.

Blockbusters Glorify Drugs, Irresponsible Sex

THERE IS NO LACK OF sexual activity portrayed in movies, mostly between unmarried people. Not surprisingly, however, hardly a single film depicts its characters having to live with the real and negative consequences of their illicit sexual encounters.

A recent study conducted by the Institute for Child Health Research at Children's Hospital in Westmead, Australia, surveyed 200 top movies of all time based on box office profits. Of those, it eliminated movies that were animated, released before the emergence of AIDS (they chose 1983), and rated G or PG. Out of the 87 remaining films, 53 contained sex episodes. In those sex scenes, only one made a reference to any form of birth control.

Though 98 percent of the sexual escapades could have resulted in pregnancy, *not one* movie showed ANY

consequence of unprotected sex: no unwanted pregnancies, no contractions of HIV or any other sexually transmitted disease.

The study also focused on how drugs were depicted in those movies. While illicit drugs were shown in fewer movies than had depicted sex, researchers found drugs were often shown in a positive light.

A clear example was found in movies that show marijuana use: 52 percent of these movies portrayed marijuana use in a positive light, while 48 percent showed it in a neutral light. As with unprotected sex, no negative consequences were ever shown.

Movies ignore reality by failing to show cause and effect. By consistently and frequently portraying un-

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protected sex and drug use in a positive light, movies promote these harmful practices in the minds of viewers.

There are negative consequences for the wrong use of sex. There are negative consequences for any use of illicit drugs.

But at the same time, there are numerous benefits to living the way God intended us to. More joy and happiness than can ever be portrayed on a movie screen awaits those who live that way of life.

FAMILY

Good Divorce?

A NEW STUDY SHOWS HOW children of divorce are torn between two worlds.

Is there such a thing as a “good divorce”? Many divorcing parents console themselves with the idea that emotional and other damage to their children caused by divorce may be minimized if the couple maintains a good relationship after separation and continues to support the children. A recently released study, however, reveals that even a “good divorce” causes psychological trauma to children, with effects that last into adulthood.

In the book *Between Two Worlds: The Inner Lives of Children of Divorce*, Elizabeth Marquardt, who spent three years surveying 1,500 young adults from both divorced and intact families and interviewing 71 of them at length, estimated that a quarter of adults aged 18 to 35 have grown up in divorced families. Her research suggests that even children of somewhat unhappy, low-conflict marriages fare better than children of divorce.

According to the study, even after a “good” divorce, 52 percent of respondents stated that family life was stressful, compared to 35 percent from unhappy, but low-conflict marriages—and only 6 percent from happy marriages (*Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 21, 2005). Forty-four percent of children of divorce said, “I was alone a lot as a child” compared to only 14 percent of those living in intact families. The study found that children of divorce feel less protected, less emotionally secure and are less likely to go to their parents for comfort.

Children face many obstacles as they try to juggle



their lives with two parents who live by different standards, rules, morals and ethics. According to the study, children of divorce are twice as likely to feel like a different person with each of their parents while growing up. Instead of having only one home, they must juggle between two different homes

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and are often left to themselves to come up with their own standards and morals. This causes much stress and emotional anxiety in the children, the study revealed.

These results may sound startling to some, but that is only because so many “experts” claim that the opposite of Marquardt’s study is true. These same sociologists, who claim parents and children are better off after divorce, were the ones who coined the term “good divorce” in the first place. But there is no such thing as a “good divorce.” Marquardt’s study accurately shows that

children suffer the consequences of a divorce no matter how it is managed.

Children need the strength and support of a father and mother united in a tight-knit family. The Bible clearly shows that God did not intend for married couples to divorce. He knows how stressful divorce is on children. God pays special attention to the needy and is called a father to the fatherless. For more information on the importance of family, please request our booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*

ADDICTION

New Drug: Computer Games

LIKE ALCOHOL AND DRUGS, computer games can be very addictive. Researchers at a Berlin hospital conducted several studies investigating the effects of long-term computer game playing. Players who play games excessively activate “the same structures in the brain as drugs do,” reported a member of the research group (*Deutsche Welle*, Nov. 11, 2005).

Its first study compared 15 people who played computer games “occasionally” to 15 people who played “excessively.” Individuals were categorized as excessive players if they displayed at least three symptoms of dependency: an unquenchable desire to play, withdrawal symptoms and a neglect of other interests in their lives.



REUTERS

TELEVISION

Body Count Rivals War Zone

GROSSLY IMAGES OF DEATH CROSS TV screens with increasing frequency these days, according a recent Associated Press report.

But let’s face facts: Media moguls serve what sells. Forensic dramas like CBS’s three *CSI* shows consistently rate in the top 20, and often the top 10 of the prime-time Nielsen ratings—garnering upwards of 65 million viewers. Not to be outdone, shows like Fox’s *Bones* and the WB’s *Supernatural* are dying to join the list.

These shows helped to set a new high—or low, so to speak—for the number of dead bodies making an appearance on prime-time television. During the last week of September, 63 dead bodies were visible during prime time on the six major networks—up sharply from the 27 bodies seen the same week in 2004.

David Janollari, WB entertainment president, feels it is the “gross” factor that has Americans spellbound. “I think one of the drawing cards of *CSI* is that it is depicted very real and sort of gross,” he said. “It’s part of why the audience comes to see it” (Associated Press, November 20).

Given the TV industry’s focus on the bottom line, producers are quick to play on the public’s appetite for gore. David Walsh, head of the National Institute on Media and the Family, feels, “All of the media executives are going to pay a lot more attention to what’s making them money” (ibid.).

But why such a demand in the first place? Week after week, millions of Americans are becoming further desensitized to gory, dark and violent images—the opposite of what God wants us to fill our minds with (see Philippians 4:8). As we consume more evil, we crave more evil. It is a vicious cycle that trends only downward.



CBS/GETTY IMAGES

CSI CBS’s #1 show.

The Big Men

"THE BIG MEN" (SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005) soaked me in sweat. You may ask why. My country Ghana was used as an example; I would like to comment on that. Since we gained independence, the country has suffered a great loss due to the unnatural behavior of our leaders. They practice nepotism and put the entire country in agony. They have managed to squander all that the British left due to their newfangled measures. Ghana was formerly rich in cocoa, gold, diamonds, timber, etc. ... All these resources are of less value nowadays because of bad governance. The present government's predecessor changed the education system, which has become a nightmare, yet his children school abroad. The villages are facing a lot of problems, but the parliamentarians are sitting down unconcerned I wonder how the country will be in five years.

Eric Quarshie—ACCRA, GHANA

THANK YOU FOR FINDING A WAY OF INCLUDING Africa in your magazine. But it will be better appreciated if you can be more objective in your assessments and less opprobrious in your opinions. While not particularly against your opinion of African leaders, I object to your assertion that Africa is a case of utter hopelessness. ... I'm not about being defensive, but viewing through your kind of lenses, I know that, in especially moral cases, the U.S. and the Western world are representative of absolute hopelessness. In terrorism and civil unrest, the Middle East is an extreme case of utter hopelessness. In fact, in any case, the world is already in a state of utter hopelessness. So if you have no better way of including Africa in your string of prophecies, you can do well to leave us out.

Olushola Ogundele—NIGERIA

PDF Format?

THIS MORNING I DISCOVERED THE ALL-new PDF-based literature downloads on the *Key of David* website (keyofdavid.com). The covers, graphics and text are absolutely wonderful! Seeing new and forthcoming titles immediately available for download is exciting, and seeing Herbert Armstrong's works in a new, modern form is exhilarating. Being able to search the literature via PDF is a powerful tool. Thank you for your continued pursuit of excellence. I hope that

all the literature (and some day, even the magazines) will eventually be made available through the PDF medium.

David F. Johnson—E-MAIL RESPONSE

We do plan to make the *Trumpet* available in PDF format at www.theTrumpet.com very soon.

A Last Resort

IN YOUR NOVEMBER 2005 ISSUE, RYAN Malone, in his "A Last Resort" commentary, implies that three verses in the Bible support his opinion that the people who died in Sodom, Gomorrah and New Orleans will have another chance to know God in a resurrection. The implication he makes is that they will also have another chance of salvation. However, these verses speak of a coming day of judgment for these cities, but do not go so far as to speak of a second chance at salvation.

Johnny Dunkley—E-MAIL RESPONSE

The article you mention was not intended to imply that the people of Sodom—or any city—will have a "second chance" at salvation at the time of the second resurrection. Rather, the people of Sodom never had a *first chance* to know God; they were not called at that time. Their judgment will be reserved for a later date.

When Adam sinned, God blocked man from having access to the Holy Spirit and immortality, God's knowledge and what many call salvation (Genesis 3:22-24). Not until after Christ came in the flesh and died for our sins (John 1:14; Romans 5:8-10) was there another opportunity for anyone to have access to God (Romans 5:2; 8:34; Ephesians 2:18). The second resurrection will be Sodom's first chance to know God and receive salvation (Revelation 20:5).

Today, people who have not met the requirements of faith and obedience to God's laws—who do not have the Holy Spirit—are likewise cut off from God (John 3:3). As with the people of Sodom, the second resurrection will be the first opportunity for those who died in New Orleans to know God and have a chance to be part of His Family.

Contrary to what many believe, God is not trying to save the whole world now. Christ came to, among other things, preach the gospel about the coming Kingdom of God (Mark 1:14) and to train teachers for that soon-coming Kingdom—where everyone who has ever lived will be given a chance at salvation. For more information on who God is calling now and the process of salvation, please write to request copies of *Mystery of the Ages* and *Just What Do You Mean ... Born Again?* If you would prefer, you may also download free copies from theTrumpet.com: Click on the "resources" tab. The "literature" subhead contains all of our literature in printer-friendly format.

Mr. Armstrong Was Right

I WAS A YOUNGSTER DURING THE '60S BUT was old enough to read the *Plain Truth*, which my mother regularly received. When Herbert Armstrong died, I was saddened to learn the WCG had denied the very teachings that had caused its rise to recognition. Thank God the Philadelphia Church of God has found the courage to continue Mr. Armstrong's campaign to educate the world of the impending fulfillment of the prophecies of God. I stand as a witness: The things I read in the *Plain Truth*, as told by Mr. Armstrong, are occurring almost to the word as he translated from the Scriptures. I would look up the scriptures that he based his interpretations on and would think, "How in the world would he derive such a thought?" But the truth is, he foretold the formation of a united Europe, that Europe and the Vatican would draw strength from each other. The fact that you are continuing the interpretations and are courageously calling out to the world the true meanings of the prophecies is a blessing.

Wayne Holland—BREMEN, GA.

The Sabbath

I HAVE BEEN GETTING THIS MAGAZINE for a year or so now. I was not a Sabbath keeper when I became a subscriber. However, I am now. Many things have changed since a neighbor gave me a few copies of this magazine. I don't agree with everything I read, but on the world news search I find a lot of interesting articles. Thanks.

Larry Sendelbach—SPRINGDALE, WASH.

MY MOTHER IS A RESIDENT AT AN ASSISTED living facility, and while visiting her there, I noticed the November 2005 issue of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* lying on the coffee table in the front room. I began reading it while waiting there and came across the article regarding the call of the pope for Sunday worship ("The Pope Trumpets Sunday"). This article pointed out correctly that it was not the Bible that changed the Sabbath but the Roman Empire and the Roman Catholic Church. ...

Joyce Zowie—MONMOUTH, OREG.

Comments?

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

Use Your Indoor Voice

A lesson in taking a lesson. BY RYAN MALONE

TRAINING TO BE A MUSICIAN TEACHES MANY LIFE LESSONS. One of the most important may be that constructive criticism is a common, and *necessary*, part of life. You prepare music on your instrument day after day, and then for one or two days out of the week, you perform it for someone with more education, more experience, or at the very least, a different set of ears than your own, and you are ready, even eager, to hear their evaluation—good, bad and ugly.

Music students refining their instrumental abilities rarely balk at the notion that someone is telling them they need to change—they need to fix something—they need to work harder on this or that. Sometimes teachers have to get blunt.

Perhaps an athletics coach would say the same about his profession—he tells people what to do, even if not in the nicest way, and they accept it if they want to perform better.

But when it comes to life, and people telling us how to “perform better,” human nature gets a little touchy. Especially when it comes to our kids.

That’s what Dan McCauley, a bakery/café/restaurant-owner in a Chicago suburb, discovered recently.

If you haven’t heard about what he did, let me first tell you what his eatery, “A Taste of Heaven,” was like. It was far from a taste of heaven when children would come into the restaurant, run around the establishment, lie on the floor blocking the line for coffee, climb the radiators and walls, and throw themselves against display cases. Bad for business, yes, but even a “question of liability,” McCauley said. What would happen if any of these children got hurt?

So McCauley put up a sign—just a small piece of paper, held to the window at a child’s level by suction cups: “Children of all ages have to behave and use their indoor voices.”

It wasn’t long before the angry mob grabbed their torches and pitchforks. Some parents were terribly insulted. One mother told McCauley that hundreds of mothers were talking “boycott”—saying his café was “non-supportive to families.”

The *Chicago Tribune*, and later the *New York Times*, wrote lengthy pieces about the controversial sign.

The *Times* quoted one woman—a psychologist, corporate coach, and, oh yes, mother of two—chastising McCauley, who has no kids, for telling other people’s children how to behave.

Another asked, “What are we supposed to do, not enjoy ourselves at a café?”

(It turned out that many ended up applauding McCauley’s decision. The “bad” publicity from boycotters backfired and

caused his business to triple. Apparently people don’t mind well-behaved children.)

The way those angry parents responded to McCauley’s sign is simply a sign of how resistant human nature is to correction. Not only that, we are **INSULTED** by it.

The hardest thing for any of us to do is *admit we are wrong*. We live in a society where, as the book of Judges puts it, “every man [does] that which [is] right in his own eyes.”

But we need correction. As a young father of three little ones, I don’t have all the answers. Thankfully I live in a community with several mentors who are willing to pull me aside and tell

me things about my children that need to improve. It’s not correction for my children as much as it is correction for me. And, sure, it stings at times.

But that is the way God intended human existence to be—a **LEARNING** process. As our Creator, He has the ultimate understanding of how we can and should live life to the full. And He has a *great purpose* for us. He’s more than a teacher, a coach or even—as some scriptures show—a potter fashioning clay. He wants to be our **FATHER!** He is molding mankind into members of His very Family! And we certainly need God to show us how to attain such a great purpose—the way young musicians or athletes need the advice of their parents, coaches and teachers.

The Bible shows that God’s correction is a sign of His **LOVE!** He is dealing with us “as with sons.” Read verses 5 to 11 in Hebrews 12.

Spanking does hurt a little—maybe a lot. “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous,” the writer to the Hebrews says. But what a great reward awaits those who “endure chastening.”

This magazine highlights the way God is chastening this world. What’s more, we offer God’s **SOLUTIONS**—individual initiatives we can take to save us a heap of suffering. Ways we all can “behave” better—changes that, if implemented on a broad scale, would even spare us international disaster. Oftentimes, the thanks we get comes in the form of vitriolic e-mails and letters.

If an athlete or a musician can take advice from a coach or a teacher, why can’t some of us take advice on manners from a restaurant proprietor with a little common sense? Or, more importantly, why can’t we all respond when God’s Word shows us how to better our performance, up our game, and achieve our transcendent potential? ■



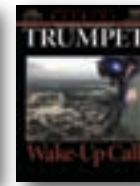
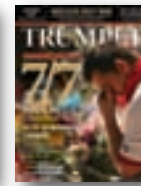
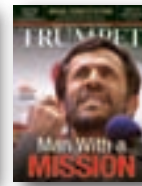
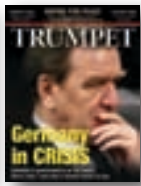
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KEY: BW = Behind the Work; CM = Commentary; FE = From the Editor; SW = SocietyWatch; WW = WorldWatch

The Key of David Television Log

UNITED STATES

Alabama

Birmingham, Dothan, Montgomery

Alaska

Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau

Arizona

Phoenix, Yuma-El Centro

Arkansas

Fayetteville-Rogers-Springdale, Fort Smith, Jonesboro

California

Bakersfield, Chico, Redding, Eureka, Los Angeles, Monterey-Salinas, Palm Springs, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Barbara

Colorado

Denver, Grand Junction-Montrose

Connecticut

Hartford

Delaware

Salisbury

Florida

Gainesville, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Panama City, Tallahassee, Thomasville, Tampa, West Palm Beach

Georgia

Albany, Augusta, Brunswick, Columbus, Macon, Savannah

Hawaii

Honolulu, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai

Idaho

Boise, Idaho Falls-Pocatello, Twin Falls

Illinois

Chicago, Peoria-Bloomington, Rockford

Indiana

Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Terra Haute

Iowa

Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Ottumwa-Kirkville, Rochester-Mason City-Austin, Sioux City

Kansas

Joplin-Pittsburg, Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney, Topeka

Kentucky

Bowling Green, Lexington, Louisville, Louisiana, Alexandria

Louisiana

Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe-El Dorado, New Orleans

Maine

Bangor, Presque Isle

Massachusetts

Boston, Springfield-Holyoke

Michigan

Alpena, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Marquette, Traverse City-Cadillac

Minnesota

Duluth-Superior, Mankato, Minneapolis

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Salt Lake City

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