



Was Pius Pious?

As **DETROIT** goes ... SO GOES THE NATION

Are we really safer?

MARCH 2010

THE PHILADELPHIA

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TRUMPET

Will **HAITI** Become Another Curse for America?





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COVER A Haitian child devastated by the January 12 earthquake holds an American flag. Getty Images

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Our Educators Have a Dangerous Contempt for Authority

(Unless it's their own.)

IN SEPTEMBER 1981, TIMOTHY FOOTE WROTE AN ARTICLE IN *Esquire* magazine called “The Trouble With Harvard.” Mr. Foote had graduated from Harvard in 1952 and apparently was shocked by the changes in that university.

He wrote, “Many students drift through Harvard with a nagging sense of failure and anxiety. ‘There is so much *freedom* here,’ says Kiyo Morimoto, ‘that studies become extracurricular. And you can’t get through if your studies are extracurricular.’ ... You didn’t have to go to class because nobody took attendance. And you could get unlimited extensions on papers during the term ...

“Morimoto is worried about *Harvard’s objections to using authority*, all up and down the line: It’s *not* insisting that students get papers in on time, not insisting on formal meetings between students and advisers, students and tutors, even between students and faculty. *‘Harvard is deeply ambiguous about authority,’* he says, ‘about being firm and clear and unambiguous.’ TODAY ALL AUTHORITY IS SEEN AS NEGATIVE” (emphasis mine throughout).

American colleges and universities actually encourage our young people to indulge in some of the most repugnant immorality in the history of man. We lead the world in sexual immorality.

This means these educators are filled with pride or have very little humility. They reject what other authorities—past and present—could teach them unless it fits into their selfish agenda. The students are taught to follow in their footsteps. Most universities follow Harvard’s example.

Imagine, educators who are not humble and teachable! That is not true education. That is not how you search for truth. It is intellectual tyranny. And it leaves the educators vulnerable to deadly deception.

Harvard students, Foote continued, “are turned loose in a system practically *without discipline*, or order, or viable requirements, or supervision, or even advice.”

Harvard was at the forefront of change during the sexual revolution in the 1960s. Foote quoted one professor as saying, “ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT, THE ODDS ARE AGAINST FINDING ANYONE IN HIS OR HER OWN BED.”

“Few people seem to disagree,” Foote continued. “By THE STANDARDS OF THE AGE, there’s nothing wrong in that either.” But the “standards of the age” are in the gutter. Only 50 years ago these standards would have caused America to blush.

Harvard was founded by a church. The founders would be appalled if they saw all of the sexual depravity today.

American colleges and universities actually encourage our young people to indulge in SOME OF THE MOST REPUGNANT

IMMORALITY IN THE HISTORY OF MAN! We lead the world in sexual immorality! AMERICA HAS GONE FROM THE MORAL LEADER OF THE WORLD TO THE IMMORAL LEADER OF THE WORLD! But we still blather about how righteous our nation is!

Our forefathers warned us that such behavior would wreck our republic. But educators today consider themselves superior to our outstanding founders and leaders of the past. They view that authority as negative, which is the pinnacle of ignorance. They close their minds to so much tried and tested truth.

Chinese leaders today have said the family is the strength of any nation. They reached that conclusion by observing human behavior—not from the Bible, though it certainly agrees with the Bible. But our educational system is too proud to listen and learn.

Nobody can tell American educators how to educate—not even God!

The sexual immorality allowed at our colleges has everything to do with the collapse of strong marriages and families—and of our nation! History proves that truth from the beginning to the end, but not to our so-called educators.

It all falls into the category of *academic freedom*, which is really the most despicable kind of slavery. If you want proof, request our free book *The*

Missing Dimension in Sex.

Foote concluded, “In a society more preoccupied with the labels on the suitcase THAN WITH WHAT’S INSIDE, Harvard is still the best *label* in town.”

It sure is a nice-looking label. But is true education in the *label*—or in *what’s inside*?

Our educators are being warned by other authorities, but they are too high and mighty to heed!

A Law of History

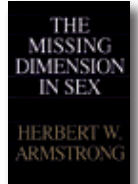
Syndicated columnist George Will wrote this in his Dec. 23, 2001, column: “Two hundred twenty-five Christmases ago, history was being made around here. And recently Lynne Cheney ... came here to advocate teaching history more extensively and more wisely than we currently do.”

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


See **EDUCATORS** page 27 ➤



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF







DEATH FROM BELOW A 7.0-magnitude quake eight miles beneath Port-au-Prince shook the impoverished island nation into a devastated rubble on January 12, killing 200,000 or more Haitians and leaving 700,000 more homeless in the capital city.

One More Nation to Build

The U.S. takes on yet another impossible task. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

IN JANUARY, AMERICA ADDED A LONG-TERM nation-building mission to the top of its ever expanding “fix it” list. Haiti, the Caribbean nation that was leveled in a catastrophic earthquake on January 12, is now a ward of the United States.

This comes in the midst of a near-total collapse of America’s economy that began in October

of 2008. It comes at a time when deficit spending and federal debt have skyrocketed to levels not seen since World War II. It comes during a painful recession where 17.3 percent of the American workforce is either unemployed or underemployed. And it comes as America's military might is stretched paper-thin across Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now the U.S. is taking on the impossible task of fixing a nation that was, by all accounts, broken long *before* the devastation it suffered on January 12.

During two centuries of "independence," there have been at least 34 coups d'état in Haiti. This nation's litany of despotic governments has been rife with incompetence, cronyism, corruption, gangs, drug trafficking and violence. As recently as 2006, according to the Corruption Perception Index, Haiti's governmental effectiveness and stability ranked dead last in the world.

It's one of the worst governments this world has ever produced. And Haitians have endured generations of misery and suffering because of it. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Most of its 9 million people survive on less than \$2 per day. Only 10 percent of Haitians have electrical service. Fifty-four percent live in abject poverty, many of them without access to potable water or sanitary facilities.

Life expectancy is low, infant mortality is high and disease is widespread. Only sub-Saharan Africa has a higher rate of AIDS cases.

This was Haiti *before* the earthquake. Now add tens of thousands of rotting corpses, 3,000 prisoners on the loose, pillaging and looting what's left of Port-au-Prince, and an obsolete government that disappeared overnight.

This is the next big project for the United States of America.

Haiti's Disaster Now Belongs to America

As with many unnatural disasters, the magnitude of the devastation in Haiti wasn't fully known until after the dust began to settle. When the massive scale of the tragedy began to emerge the morning after, President Obama directed his administration to put together an "aggressive effort" to save lives. He mobilized forces needed to assess the overall damage.

At a meeting with his national security team on Thursday, January 14, the president made it clear that Haiti must be given "top priority." The United States, he said, had coordinated relief and rescue operations with an international coalition,

America's Next Iraq

THE timing of the Haiti tragedy was of particular interest to us at the *Trumpet* because of its proximity to an anniversary we often draw attention to.

In August 1990, after Saddam Hussein invaded the little nation of Kuwait, the United States began mobilizing its military across the Middle East. On Jan. 12, 1991, the U.S. Congress authorized the use of military force against Iraq to drive it out of Kuwait. Four days later, on January 16, Operation Desert Storm officially began.

A year earlier, we had asked our readers if "some dramatic event in the world" might happen Jan. 16, 1991, because that happened to be the anniversary of Herbert W. Armstrong's death.

Soon after the Gulf War started, our editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, highlighted the repercussions the war would have on the Middle East and the United States. "The truth is we won a battle in Kuwait," he wrote in May 1991. "[But] we did not win a war. The job was left unfinished."

To this day, Iraq hangs as a millstone around the neck of the United States. In fact, removing Saddam Hussein from power in 2003 only cleared the way for Iran to emerge as the king of the entire region, which fulfills another Bible prophecy we have highlighted for over 15 years.

What about the timing of the Haiti quake? In the *Trumpet's* last issue, we again noted the significance of January 16. Four days before that date, Haiti was ravaged in the earthquake. On January 14, President Obama pledged \$100 million to support the relief effort. The next day, the USS Carl Vinson reached Haiti, and the president promised that much more help was on the way.

On Saturday, January 16, Hillary Clinton became the first White House cabinet member to arrive on the scene. That same day, in Washington, President Obama met with former presidents Clinton and Bush to discuss how to enlist the support of the American people in rebuilding Haiti.

After their meeting, President Obama announced that he was "moving forward with one of the largest relief efforts" in U.S. history. It will be a long-term effort, he said, that will not be measured in days or weeks, but in *months* and *even years*.

Will this nation-building endeavor, which effectively began on Jan. 16, 2010, become another millstone that ends up sinking America? **STEPHEN FLURRY**

including the government of Haiti, the United Nations and countries across the Americas and beyond. He told Americans to view his \$100 million pledge to help relief efforts as an *investment*.

On Friday, President Obama told Haitian President Préval that America was committed to the Haitian people. That same day, the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson anchored off the coast of Haiti.

The next day, on January 16, President Obama met with former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush to lock down his new mission statement for the United States. At the Rose Garden, just after their meeting, President Obama announced, "At this moment, we're **MOVING FORWARD** with one of the largest relief efforts in our history—to save lives and to deliver relief that averts an even larger catastrophe. The two leaders with me today will ensure that this is matched by a historic effort that extends beyond our government, because America has no greater resource than the strength and the compassion of the American people" (emphasis mine throughout).

This will be a long-term effort, he said later, that will not be measured in days or weeks, but in *months*—"EVEN YEARS."

President Clinton, since the days of his honeymoon with Hillary in Port-au-Prince 34 years ago, has always been fascinated by Haitian culture and has championed democracy for the island nation. He sees this extraordinary catastrophe not as a drain on American resources or a financial albatross, but as a tremendous *opportunity*.

Haiti, President Clinton said on January 16, is "one of the most remarkable, unique places I have ever been. And they can **ESCAPE THEIR HISTORY** and build a better future *if we do our part*."

Hillary Clinton's entourage landed in Haiti the same day her husband made that head-spinning statement. She became the first White House cabinet member to arrive at the catastrophic scene.

The United States "will be here today, tomorrow and for the time ahead," she told the people of Haiti, before touring the capital to get a firsthand look at the damage.

The next day, the *Sunday Times* filed this report: "The American secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, flew into Haiti yesterday [January 16] to **SPEARHEAD** a huge aid operation that the U.S. administration hopes will serve as a symbol of America's humanitarian spirit and an example of the prowess of its armed forces. ...

"Hillary Clinton's visit to tour the devastated capital came as President Barack Obama *committed himself* to **THROWING**

THE FULL MIGHT of America's military machine into relief efforts—sending in ships, helicopters and up to 10,000 troops, as well as \$100 million (£61 million) in aid to help the victims. ...

"This is the first big humanitarian disaster since Obama took office a year ago and he is clearly anxious to avoid the mistakes of Bush, much criticized for his bungled response to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans" (January 17).

President Obama called the Haiti operation "one of the largest relief efforts in our history." He explained, "I will not put up with any excuses for us not doing the very best in this time of tragedy."

Read it again and grasp the significance of WHAT IS HAPPENING here. On January 16, it had become undeniably clear: The monumental task of rebuilding a destroyed nation had landed squarely on

the shoulders of a superpower in the midst of rapid decline.

Haiti's insoluble problems now belong to America.

A New "Top Priority"

"Haiti had barely functioning ministries even before the earthquake," one expert on Haiti told Reuters. "The Obama administration can describe this as a partnership, but it is one where one partner is

doing all the work and has all the authority" (January 17). The *Washington Post* said Haiti's government was so overwhelmed by the foreign aid that overnight it became "largely invisible."

And yet, as Reuters pointed out, America had little choice BUT to become Haiti's de facto government. The U.S. "must either step up to the task of relief rebuilding," it wrote, "or open itself to criticism and ... a possible new flood of Haitian refugees."



Is There Hope in an Earthquake?

YES, there is—more than you could ever imagine.

Intense tragedy often comes with a beautiful yet fleeting byproduct: *humility*. In the days after the earthquake, hundreds of thousands of blood-spattered Haitians were hurt, dazed and vulnerable.

While God took no pleasure in witnessing the earthquake and its aftermath, He loves the state of mind that such disaster often produces. In Isaiah 66:2, God says, "[T]o this man will I look, even to him that is poor [needy, humble] and of a contrite spirit" Surely the tragedy in Haiti created a comparatively humble attitude and a "contrite spirit" in many Haitians, and even some onlookers.

Overwhelming crises have a tendency to remind us of how small, how vulnerable, how insignificant we truly are. Sadly, such meekness is often short-lived. Nevertheless, *God Himself* looks to the person with such an attitude. He considers true humility gained through catastrophe a primer for greater understanding.

And He gives that understanding in abundance. Through the pages of the Bible, God explains in *detail* why such catastrophes happen. The causes are spelled out from Genesis through Revelation for those with humble and open minds (article, page 6).

For some perspective, consider the Haiti quake in the context of a prophecy in Matthew 24.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is discussed in both the Old and New Testaments. In Matthew 24, Christ's disciples asked what specific signs would precede His Second Coming. "And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars ... For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in [different] places" (verses 6-7). Notice, in addition

to the "wars and rumors of wars"—surely an apt description of the current state of international relations—Jesus told His disciples that His return would be preceded by an uptick in natural disasters.

In fact, Christ stated specifically that before His return there would be *earthquakes in different places!*

Notice also, Jesus told His disciples that famine—a shortage of food and water—and then pestilences, or disease epidemics, would accompany these natural disasters.

Can you begin to see the hope in the tragic earthquake in Haiti? This earthquake points to this prophecy from nearly 2,000 years ago, and is a sign that Jesus Christ is about to return!

Perhaps that sounds preposterous—a callous attempt to spiritualize away the pain and anguish suffered by millions. Sadly, many people, including "Christians," will discard Christ's warning in Matthew 24. Many, especially the scholarly, will mock.

But that is exactly what Jesus Himself prophesied. When we understand and believe the Bible, natural disasters like we witnessed in Haiti take on added significance. While our eyes well and our hearts ache for the victims of earthquakes, the tragedy stirs a renewed hope and confidence in the Second Coming.

Remember the instruction from Christ's own mouth: Natural disasters are a sign that this present evil world is about to *end*. In Haiti's rubble lies invigorating hope. Emotionally, the Haiti earthquake is gut wrenching. Prophetically, it's a sign that the most exciting event ever to occur in the age of man is imminent! Jesus Christ is about to return! **BRAD MACDONALD**

The United States is now responsible for fixing what has been broken in Haiti for over two centuries. And like so many other nation-building enterprises the U.S. has embarked upon over the last half century, it will NOT turn out well in the end.

Consider Iraq. On Jan. 16, 1991, U.S. forces invaded Iraq and, to this day, are still looking for a way to get out.

Nineteen years after the start of the Gulf War, on the very same day (for more on the significance of January 16, see “America’s Next Iraq,” page 4), U.S. Secretary of State Clinton landed in Haiti to “spearhead” one of the largest relief and rebuilding efforts in American history. Barely one week into the mission President Obama said will take “years,” there were already 11,500 U.S. troops on the ground in Haiti, a little nation with a population the size of the Chicago metropolitan area.

And more money, more resources and more military personnel were on the way. The Pentagon—yes, the Pentagon—announced that it would send a second Marine unit—yes, a second MARINE unit—to support what has become an ex-

Barely one week into the mission President Obama said will take “years,” there were already 11,500 U.S. troops on the ground in Haiti, a little nation with a population the size of the Chicago metropolitan area.

panding relief effort for the Defense Department”—yes, the *Defense Department!*

These 4,000 marines had been scheduled to leave for Afghanistan that very week! But instead of fighting against terrorists that are currently making great gains in Kabul, they were re-routed to one of the largest relief and rebuilding efforts in the history of the United States. This, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*, “presents the Pentagon with a delicate balancing act, since the already-overstretched U.S. military can ill afford to get mired in a security-and-stabilization mission” (January 20).

Too late. It’s already mired in Operation Haiti—will be for years. No matter the cost, Haiti is now “top priority.”

A Hypocritical Nation

President Obama concluded his January 14 remarks at the White House by making a personal appeal to the people of Haiti. “Few in the world have endured

the hardships that you have known,” he said. “Long before this tragedy, daily life itself was often a bitter struggle. And after suffering so much for so long, to face this new horror must cause some to look up and ask, ‘Have we somehow been forsaken?’

“To the people of Haiti, we say clearly, and with conviction, *you will not be forsaken; you will not be forgotten.* In this, your hour of greatest need, AMERICA stands with you. The world stands with you. We know that you are a strong and resilient people. You have endured a history of slavery and struggle, of natural disaster and recovery. And through it all, your spirit has been unbroken and your faith has been unwavering. So today, you must know that help is arriving—*much, much more help* is on the way.”

That Haiti’s leaders have *already* squandered billions of dollars in aid no longer matters. That Colombia uses Haiti as a convenient back door to sneak drugs into America is of little concern. That more than half of Haitians practice voodoo—irrelevant.

In addition: That the United States is bankrupt and cannot afford the war against terrorism, let alone one of the largest humanitarian missions in its history, is altogether unimportant. That we can’t even solve *our own* problems of corruption, greed, incompetence and cronyism, or our

obsessions with celebrity and pornography, or eliminate our many addictions and diseases—none of this matters.

Haiti, the deluded thinking of our leadership goes, is an *opportunity* for American righteousness to shine forth!

You may think *God* has forsaken you, but AMERICA will not? WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE?

Haiti is under a curse, one popular American preacher maintains, but *America* somehow is not? How SELF-RIGHTEOUS!

No wonder God says He’s coming against us with fiery wrath to correct a HYPOCRITICAL nation! (Isaiah 10:5-6). God, it says in Ezekiel 5:8, is AGAINST us! That’s how we *know* this won’t turn out well for the United States in the end. Far from being an opportunity or a blessing, Haiti is yet another heavy millstone that now hangs around the neck of a once-mighty superpower that is frantically kicking and flailing to stay afloat. ■



Why God the Haiti

THE GRISLY SIGHTS ECHOED OF THE Holocaust. Dump trucks unloading bodies into mass graves. Pits filled with piles of corpses. Limbs jutting out of sand heaped upon bare earth. Smoldering carcasses littering burning garbage dumps.

Within two weeks of the January 12 earthquake that flattened 20,000 businesses and nearly a quarter-million homes, Haiti’s official count surpassed 150,000 victims buried. Those still entombed in the rubble may have been double that.

Haiti’s cathedral crumpled, killing the archbishop. Seminaries and convents collapsed, killing the believers inside.

“There is no God,” wrote one observer of the horror. Mass-scale suffering always seems to arouse the temptation to put God on trial.

Why didn’t God stop the quake? Does He care? Did He *cause* the quake? There are almost as many opinions on God’s role as there are religions.

The truth is, most people *do not accept* the God who reveals Himself in the Holy Bible. They worship a god of their *own creation*. God’s Word *does* explain—in explicit detail—why cataclysmic disasters happen, from the first book of the Bible to the last.



Didn't Stop Quake

BY JOEL HILLIKER
AND MARK JENKINS

RUINED FAITH
Port-au-Prince's
devastated cathedral

Many ministers are quick to say it *couldn't be God's will* to cause something as destructive as the Haitian earthquake. Their God would never do that, they say.

God is all-powerful. God *does* control the forces of the Earth. God *does* allow disasters and suffering. And He does these things for a *reason*. We need to understand what our Creator is doing.

Go Back to the Beginning

First, understand a crucial truth. THIS IS NOT GOD'S WORLD.

Let's look at the Bible to see what God claims. Scripture says that *God is love* (1 John 4:8, 16). That love is God's *giving way of life*, manifested, for example, in God *giving* His only begotten Son to the world (John 3:16). That love is defined by and expressed in God's commandments: "For *this is the love of God*, that we keep his commandments ..." (1 John 5:3).

Do you see *love* in the world around you?

Long before man was created, God made angels. The most prominent, powerful archangel, Lucifer, decided to reject his Creator's authority and become His enemy, Satan.

Then God created man. He made Adam and Eve in His own likeness and gave them the opportunity to care for and

rule the rest of creation (Genesis 1:26-31). He gave them intellectual and creative powers, and the ability to grow into His own *image*, or character. Earth was their training ground where they could learn to fulfill their potential as eternal children of God.

Adam and Eve had the opportunity to choose to obey God, to live under His protection, to develop a relationship with Him, to think like Him, and to give like Him. Instead, they decided to trust themselves, just as Lucifer had, and succumbed to Satan's deceptions. God removed His guidance—which humans had rejected—and removed His protection. He pronounced upon them certain *curses*. He banished them from the Garden of Eden and cut off their access to the tree of life (Genesis 3:16-24).

Think about this fateful moment in human history in relation to the Haiti quake. Adam and Eve rejected God as their authority. So have their children. They lost His guidance. So have their children. They lost His protection. So have their children—and so have we today!

God punishing Adam and Eve was not a short-tempered, retaliatory outburst. God was *preserving* man's potential. Had they rejected Him and then eaten from the tree of life and become eternal spirit

beings, they would have produced *eternal division* and misery. In expelling them from the garden, God was sparing them that fate. He took occasion to teach Adam and Eve, and all who would follow, an enormous *lesson*.

In his final book, *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W. Armstrong explained what God, in essence, told Adam: "Go, therefore, Adam, and all your progeny that shall form the world, produce your own fund of knowledge. Decide for yourself what is good and what is evil. Produce your own educational systems and means of disseminating knowledge, as your god Satan shall mislead you. Form your own concepts of what is god, your own religions, your own governments, your own lifestyles and forms of society and civilization. In all this Satan will deceive your world with his attitude of SELF-centeredness—with vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition and strife and violence and wars, rebellion against me and my law of LOVE.

"After the world of your descendants has written the lesson in 6,000 years of human suffering, anguish, frustration, defeat and death—*after the world that shall spring from you shall have been brought to confess the utter hopelessness of the way of life you have chosen*—I will supernaturally intervene" (emphasis ours).

Every aspect of our society has been affected *because Adam and Eve defied their Creator*. This fatal choice at the beginning of human history made necessary the writing of that lesson in human suffering—the 6,000-year period of which mankind is now nearing the end.

All of Adam and Eve's descendants today remain under the malicious influence of the devil (Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 4:4). This is NOT God's world, it is Satan's! These verses *prove* that truth, though most people remain blinded to it. Swayed by Satan, each of us is "naturally" hostile toward our Creator (Romans 8:7-8). We are carnal. We naturally HATE God's law and reject it—just like Adam and Eve.

In order to restore the exalted human potential our first parents turned their backs on, God's ultimate goal is to convert the heart of every person in the world—to help us recognize the *error* in going the wrong way, and to create in us a deep *love* for His loving, giving way of life. "The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God's overarching plan includes *everyone* willing to come to repentance. This is a tremendous ambition, since each carnal

human heart is a mountain-size obstacle. But here is another unrecognized truth: *God is not calling everyone on a mass scale today.*

A Call to Repentance

In fact, God is only calling a very few to repentance today. The *first step* toward real and everlasting happiness is genuine, deep, complete *repentance*. To recognize our own helplessness, unhappiness and inadequacy apart from God is the most fundamental lesson any of us could learn.

Whenever God begins working with someone, He begins by *humbling* that individual. As it says in Proverbs 15:33, “The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and *before honour is humility.*” God wants to give each of us phenomenal honor—but the humility, rooted in a deep respect for the Creator, must come first.

The curses God imposed upon Adam and his seed teach this lesson. The suffering that saturates this present world, cut off from God, teaches this lesson.

When God was working with the carnal nation of ancient Israel, here is how He did it: “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore *choose life*, that both thou and thy seed may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19; you may find it helpful to read verses 15-20). This goes beyond just the *natural consequences* for obeying or disobeying God’s laws. God said He would *bless* for obedience and *curse* for disobedience. When the Israelites obeyed, He prospered them; when they rebelled, He would send a plague, or turn the weather against them, or remove His protection and allow them to go into captivity. Essentially God was teaching them a *proper fear of man’s Creator*.

God has as much control over natural phenomena today as He did in ancient Israel and when He created the Earth.

In God’s omnipotence, *He could have stopped the Haiti earthquake*. Jesus Christ stilled a storm with just a few words (Mark 4:39). Whether that tremor was caused by a random tectonic shift or the devil himself, *God could have prevented it*. But He didn’t. And He had a reason.

When something like the catastrophic Haiti earthquake occurs, we should all



TRAGEDY A father holds his daughter, killed by the quake.

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians died in January. How could they learn to fear God? How could they learn who He is and how to live His way? It’s too late for them! Or is it?

learn to *fear God!* God wants each and every carnal individual in the whole world to learn to fear Him.

The God of Judgment

Those who dismiss the possibility that God actually uses disastrous phenomena as a tool—do they know the God of the Bible? The God who blesses for obedience—and *punishes for disobedience*? Can we recognize the *love* in God’s CORRECTION?

Many who see devastation wonder whether God loves us. Shouldn’t we ask the more piercing question: Is it possible that WE don’t love GOD?

Cross-examining God’s love over an earthquake is a flawed line of reasoning if we think that no matter how much evil we perpetrate, no matter how much selfishness we amass, *no matter what we do*, God is obliged to shower only blessings upon us.

“Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, *Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delighteth in them;* or, Where is the *God of judgment?*” (Malachi 2:17).

Do we know *this* God?

In Noah’s day, God was so disgusted with the sins of humankind that He sent a catastrophic Flood. By the hand of God, *every inhabitant of the Earth was wiped out* except Noah and his family—eight people. The destruction exceeded the Haiti earthquake by several orders of magnitude.

In fact, Scripture repeatedly describes God’s judgment and punishments on the nations, including His own (e.g. the Flood in Genesis 6-8, Sodom and Gomorrah’s fate in Genesis 19, punishment on Egypt in Exodus 12:29-30 and on Israel in Amos 4:10). And more shaking and judgment is coming in the near future, spelled out in Revelation 16.

Should we be so shocked when we see such calamities today? If we are, we *don’t know the God of the Bible*.

God on Death

But hundreds of thousands of Haitians *died* in January. How could they learn to fear God? How could they learn who He is and how to live His way? It’s too late for them!

Or is it? You have to understand God’s perspective on human life. Otherwise it is impossible to understand how correction through calamity is actually an expression of love.

To God, human death is a *temporary sleep* (1 Corinthians 15:51-55). Our Creator is able to *resurrect* humans from the grave! That is what your Bible says.

One of the greatest, most hope-filled truths in Scripture is that of the *resurrection of the dead*. Hebrews 6:1-2 list the resurrection as being one of the foundational doctrines of your Bible. Scripture actually refers to three separate resurrections, each serving a unique purpose (this truth is explained in our free reprint article “The

Three Resurrections”). In God’s immense wisdom and mercy, every individual who ever lived will be given one genuine chance to choose eternal life or eternal death. The vast majority of people in this Satan-gripped world—including the victims in Haiti—have not yet been given that choice, and have not yet been judged (Hebrews 9:27).

God has promised it! Those who died in the Haiti earthquake will be raised again! They will live again in a safe, peaceful world ruled not by Satan, but by God. They will have the opportunity to finally understand their Creator and turn their hearts to Him. *That* is a message of hope.

God’s perspective is very different from ours. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:9). He does not allow us to suffer and even die because He is cruel. He is using disasters to shake those of us *still living*—to call us to repentance.

“Ye Shall All Likewise Perish”

Jesus Christ spoke of this in Luke 13. He had been told of some wicked Galileans who were killed by Pilate in an especially gruesome manner. Did they deserve that fate? “Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:2-3).

Christ followed up with another example. A tower had collapsed, tragically crushing 18 people. Those who happened to be near the tower bore no particular guilt beyond those who happened to be a safe distance away. But again Jesus followed up with the barbed statement: “[T]hink ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, EXCEPT YE REPENT, YE SHALL ALL LIKewise PERISH” (verses 4-5).

No one can impute extraordinary wickedness on the Haitians who died in the January quake. Their deaths do not prove they were more sinful than those who survived. “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

Disasters that befall others should *serve as a warning* to us, Christ said. We will be subject to the same fate *unless we repent of our sins!*

“God told [the Jews] they must REPENT OR THE WHOLE JEWISH NATION WOULD DIE IN THE SAME VIOLENT WAY!” *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in our June 1995 edition. “That is precisely what happened to the Jewish nation in A.D. 70! Only God’s loyal remnant escaped to Pella. They are the only ones who heeded

Christ’s warning!”

But, Mr. Flurry explained, “We must not forget that what happened to the Jewish nation is only a *type* of what is to happen to Israel—mainly the American and British peoples in this end time” (request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

We must accept this sobering reality. As gruesome as the carnage in Haiti was, the punishment prophesied to befall the end-time nations of Israel is *far, far worse*. The corpses in Haiti are finding their way into mass graves and being burned in dumps. Death tolls in our First World nations are about to climb to the point of overwhelming even such crude disposal methods! “They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth ... and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth” (Jeremiah 16:4).

“Jewish historian Josephus recorded that there were *many* catastrophes which were rapidly intensifying before the Jewish nation was destroyed in A.D. 70. Disasters were very common,” Mr. Flurry continued. “Today, we see the same scenario in end-time Israel. Horrifying events are becoming common for us today. It is all leading to the total destruction of our nations unless we repent! These disasters are the strongest kind of warning from God. ... *Why* all these disasters? They are a warning from God to REPENT! The disasters will keep coming until we repent. That is our *only* hope.”

The Beginning of Sorrows

Yes—the disasters will keep coming. We can count on that. Notice what Christ prophesied in the Olivet prophecy for today: “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the *beginning of sorrows*” (Matthew 24:7-8). Today’s disasters are only the *beginning* of sorrows! God is going to bring them upon the whole world.

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (verses 21-22).

Why would God allow THAT suffering? “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; *but that the wicked turn from his way and live:* turn ye, turn ye from your

evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

God wants us to repent *so we can live!*

God is determined to allow suffering to increase until mankind accepts that there is *no hope in man!* Until we admit that rejecting God only results in misery!

If God cut His losses now and accepted only those few on Earth who have so far repented and believed and obeyed their Creator, He would have a family of only a few thousand. But by allowing 6,000 years of human existence in Satan’s world to play out—to in fact cause events to climax in unprecedented catastrophe—God is creating conditions so that *many hundreds of millions*, even BILLIONS, of human beings made in the likeness of God will recognize the futility of the ways that seemed right to them but led only to death, and embrace the God-ordained way of love, of joy and peace—the way that leads to *life*.

God is a GOD OF LOVE. To comprehend the love of God, we must realize that what we have now is not *real life*—it is merely a short-lived chemical existence. God *wants* to give us *real life*—ETERNAL LIFE! *That* is why He will allow so much destruction and suffering to come upon this world: so *as many as possible* will repent, and He can then reward them with eternal life.

Even in the face of these catastrophes—even as we see these types of natural disasters increase and see human suffering increase—we can be filled with a vibrant hope. Why?


Because knowing that we are in the last days tells us that Jesus Christ is about to return! When He does, this 6,000-year-long lesson in human suffering will be over, and everyone on Earth will have seen the futility of following after the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. People will be ready to do what’s right, to live the way of peace, joy and happiness that God offered Adam and Eve 6,000 years ago.

Satan the devil will be banished, and Jesus Christ will rule over the greatest time of prosperity that has ever been.

Finally, with God’s benevolent government in place, the hope of the resurrection will become reality, and everyone who has ever lived—including our loved ones and the victims of the Haiti quake—will be raised into a world where the right choice has been made, where, as the Prophet Isaiah said, the knowledge of the Eternal covers the Earth as the waters cover the sea. ■

To learn more, request our free booklet *Repentance Toward God*.





Like a forgotten downtown billboard, Detroit proclaims a warning about the rest of America for any who will stop and look.

BY ROBERT MORLEY

PAIN STREET, USA

One of America's most famous boomtowns is now a vast ghost town.

The Detroitification of America

IF EVER AN AMERICAN CITY WAS A warning for the nation, it is Detroit. Its crumbling mansions, overgrown boulevards and abandoned factories drive a message home to those who will pay attention. We cannot afford to ignore this once-great city. Why? What killed Detroit is killing America.

Detroit used to be synonymous with wealth and prosperity. It was a city humming with big-finned cars and Motown rhythms. Factories churned out products that ended up on store shelves around the world. Full employment empowered high salaries, flourishing schools and manicured storefronts, with flashy neon lights lining the boulevards. Multiple generations of families shared the same streets

and barbecues.

In its heyday, Detroit had the *highest median income* and *highest rate of home ownership in the country*. It also had one of the highest standards of living of any major city in America—and hence, probably the world. People flocked there to transform the American dream into reality.

Today, the view from General Motors world headquarters, downtown at Renaissance Tower, is different.

Shattered Dreams

Take the average Detroit high school student to the top for the panoramic view, then describe in chrome tones what the Motor City used to be like. He would probably think you were joking.

There are two reasons that student would be confused.

One: The reality on the ground is that the city is a ruined, decaying, post-industrial, almost post-apocalyptic ghost town. At its peak, Detroit boasted almost 2 million residents. Today, more than half of that number are gone. Astoundingly, even the dead are leaving. Suburban dwellers who don't want to risk heading into the city to visit gravesides are having their deceased relatives dug up and transferred to local cemeteries.

More surreally, unburied bodies are piling up as well, the *Times* reported in November. That month, the number of unclaimed bodies reached a record high. The dead were not murder victims—although

crime is soaring, and Detroit remains the murder capital of America. Most of these dead died of natural causes; it is just that family members cannot afford to bury them; the city can't afford to bury them either, so they pile up in the freezers.

Two: Most students have a poor grasp of history. In 2008, less than 25 percent of freshmen actually ended up graduating from high school—the worst rate in the country. Almost *half* of Detroit adults are considered functionally illiterate.

Gazing out over Detroit, you would see a city in transformation—or is it disintegration? In contrast to the shiny new GM tower, Detroit is cannibalizing itself. Over 60,000 abandoned, gutted and stripped houses populate the landscape. With each new foreclosure, another home opens itself up to vandals, thieves and arsonists. On one street alone, you can see six partially burned homes without moving your feet. Wrecked, abandoned homes push property prices down further, which encourages other underwater homeowners to mail in the keys too.

The situation is so bad that banks are now refusing to retake ownership of some homes. The cost of back taxes and repairs just isn't worth it. Houses sell for \$1. Livable ones sell for \$6,000, less than the price of some ride-on lawn mowers. The city has no money to demolish the death traps, so they remain standing.

Then there are all the abandoned commercial and industrial structures, lurking like monolithic skeletons. Who would want these properties? They were made to produce massive amounts of quality products—something foreign to today's Detroit. And with all the years of industrial chemicals polluting the soil and groundwater, no one can afford the remediation costs.

At night, you look down on whole patches of city that are dark. Parts of Detroit have reverted to hollowed-out, pre-industrial places where no one lives or works or stands in the streets anymore—only mile after mile of lonely concrete bones.

Punctuating those dark patches are regularly appearing spots of flickering flame. The *Weekly Standard* called Detroit the “city where the sirens never sleep.” Since the city is overwhelmed with buildings to demolish, firefighters are often forced to risk their lives fighting fires at the same old structures.

Fading From History

But as troubled as Detroit is, it is positioned to get worse. Official U.S. unemployment stands at 10 percent, but

real national unemployment is over 17 percent and rising (as measured by the Labor Department's U6 unemployment figure, which includes part-time workers who want full-time jobs and discouraged job seekers who have stopped looking for work). Unemployment in Michigan is 20.9 percent. In Detroit, virtually half the workforce is unemployed—a rate far higher than during the Great Depression. And there is no U-turn in sight.

With so many people out of work, property owners had better hope that lawmakers are able to keep extending unemployment insurance. Residents should also hope that the Chinese keep lending America money, because if they ever stop, so will the welfare payments. And that means that Detroit is a powder keg with massive explosive potential. The gangs of Detroit will head to the suburbs.

America needs to wake up to what Detroit has become.

“Detroit's history has gone the way of Rome and Athens and Constantinople,” says L. Brooks Patterson, a longtime executive from Oakland County, which includes Detroit's northern and more affluent suburbs. “It is what history does. History moves on. And history has moved away Detroit will never again be where those other cities were”

Once a cradle of the middle class and a bastion of economic productivity, Detroit is now a stark example of the unraveling of both. It has often been said that as GM goes, so goes the country. How much more should America then pay attention to Detroit? This city is the home of not just GM, but also Ford, Chrysler and a host of other manufacturers and businesses and families.

The forces that built Detroit into an economic superpower also helped build America into a superpower. Now the forces that destroyed Detroit are doing the same throughout the country.

Motoring the Detroit Express

America's failed industrial policy promotes the offshoring of American manufacturing. Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland and Milwaukee felt it first, but now those same policies are promoting the offshoring of America's other strategic industries too. The job losses have spread to New York and Los Angeles. Power-hungry unions more intent on getting rich than on making a quality product impacted Detroit's Big Three, but the same types of unions hold hostage and handicap many American businesses. Big business, in the

search of short-term profit above all else and at the expense of mistreating employees, gave rise to the unions. Corrupt politicians looking to purchase votes sell themselves to the highest bidder—this too is a national phenomenon. Consumers, fat on the wealth of previous generations, wax lazy. Just like in Detroit, increasing debt is looked to as the national savior for America's economic ills.

Detroit's downfall has many causes—books have been written. But the most fundamental and important cause is one that most observers have overlooked.

The primary cause of Detroit's (and America's) dramatic downfall can only be understood by identifying the source of its original prosperity.

Yankee ingenuity, work ethic, economies of scale, proximity to resources, mass transportation, low taxation and a skilled labor pool are all factors. But they are not the most important and essential factor.

The reason America (and Detroit) became so prosperous stems from an ancient promise God made. You can read about it in the book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It is because of that promise that America became the inheritor of almost half a continent—and not just any continent. When the pilgrims arrived they became the recipients of a vast, pristine land, overflowing with the choicest of agricultural, mineral, hydrologic and geographic blessings imaginable.

America's historic leadership in industry and technology—the fact that America used to be the largest oil, coal and steel producer in the world, that it used to be a major net food exporter, that it once was the world's factory, that it used to control and own the strategic Panama Canal sea gateway, that it is the only country to ever put a man on the moon—was a blessing that directly trickled down from the fulfillment of that promise.

In short, it was God who showered blessings upon Detroit—and America. It was God who provided America with its formerly unrivaled levels of prosperity.

And it is because the conditions of retaining those blessings have been broken that those blessings are now being removed. It is all about cause and effect. Sustained blessings for obedience, and curses for disobedience—it is a basic principle of the Bible (Leviticus 26). And it is a principle that we would all do well to remember.

Detroit is a warning for America. Read the billboard. Detroitification is heading toward a city near you. ■

Give, and Your Heart Will Follow

A law that can change your relationships BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE OTHER DAY MY DAUGHTERS each received a small toy. Within a short few hours, the youngest of them had lost hers. When she realized it, she began to cry. Her sister then said something to her that left me pleasantly shocked: “That’s okay—you can have mine.”

Such spontaneous generosity is not habitual in this child. But I watched as she handed over the toy, and she was genuinely happy to give it—even more than her sister was to receive it.

Why do we give gifts? Why give to our children, or spouse, or other family member or friends, or someone in need? Generally it is not to try to get something in return—to secure some right to the other person’s gratitude. We give simply for the pleasure of giving. It is, after all, more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Living the give way simply makes us happy.

But giving also does something else to us—something more specific. That’s because of a remarkable dynamic set in motion when we obey God’s law.

Jesus Christ instructed us to lay up treasures not on Earth, but in heaven. He explained the profound reason: “For *where your treasure is,*” He said, “*there will your heart be also*” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34).

This is an extraordinary truth. Our *heart* tends to follow our treasure. Whenever we give some physical thing—and not just our money, but even our time or energy—we tend also to commit simultaneously something more precious: a little piece of ourselves.

We see this rule in action with tithes and offerings. God doesn’t need our



money; He could provide for His work any number of miraculous ways. But He instructs us to commit our *treasure* to that work. Not only does this instill in us a habit of generosity that develops our character and makes us more like Him, the great Giver (James 1:17)—but it also draws *our hearts* into His work. We take on a more committed mindset toward God’s plans and ambitions, His activities today, and how they are preparing for the future.

If you think about it, that act of *giving* actually helps us to *love God more*. That is what God desires most of all.

In ancient Israel, God sought to lay claim to the hearts of His people the same way. He commanded that the Israelites offer regular sacrifices. There were daily, weekly, monthly and annual offerings, and others for certain special occasions. Obviously God didn’t have any practical use for the animals and other food and drink offered to Him. His goal in having the Israelites give was to *change their thinking—to turn their hearts* toward Himself.

There is a clue to this truth even in the word *sacrifice*. In Hebrew, one word for *sacrifice* is *korban*. It is usually translated “offering” in the Old Testament, and appears extensively throughout the books of Leviticus and Numbers referring to the Israelites’ sacrifices.

As Daniel Lapin brings out in his book *Buried Treasure*, the root of *korban* (Strong’s 07133) is the Hebrew word *karab* (07126)—meaning to *approach*, or *bring near* or *close*. *Karab* is variously translated “come near,” “draw

near,” “be at hand” and “join.” What a lovely word, referring to a sacrifice for God! The similar word *karob* (07138) actually refers to a personal relationship or kinship.

When an Israelite brought an offering to God, it was intended to bring him *closer* to God. Surely God was pleased with the act, but that wasn’t the primary reason He commanded it. Presenting *korban* to God—the act of giving—was meant to make the *giver* feel closer to his Creator, more than the other way around. He was committing his *treasure* to God, and so his *heart* followed.

Note how this law plays out in your life. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. If you invest your money, time and energy into your family, your heart will follow. If you give to and sacrifice for your marriage—even if you don’t “feel like it”—then you’ll find that physical act actually *leading your heart* into a deeper love. Your obedience to the *way of give*, even in a physical sense, will set in motion the wheels of love.

Anciently, when an Israelite made a sacrifice to God, it was to teach him the lesson to love God more. Likewise, when a husband gives to his wife or sacrifices for her, it helps him love her more.

By the same principle, if you are constantly making sacrifices for your employer, that doesn’t make him feel closer to you nearly as much as it makes *you* feel closer to *him*. Your heart follows your treasure. Over

If you invest your money, time and energy into your family, your heart will follow. If you give to and sacrifice for your marriage—even if you don’t “feel like it”—then you’ll find that physical act actually leading your heart into a deeper love.

time you may then find yourself making greater and still greater sacrifices for your work. This may or may not be a good thing.

So consider this practical wisdom. If you want to make your love toward someone grow a little, *give that person a gift*. If you want to make your love grow *a lot*, SACRIFICE for him or her.

Maybe there’s someone you are thrust into regular contact with whom you have a hard time relating to. Perhaps one of your co-workers really gets under your skin. Try it out: *Give* him something; make a sacrifice for him. Not to turn his heart to you—but yours to him! Give, and see if it doesn’t draw you nearer to him. It may not solve the problem completely, but you can be sure it will improve your attitude.

If you had an argument with your spouse in the morning and you’re feeling resentful, do the counterintuitive thing. Pick up a bouquet of flowers on your way home from work. The next time you see her, rather than giving her the lecture you’ve been rehearsing all day, give her a gift she may actually appreciate. Whether or not she does, you’ll find that your sacrifice has done a lot to dissolve your own hostility. Now you are in a far better position to restore harmony to your marriage than you otherwise would have been.

Commit your treasure, and your heart will follow. Don’t wait until you “feel love” before you give or sacrifice. *Give and sacrifice—and love will grow.* ■

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

ON DEC. 1, 2009, THE Lisbon Treaty officially came into force, forever altering Europe. The first EU president is **Belgium's** center-right Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy. Britain's Europe Minister Chris Bryant stated that Van Rompuy has "a more federalist agenda than other prime ministers in Europe."

Economists are worried **Greece** may be the first EU nation to default on its debt. "We could see our first EU-15 sovereign default since **Germany** had it in 1948," warned Willem Buiters, a former Bank of England policy maker, on December 9. Greece's debt is 110 percent of its annual economic output. If Greece falls, all eurozone countries could suffer. These concerns have led the European Commission to renew its attempt to audit member nations. The Commission has tried to seize this authority before, but EU nations blocked it to protect their own independence. Now that view is changing as more politicians believe the EU needs the muscle to prevent member states from descending into the same situation as Greece.

The Vatican is preparing to rid Europe of secularism by replacing liberal Catholic figures with conservative ones. Known as "the Belgian Ratzinger" because of his conservative views, André-Mutien Léonard was appointed archbishop of Brussels on January 18. Many in Belgium fear he will be more involved in Belgian politics than his more liberal predecessor. Catholic newspaper editor Bert Claerhout said that the choice of Léonard was "clearly a conscious choice for a totally different style and approach: for more radical decisiveness



rather than quiet diplomacy, for more confrontation with the secular society instead of dialogue ..." (*KERK&Leven*, January 18).

Europe will fall to Islam unless its inhabitants embrace Catholicism, said the outgoing archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, in an interview published January 6.

Several recent developments show the governments and people of Europe becoming more right-wing and anti-immigrant. The Swiss public voted on November 29 to ban the construction of new minarets in their country. A parliamentary committee in **France recommended on January 26 that the country ban women from wearing a full veil** in public buildings, including schools and hospitals. Over 1,000 African immigrants were evacuated from the southern Italian town of Rosarno on January 9 after three days of clashes that left 53 people injured. An anti-government newspaper called the removal of the immigrants "ethnic cleansing."

In Germany, politically

and racially motivated crimes by the far right increased to a record high of over 20,000 in 2008, according to figures released by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) December 17. "There's a real danger to people's lives because far-right attacks tend to be very spontaneous, brutal and violent," said BKA president Jörg Ziercke.

An application containing over 100 speeches by the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini became the number-two download application on the Italian version of iTunes following its release January 21—clearly showing the dictator's popularity among a younger, Internet-savvy demographic.

The European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency published a report on December 9, based on a survey of 23,500 people, stating that many minorities in the EU suffer regularly from racial discrimination. All these developments indicate that right-wing extremism is surging into mainstream Europe.

On January 12, two of Germany's top military

manufacturers—Rheinmetall and MAN Group—announced their intention to merge their military vehicle production. The resulting combine will produce a new national champion and leading supplier for wheeled military vehicles in Europe. According to MarketWatch columnist David Marsh, the German government "has been providing behind-the-scenes assistance to make sure industry goes in the right direction" (January 18). The new combine "meets the long-held German desire to build industrial companies with world scale in the defense field," he said. Germany's corporate revival is just the precursor to a much larger, non-peaceable event.

MIDEAST

RELATIONS BETWEEN CRUCIAL allies **Israel** and **Turkey** deteriorated in January. Turkey accused Israel of hu-

U.S.

Venezuela

Brazil



miliating its ambassador after he was summoned by the Israeli deputy foreign minister. The move, initiated by Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, followed the airing of Turkish television dramas demonizing Israeli soldiers as murderers of Palestinian children and depicting Israeli diplomats as child abductors. Israel's attempt at tough diplomacy, however, backfired; Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon was forced to back down and give a full apology. It was a dramatic display of the crushing limits of Israel's "toughness."

Eight people were killed December 27 at anti-regime demonstrations in Iran during the Shiite ritual of Ashura. These were the largest clashes since the protests immediately following the Iranian elections in June. In an attempt to quell the unrest, Iranian authorities arrested several aides to the country's top two opposition leaders.

Iran has been making headway in securing political influence in **Iraq** ahead of March 7

parliamentary elections. In January, the head of an obscure Iraqi commission banned more than 500 Sunni candidates from running in the election, allegedly because of their ties to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party. While an appeals panel in February decided to lift the ban, any successful candidates will not be able to assume office until a final ruling is made. Also in January, **Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's** State of Law coalition announced it will ally with the Iraqi National Coalition (INC), which was formed last August by Iran's allies in Baghdad in order to cement Iranian political influence in Iraq. Maliki had refused to join the INC when it was first formed. In December, Iranian troops occupied an Iraqi oil well in what appeared to be an at-



tempt by Tehran to put pressure on Maliki to align with the INC. It seems Maliki has caved to Iran. The announcement that his State of the Law will ally with the INC after the elections came shortly after Iran's foreign minister visited



Iraq and met with Maliki and Iraq's highest-ranking Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani.

The shaky political situation in Iraq is contributing to an upsurge in violence that could complicate U.S. withdrawal efforts. In December, five car bombs killed more than 100 people and injured hundreds more in Baghdad.

Iran and **Egypt** have bolstered ties in their first round of high-level talks since 1979. On December 20, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received a two-hour visit from Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani. Immediately afterward, Mubarak, who rarely travels because of his failing health, flew to **Saudi Arabia, Kuwait** and the **United Arab Emirates** to discuss Arab-Iranian relations. Cairo's efforts to coexist with a nuclear Iran indicate a substantial loss of American influence within Egypt and the region at large. Based on Bible prophecy, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said for over 15 years that Iran would ally itself with Egypt.

Iran's Mehr news agency reported January 16 that the foreign ministers of **Pakistan**, Iran and **Afghanistan** signed an agreement at a summit in Kabul banning the use of each other's country to harm each other. The foreign ministers also voiced support for a regional solution for Afghanistan.

The Iranian Navy has deployed commandos and warships to the Gulf of Aden, Iran's naval chief said November 14. In addition to protecting Iranian cargo ships and oil tankers from Somali pirates, a primary reason for the dispatch appears to be to protect Iran's weapons supply lines to Houthi rebels in **Yemen**. The Shiite rebels, supported by Iran, have been battling Yemeni and Saudi Arabian forces in the border area of the two countries for several months. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has also been sending Hezbollah fighters into Yemen to assist the Houthi insurgency. Iran, in effect, is fighting a proxy battle against Saudi Arabia. The split between Islamist Iran and more moderate Arab countries, prophesied in the Bible for the end time, is becoming more apparent.

ASIA

China and Japan announced plans on November 27 to hold their first joint military exercises. They also agreed to future talks on joint training in disaster relief projects and humanitarian operations. A week earlier, during a visit to Japan by the Chinese foreign minister, Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said, "I want to build win-win relationships based on a spirit of fraternity and expand them from between Japan and China to the Asian region and the world. Doing so, I believe, will lead to the building of an East Asian community."

Still, Hatoyama is urging China to increase the openness of the Communist giant's ballooning military spending. For the last two years, China has announced defense budget increases of more than 17 percent. Hatoyama's concerns suggest that, beyond the substantial military buildup that China makes known, additional increases are happening behind the scenes. If Tokyo is concerned, the West should really be worried.

China successfully tested its first land-based missile defense system on January 11 with the goal, in part, of deterring the U.S. from defending **Taiwan**. By destroying one in-flight missile with another, Beijing flexed its growing military muscle and showed its disapproval of the recent sale of 200 U.S. Patriot interceptor missiles to Taiwan.

A few days later, on January 16, Taiwan and China entered into a new phase of economic partnership when three policies went into effect, liberalizing financial ties across the Taiwan Strait. Clearly Beijing wants to increase its influence over Taiwan through economic dependence. It is committed to bringing Taiwan under its wing—though so far, U.S. support of Taiwan has deterred China from using force. Instead Chinese leaders are trying to win Taiwan over gradually through political and economic methods.



Several recent acts of defiance by China provide a glimpse into the mutual antipathy building between it and the West. At December's Copenhagen climate conference, China resisted pressure to submit to international emissions monitoring and led other nations in refusing the proposals. Many European leaders laid the blame for the conference's failure at China's feet. On December 25, China issued



an 11-year prison sentence to Chinese human rights activist Liu Xiaobo for "subversion." Balking at calls for leniency, Chinese courts imposed this unusually severe punishment in response to Mr. Liu's authorship of articles calling for greater political freedoms. Then, on December 30, Chinese officials executed British national Akmal Shaikh, who was convicted for drug smuggling, despite repeated appeals for clemency by Western governments. The execution provoked a firestorm of anger in Britain and elsewhere.

On January 1, **Russia, Belarus** and **Kazakhstan** entered a common customs union. The move cemented Russia's control over the two former Soviet satellites. Beginning a customs union is a starting point for a revival of some-

thing similar to the USSR, with Russia once again at the head.

Russia emerged as the only clear-cut winner from the January 17 national election in **Ukraine**. **Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich** won with 35 percent of the vote, and Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko came second, with 25 percent, with a runoff election being held February 7. Stratfor pointed out that "Whichever of these candidates wins, Ukraine will return to the Russian fold ..." (January 15).

LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

RUSSIA PLANS TO CONSTRUCT factories in **Venezuela** to produce AK-103 assault rifles and cartridges. When operational, the proposed facilities will employ over 1,500 people. Venezuela has spent more than \$4 billion on Russian weapons in recent years. Critics say Caracas is fueling a Latin American arms race. An emboldened Russia has been fomenting anti-Americanism throughout the Latin American region for several years now.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad enjoyed a warm welcome in **Brazil** on November 23. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva said the world needed to engage Iran, that Iran had the right to develop nuclear power, and that the two nations were renewing "century-long ties." Ahmadinejad also visited Venezuela on the same trip. Before the trip, he called for an expansion of ties between the two countries, saying, "Collaboration between revolutionary na-

tions like Iran and Venezuela is necessary during this period of time.” Watch for Latin American nations to align themselves with America’s enemies.

Militants attacked a bus transporting **Togo’s** soccer team African Cup of Nations on January 8, killing three people. The attack raised questions of whether similar attacks could take place in **South Africa** when it hosts the World Cup this summer. Sports teams are increasingly becoming a target for militants, and the World Cup could be a way for them to push at Western nations.

Zimbabwe’s Joint Operations Command has ordered members of the Zimbabwe National Army to deploy to farms, reportedly a push to remove the few hundred remaining white farmers in the country. This is the final blow in a story the *Trumpet* has followed for a decade: the Zimbabwe land-grabs. The *Plain Truth* warned of **President Robert Mugabe’s** intentions back in May 1980, saying that despite his vows not to interfere with private property, he “has not, down deep, disavowed his Marxist principles.” Now Mugabe’s government has fully applied the “Marxist principles” that the *Plain Truth* wrote about almost 30 years ago.

AIDS Free World, a humanitarian group in Zimbabwe, says Mugabe’s ZANU-PF party systematically raped opposition supporters during the 2008 elections. Seventy women across 10 provinces reported the atrocities, describing gang rapes and beatings. Some were infected with HIV. Three hundred and eighty rapes were documented according to the 64-page report, surely only a fraction of the true number.

The EU agreed January 25



to help train Somali government forces in **Uganda**. **Spain** will lead the mission, which will involve around 100 troops, to help **Somalia** fight its Islamic insurgency. Watch Europe’s smaller incursions into Africa; they follow a greater plan to secure Africa’s resources.

ANGLO-AMERICA

ON DECEMBER 10, NEWS outlets reported that five Muslim men from the greater Washington, D.C., area were arrested in Pakistan and accused of trying to become terrorists. One of the men has family links to the Virginia mosque once attended by Nidal Hasan, the **U.S.** Army major who killed 14 people and shot 43 more at Fort Hood, Texas. The Virginia mosque is becoming notorious, since two of the September 11 hijackers also worshipped there. The arrests and the Fort Hood terrorist attack came as doubly bad news for the Army, which is trying to recruit more Arab-American troops with language and cultural skills and more understanding of theaters of combat like Iraq and Afghanistan.

On December 25, a Nigerian agent of al Qaeda ignited a bomb hidden in his undergarments and tried to explode a

jetliner over Detroit. The device failed, but Umarq Farouk Abdulmutallab’s attempted mass murder exposed what U.S. President Barack Obama called a “systemic failure” of the nation’s security system.

On December 30, the CIA suffered its worst loss of life since 1983 when a Jordanian man the agency was trying to cultivate as an informant entered Forward Operating Base Chapman in southeastern Afghanistan and detonated a bomb vest in the facility’s gymnasium. Eight Americans (seven agents) were killed in the attack and six more were wounded. Total American war deaths for 2009 hit 304, up from 151 in 2008. Total war deaths, including coalition allies, were 502, up from 286 the previous year.

On January 27, **President Obama delivered his first State of the Union address.** His speech reflected the fact that the U.S. is consumed by its own domestic affairs; only about one sixteenth of the speech addressed international affairs. In contrast to Chancellor Merkel’s bold statement about sanctions the previous day, President Obama barely mentioned Iran in his message. He cited only “growing consequences” for the regime in a passing reference.

A January Pew Research study found that terrorism was a concern for the Ameri-

can public, but it ranked third on the priority list after the economy and jobs. Social security, education, Medicare and other domestic issues rounded out the top 13 categories of concern for Americans.

President Obama has also pushed to repeal the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law barring admitted homosexuals from joining the military. The Pentagon has begun implementing the directive, with the defense secretary and joint chiefs of staff chairman testifying on “progress” toward open homosexuality in the U.S. military. This came soon after it was published that the president had appointed the first-ever transgender individual to a senior government post.

On January 15, it emerged that **Britain’s** armed forces would be slashed by a fifth in coming years. The number of trained personnel is set to drop from 175,000 to fewer than 142,000 by 2016. The Ministry of Defense budget is likely to fall by 11 percent in that time.

Meanwhile, the Royal Navy has been accommodating pirates. The *Daily Mail* reported January 16 that the Navy captured 66 suspects last year. None were taken into custody. Suspected Somali pirates were given fuel, food and water and released. In three cases, this happened even though hostages had been found on their boats.

Six Minutes to Midnight

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists says mankind has bought itself some time. BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

THE MINUTE HAND OF the symbolic Doomsday Clock was moved back by one minute on January 14. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (BAS) cited a “more hopeful state of world affairs” regarding the threat of nuclear war and global climate change. The clock is now set at six minutes to midnight.

The “Doomsday Clock,” created in 1947, is a symbolic measurement of the likelihood that mankind will begin nuclear war, with midnight representing the zero hour—global destruction. The farthest from midnight the clock has ever been was in 1991 when the Cold War era ended, and it was set at 17 minutes to midnight. The nearest to the zero hour it has ever been was in 1953 when it sat at two minutes to midnight following the announcement that the U.S. and the Soviet Union had tested thermonuclear devices within less than a year of each other.

The BAS reported that the most recent change represents new optimism on the part of its panel of scientists—including 19 Nobel laureates—about the threat of nuclear war, and global cooperation on climate change.

“The main factor,” BAS board member Lawrence Krauss told National Public Radio, “was that there’s been a sense that there’s been a sea change in the possibility for international cooperation regarding both nuclear weapons and climate change” (January 15).

“There are now—largely, one would have to say, as a result of the election of Barack Obama—new international talks and agreements to reduce arms,” he said.

To those keeping close watch on global developments relating to nuclear proliferation, this statement likely comes as a shock. An unbiased evaluation of global trends since the clock was last adjusted in 2007 reveals that the threat of nuclear war has only multiplied in that time.

● **U.S. APPEASEMENT** A U.S. administration operating on a policy of appeasement and trust of enemies has convinced this panel of scientists that the world is a safer place because of its softening stance, but the opposite is true. The Obama administration last year slashed America’s homeland missile defense budget and abandoned plans for a missile defense system in Eastern Europe that would have served as a major deterrent to a nuclear attack on its allies. Have America’s disarmament policies really lessened the threat of nuclear war? Has its willingness to perpetually suspend judgment on Iranian designs in the name of diplomacy removed the world one inch from the danger of nuclear war? Policies of appeasement have only shown Iran, North Korea and other nations how quickly U.S. will to counter their aggressive actions is evaporating. Those policies have emboldened the rogue nations of the world.

● **IRAN** A litany of headlines shows Iran making great strides toward nuclear armament. In December, the *Times* of London cited secret Iranian documents revealing that Tehran has been working on a “neutron initiator”—the trigger used to detonate a nuclear bomb. This discovery further exposed the deceit of Iran’s claims that its nuclear program is strictly for peaceful purposes. Compounding the significance of Iran’s nuclear advancements is President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s desire to plunge the world into a nuclear abyss for religious reasons.

● **NORTH KOREA** 2009 saw a North Korea of unprecedented defiance. Since President Obama took office, Kim Jong Il’s nation has successfully tested a bona fide nuclear weapon and a long-range missile, withdrawn from the 1953 armistice agreement with South Korea, and announced that it will weaponize its plutonium reserves. In response to these belligerent acts, the Obama administration showered Pyongyang with concessions, including caving in to Kim’s demand for bilateral talks.

● **RUSSIAN ARMS REDUCTION** High on the list of 2009’s celebrated international peace talks was July’s discussion between President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev about cutting the nuclear arsenals of their respective countries. But even a cursory look at the agreement reveals these reduction plans to be ludicrous—at least for America. *Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer called the agreement “useless at best, detrimental at worst,” because Russia agreed to dismantle a certain quantity of its archaic offensive nuclear warheads in exchange for the U.S.’s elimination of a comparable amount of its state-of-the-art nuclear defense weaponry. In this laughable scenario, Russia loses nothing, and the U.S. loses everything.

● **PAKISTAN** Although Pakistan’s nuclear weapons haven’t yet come under direct attack by Islamists, the looming threat is increasing. Never before have Pakistan’s weapons been in so much danger of being stolen by terrorist organizations. In 2007, militants attacked nuclear weapons facilities in Punjab, Sargodha and Kamra. In 2008, they blew up gates to the Wah weapons complex, leaving 63 people dead. The U.S. government is funneling substantial funds into Pakistan’s military because the stakes are so high. So far the terrorists have been kept at bay, but the threat is growing.

Krauss was careful to point out that the January adjustment was the first time in history that the BAS has moved the clock's time by an increment as small as one minute. In explaining that the board's optimism is *reserved*, he said, "If we don't follow up on all the talk that's been happening with action, it could go much closer to midnight. On the other hand, if all of these things that we hope are going to happen happen, it could move much further away."

So the move was essentially based on talk—on diplomatic initiatives. But an objective analysis of our diplomatic track record shows that these efforts will prove fruitless in most situations and counter-productive in others.

However slight the adjustment, the BAS's optimism over these talks showcases man's refusal to admit that the problems threat-

ening us are too big for us to solve. It highlights mankind's unwarranted confidence in itself. Six thousand years of strife-ridden history have failed to teach our experts that man does not know the way of peace. Man's inability to effect peace should have become more evident in the last two years. But, as the danger intensifies, man's delusion that he is able to solve his own problems has only grown stronger.

It will take Christ's intervention to keep us from annihilating ourselves and usher in true peace (Matthew 24:22). There is no cause for optimism about mankind solving its problems, but there is *every* cause to be optimistic about *God's* solutions to humanity's troubles! ■

For more about this hope-filled future—a future in which the concept of a Domsday Clock will be totally irrelevant—request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's inspiring booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



THE FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE is often a harbinger of what is to come throughout the duration of an elected government. In the case of Germany's present coalition government, judged by its tumultuous first four months since inauguration, the future does not look too bright. "Chaos and confusion" is how one source has described this unwieldy mix of incompatible personalities and policies that go to make up Germany's current federal leadership.

"Chancellor Angela Merkel's first 100 days in power ... following her reelection in September have been marred by infighting on economic and foreign policy and opposition accusations of cynicism and incompetence," reported *Der Spiegel*. "Merkel has been accused by members of her Christian Democratic Union of failing to show leadership, and opinion poll ratings for her coalition of conservatives and pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) have been falling ahead of an important regional election in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, in May" (February 1).

At this time of crisis, Chancellor Merkel has been strangely conspicuous by her absence from a good deal of the political action. This is giving the impression of a leadership vacuum just as Germany's government seems to be literally coming apart at the seams.

Where's the Chancellor?

The headlines at the close of Angela Merkel's first 100 days of leading this misfit coalition ought to be worrying to the chancellor.

The Times Online ran the title, "Iron Lady Angela Merkel vanishes amid trouble home and abroad." The *Economist* headlined an item "Waiting for Angela." Both articles commented on Germany's chancellor strangely missing from the action while her government is gripped by crisis. As the *Economist* noted, a comedy was playing at a Berlin cabaret theater that had audiences splitting their sides with mirth as actors parodied German political party officials rushing about asking each other "Where's Angela?" (January 21).

"Angela Merkel, once billed as a kind of Iron Lady, has become the Invisible

Chancellor," the *Times* commented. "Even Germans who are usually quite happy to have a non-intrusive, modest head of government, are astonished. There is trouble brewing at home and abroad but the leader of Europe's biggest economy is distinguished by her absence. ... At home, she suddenly looks weak. And abroad, there is a sense that her attention is flagging" (January 25).

Though she briefly appeared at the end of the coalition's first 100 days to announce an increase in German troops in Afghanistan and to declare Germany's support of sanctions against Iran, even this may work against the chancellor. The latter policy, should it be enacted, will rattle some of Germany's highest-profile corporations that for years have profited

from exporting both technology and manufactured goods to Iran. If Merkel follows through with this, it will also place further strain on her relationship with her coalition partner, the business-oriented FDP.

Already under pressure through falling poll ratings, the FDP more recently suffered from a highly publicized taxation affair when it reversed its stance on "one of the only policies the coalition has implemented since it came to power," *Spiegel* wrote. The decision only "added to the general picture of chaos and confusion" (op. cit.).

In a keenly focused view of Germany's present need for assertive leadership, the *Times* observed, "Ms. Merkel looks more fallible. The first 100 days of her new government have made almost no impact on her countrymen. What is needed now is a shift from passive to active leadership, the kind that governors need in order to demand sacrifice from the governed" (op. cit.).

It's been a long time since Germany had such a leader. Germans pine for more assertive leadership amid the country's present crisis of government. Disquiet has been creeping through the populace this winter. The once greatest export nation in the world suddenly finds itself knocked into second position by China. Unemployment gradually bites deeper into the German economy amid the global economic crisis. Chancellor Merkel's reaction to strains on the German

economy is to push very hard for a German to head up the European Central Bank. But that is not helping her back home.

The *Times* rightly pointed to Afghanistan as being one of the major questions on which Chancellor Merkel's leadership will either wax or wane. Right now it's on the downside. "Afghanistan will ultimately determine how history judges Chancellor Merkel," wrote Roger Boyes. "It is a deeply unpopular war. Ms. Merkel has yet to tell the Germans it is a necessary war. Nor has she tried to drum up popular support for the mission of the German troops there. ... Ms. Merkel does not know even how to start to be a war leader; there hasn't been one in modern Germany ..." (ibid.).

And that's the problem. Germans are becoming unsettled once again, and it's



WHERE'S ANGELA?
Chancellor Merkel

A Void at Germany's Helm

Confusion in the government is creating a leadership vacuum at a time of crisis. **BY RON FRASER**

in such a situation that they crave strong leadership. Should Merkel not soon be able to pull a few rabbits out of the hat to keep her electorate happy, the outcry from the German populace could be the kiss of death to her coalition and her leadership of the nation's government.

Seizing His Moment

In the meantime, there is a certain German politician who has gained a high profile and great popularity with the German public who *is* prepared to state things as they are. He has even broken a postwar taboo in Germany by mentioning the German term *krieg* (war) in direct association with the Bundeswehr's engagement in Afghanistan. He is a politician to whom we devoted much space in our February edition. His name is Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg.

The contrast between Guttenberg and Merkel is marked. He is a devoted Roman Catholic, she a somewhat diffident Protestant. He hails from the Bavarian rightist Christian Socialist Union, she from the more centrist Christian Democrats. He is a titled aristocrat, she hails from the working classes of the former East Germany. He is known for his decisiveness, for taking a position and not backing down easily. She has employed a leadership style that, in the words of *Times* journalist Boyes, "waited for issues to cluster, tribal rows to reach critical proportions and only then would she intervene." Added to this is what Boyes terms "a certain furtiveness" in her dealings. Such an approach does not convey strength in times of crisis. Rather, it gives "the impression of weakness," as she has always appeared "slow to deliver an opinion or enter a debate" (*ibid.*).

The contrast is particularly marked between Merkel and her charismatic minister of defense on the issue currently dominating headlines in Germany: the question of the nation's involvement in the war in Afghanistan.

Minister of Defense Guttenberg has hardly been out of the headlines since being sworn into office, completely overshadowing his chancellor and Vice Chancellor Guido Westerwelle in the process. He has been commanding German media attention over the war in Afghanistan since the Kunduz bombing in September. Be it in Berlin or Washington, on the occasions when he is before the cameras or any audience of note—which is often—his presence is commanding; anything but furtive. Guttenberg certainly does not give an impression of waiting to see how the ball drops before engaging in action.

He is out front leading and powerfully influencing the debate in Germany on the nation's foreign-policy question of the moment: Afghanistan.

Those cutting words of Roger Boyes—"Ms. Merkel has yet to tell the Germans it is a necessary war. Nor has she tried to drum up popular support for the mission of the German troops there. . . Ms. Merkel does not know even how to start to be a war leader"—are at the nub of German politics and, in particular, Germany's foreign policy at this moment, 10 years after postwar Germany first sent a military force outside its own borders to participate in war.

Guttenberg has been singularly impressive in doing what no other postwar German defense minister has done. He has quickly demonstrated his willingness to tell the German people that their troops are involved in a necessary war and that he actively seeks popular support for

Guttenberg has shown, in contrast to his predecessors in the Ministry of Defense, that he knows how to lead the nation as its commander in chief in that war.



Germany's combat role in Afghanistan. He has shown, in contrast to his predecessors in the Ministry of Defense, that he knows how to lead the nation as its commander in chief in that war. Not only that, but, at the very time that his chancellor is "missing in action," he is anything but invisible. In January, Guttenberg declared that there is no room for failure in Germany's new approach to the war in Afghanistan, clearly indicating that there may be German casualties in the process (*Bild*, January 31).

Guttenberg has also demonstrated that he is prepared to work outside his portfolio, getting involved in both economic and foreign affairs matters at the annual Davos conference of global movers and shakers. He openly upset the German economics minister, Rainer Brüderle, by breakfasting publicly at the January conference with the chiefs of German corporate giant BASF and energy mammoth RWE. This might seem unusual till one realizes that these corporate moguls are heavily engaged in business within Iran. German corporations have a history of being involved in espionage in foreign countries. Any sanctions that Germany lays on Iran would not only potentially harm German business, but they could also limit the BND (Germany's intelligence agency) in keeping tabs on Iran and feeding information of value to the defense minister, especially in relation to Iraq and the war in Afghanistan.

No wonder that, despite the efforts of his political opponents and liberal elements in the press, Guttenberg remains Germany's most popular politician. In the meantime, not only has Merkel's hand been weakened by her absence from the political action, but her coalition partner of choice, the FDP, has also seen its popularity sink by over 30 percent since last September's election. This places Foreign Minister Westerwelle on the defensive.

As Germans worry about a leadership vacuum in the chancellery, the aristocratic Reichsfreiherr Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg has been propelled forward on the political scene, not only in Berlin, but increasingly in Washington, cementing a much higher role in transatlantic affairs than the struggling Westerwelle.

Guttenberg does not back down willingly. After all, he hails from a long line of crusading forefathers known for their tenacity in battle. "As Guttenberg's own father, speaking about the family, put it in an interview with the newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 'We are raised in such a way that we are, if necessary, prepared to die for the

things that we believe are right ... That's the family ideal" (*Global Post*, Aug. 12, 2009). He has already declared that he is not going to be led by Washington on matters of security and defense. Guttenberg is cutting his own path in his present portfolio—and Chancellor Merkel seems either unwilling or unable to resist this.

The Rise and Rise of Guttenberg

Guttenberg changed the whole game for German politicians by mouthing one word: "war"!

"Our engagement in Afghanistan has for years been a combat operation. But the feeling is—and not just among our troops—that the Taliban is waging a war against the soldiers of the international community," Guttenberg declared to a journalist from the German daily *Bild*. In doing so he used a three-letter word that up to then had been eschewed by postwar German governments and commentators alike. Until Guttenberg shot into the forefront of the German political scene, using that word to describe German operations in Afghanistan—use of the term in association with the Bundeswehr—was simply taboo.

By breaking that taboo, Guttenberg became the darling of the German military overnight. In the clearest statement yet made by any German politician with regard to the Afghanistan conflict, Guttenberg emphasized, "In parts of Afghanistan, there are, without question, conditions that are like a war. I can understand any soldier who says, 'There is a war in Afghanistan. It doesn't matter if it is foreign forces or Taliban terrorists who are attacking, wounding and killing me.'"

With Guttenberg's success in securing an increase in Germany's troop commitment to the war in Afghanistan, the conservative and heavily government-influenced media outlet *Deutsche Welle* reported, "Following much speculation recently in the German media, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced at a news conference on Tuesday that a further 500 troops would be deployed to Afghanistan to join the roughly 4,300 already stationed there. A further 350 troops would be a 'flexible reserve' to be deployed when necessary Commenting on the troop hike—850 additional troops in all—Chancellor Merkel stated that this was part of a 'completely new' approach to cooperating with the Afghan government, which aimed to see Kabul take responsibility for the security of

the country as soon as possible. 'This is a much more defensive approach, for which the German Army's offensive capacities will be rearranged,' she said" (January 26).

The European Union provides over 30,000 troops to the NATO/ISAF force in Afghanistan, compared to the U.S.'s 45,000. As the EU's largest contributor of troops to the war, Germany has for some time agitated for a more powerful say in the orientation of the NATO campaign in Afghanistan. Defense Minister Guttenberg is now in the strongest of positions to influence Germany's future war policy in Afghanistan, or, for that matter, any other theater in which the Bundeswehr is presently engaged or will engage in the future.

This rapidly rising star of German politics has clearly achieved a number of



A society that is drifting apart is not a very happy one. Germany is drifting into crisis. In such situations, history demonstrates that the German people will seek out and respond to an assertive, charismatic and strong leader, giving little thought to his ideology.

goals in his brief term as Germany's minister of defense. As a result of the Kunduz bombing affair, Guttenberg was able to clean house, dispensing with defense leaders who may have held loyalties to influences and ideas that he did not share. He has announced that the Bundeswehr is definitely engaged in a war outside of Germany's borders. He has gained an extra troop commitment to the Afghanistan campaign and gained the endorsement of the chancellor of that commitment. He has announced a new German strategy for the war in Afghanistan and asserted that he will not be influenced by Washington

in carrying it out. He has successfully weathered the storm created by liberal politicians and media that called for his resignation in the wake of the Kunduz affair. In all of this, Baron and Baroness Guttenberg have continued to shine as the most prominent stars on the German political and social scene. It seems that, politically, Guttenberg has the Midas touch.

Journalist and commentator on European affairs Luigi Barzini once noted, after long experiencing the German people in wartime and peace, that "Germany is, as it always was, a mutable, Proteus-like, unpredictable country, particularly dangerous when unhappy" (*The Europeans*).

What is Germany's present mood?

Germany's chancellor is unhappy. Her coalition government is unhappy. Media commentators are not happy with the government's poor performance, observing that the coalition is unable "to find solutions for a society that is drifting apart" (*Spiegel*, op. cit.). A society that is drifting apart is not a very happy one. Germany is coasting into crisis. In such situations, history demonstrates that the German people will seek out and respond to an assertive, charismatic and strong leader, giving little thought to his ideology as long as it unifies the *volk* with an appeal to German nationalism.

An appeal to the period of German greatness under charismatic, nationalistic, aristocratic rule, as prevailed in the time of the kaisers, may be just the medicine that a German society "drifting apart" will respond to. That was when the German military had an overarching faith in a deity to guide it toward its perceived destiny of global rule—a faith in a deity whose religion was centered in Rome—a faith that inspired its men of war to march into battle wearing on their belt buckles the slogan "*Gott mit uns*"—*God with us*.

Could the time be ripening for an aristocratic leader of crusading heritage, a titled baron of the Holy Roman Empire, a dedicated, practicing Roman Catholic, who publicly declares that he prays, as does his wife, for German troops in battle, to assert his leadership over a nation crying out to be led in a time of increasing national crisis?

To see the answer emerge, keep watching Germany, watch the Bavarian pope, and watch closely the Bavarian baron, Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, baron of the Holy Roman Empire. ■

**ACTIONS
SPEAK LOUDER**

Pope Benedict's
saint-in-the-
making, Pius XII

Was Pope Pius XII Pious?

**Only if you ignore what he did,
Vatican says. BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

HITLER'S POPE IS ONE STEP CLOSER to sainthood. In December 2009, Pope Benedict XVI issued a decree proclaiming the "heroic virtues" of the 20th century's most controversial pope. Prior to World War II, the cardinal who later became Pope Pius XII successfully negotiated the Reich Concordat with Adolf Hitler in 1933, which effectively removed all political opposition to the growing Nazi movement in Germany.

During the war, Pius turned a blind eye to Hitler's barbarous campaign to exterminate Jews. In October 1943, Hitler's SS troops entered Rome's old ghetto and rounded up more than a thousand Italian Jews to be transported to death camps. Before their deportation, these Jews were held captive for two days in a building *located less than half a mile from the Vatican*. Pope Pius was one of the first to be made aware of the Jewish arrests. Yet he did NOTHING to prevent them from boarding cattle cars bound for Auschwitz.

Even after the war was over, Pius intervened *personally* to help Nazi criminals go "underground" in order to escape punishment.

Today, Pope Benedict has placed Pius on the fast track to sainthood. By issuing a decree on his virtues, Benedict moved him closer to beatification, which is the first major step toward sainthood. But this

should NOT in any way be seen as a "hostile act" toward Jews, said Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi a few days after the pope's move.

The Jews, of course, disagree, especially since the decree was made several weeks before the pontiff visited Rome's synagogue. Jewish organizations and historians have led an effort over recent years to stop the beatification process—to no avail. Benedict's decision to recognize Pius's "heroic virtues" sparked an outcry from Jewish groups, some of whom pointed out that the Vatican still has not opened up to the public its archives from the time of Pius's pontificate. "I can't understand the rush [to beatify Pius]," said Abraham Foxman, a Holocaust survivor and the Anti-Defamation League's national director, "especially while there are still survivors who are alive who feel the issue very, very deeply and are being told the files need time to be processed. What's the imperative?"

Incredibly, the Vatican doesn't see how the historical record matters much when it comes to Pius's qualifications for sainthood. Lombardi believes Pius should be evaluated by his *Christian* life and "his intense relationship with God and continuous search for evangelical perfection"—NOT "the historical impact of all his operative decisions" (Vatican Information Service, Dec. 23, 2009).

The Vatican, Lombardi seems to be arguing, is quite all right with whitewashing the dubious acts of its most celebrated popes. He offered this quote from Pope John Paul II as further support for Pius: "[T]he church does not celebrate the *specific historical decisions he may have made*, but rather points to him as someone to be imitated and *venerated because of his virtues*, in praise of the divine grace which shines resplendently in them."

Never mind what he actually did—just know that he was virtuous.

Can you imagine Jesus Christ ever reasoning in that manner? Your religion, Jesus taught, is **WHAT YOU DO!** "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **DO NOT** the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

True religion is *how you live*, Moses added. "For he [God] is your life," it says in Deuteronomy 30:20.

While in Athens, the Apostle Paul scolded the educated elites of his day for their rampant idolatry, saying that *in Christ* "we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

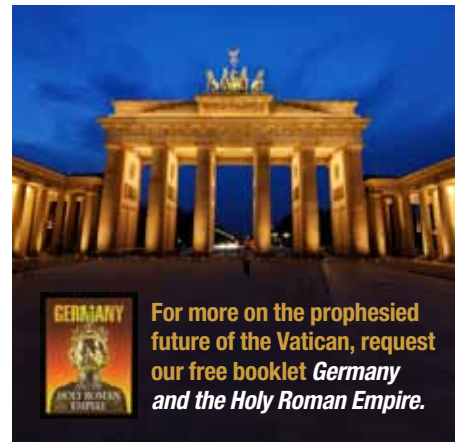
"Finally, brethren," Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8, "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; *if there be any virtue*, and if there be any praise, **THINK** on these things."

Yes, indeed. *Think* on these heroic virtues. But that's not all. True religion can't stop there. Verse 9 completes the thought: "Those things, which ye have both *learned*, and *received*, and *heard*, and *seen* in me, **DO.**"

Think on them—**AND DO THEM!** That's the hallmark of a true Christian.

Pope Pius XII's virtues, or lack thereof, can hardly be determined by words alone—not if we take the Bible at *its* word.

If there be *any* virtue, **WHAT DID HE DO?** ■



When Was Christ Crucified and Resurrected?

Here is the only sign Jesus gave to prove He was the Messiah. BY MARK NASH

DO YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT the details surrounding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ are to you and to this world?

If you call yourself a Christian, you certainly must believe Jesus is the Son of God, but have you ever studied the ONLY proof Jesus ever gave of that fact? Have you ever carefully evaluated what Jesus said, what actually took place and how it compares to the teachings of your church?

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and *there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas*: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; *so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*” (Matthew 12:38-40).

Jesus was constantly being challenged by the religious leaders of His time. In this instance, some Pharisees asked for a *sign* that He was the Son of God.

Jonas is the New Testament version of the name *Jonah*, whose story is recorded in the Old Testament book bearing his name. Here Jesus ties him directly to the ONLY SIGN of His messiahship that He would give to this “evil and adulterous generation.”

Understanding the events surrounding the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is critical to being a true Christian. Isn’t it time you *proved* your own beliefs?

Three Days and Three Nights

Several important aspects of Matthew 12:38-40 should be honestly evaluated. The first and perhaps most crucial is contained in verse 40, where Jesus clearly and

If the teaching of most “Christian” churches is true, Jesus was only in the earth for two nights and one day, which would mean Jesus is NOT proved to be the Son of God.

specifically stated that He would be buried for three days and three nights. Is that what your church teaches? Or have you been taught the fable about a Friday crucifixion and Sunday morning resurrection? Try counting the number of nights and days for yourself. From Friday until Sunday morning, you will only find two nights and one day, not three of each.

Jesus said He would be in the earth for three days and three nights as *proof* He is the Son of God. If the teaching of most “Christian” churches is true, Jesus

was only in the earth for two nights and one day, which would mean Jesus is NOT proved to be the Son of God.

So, now what do you do? How can you call Jesus the Son of God if His own words disprove it? How has the Friday to Sunday myth come to be taught and believed so universally?

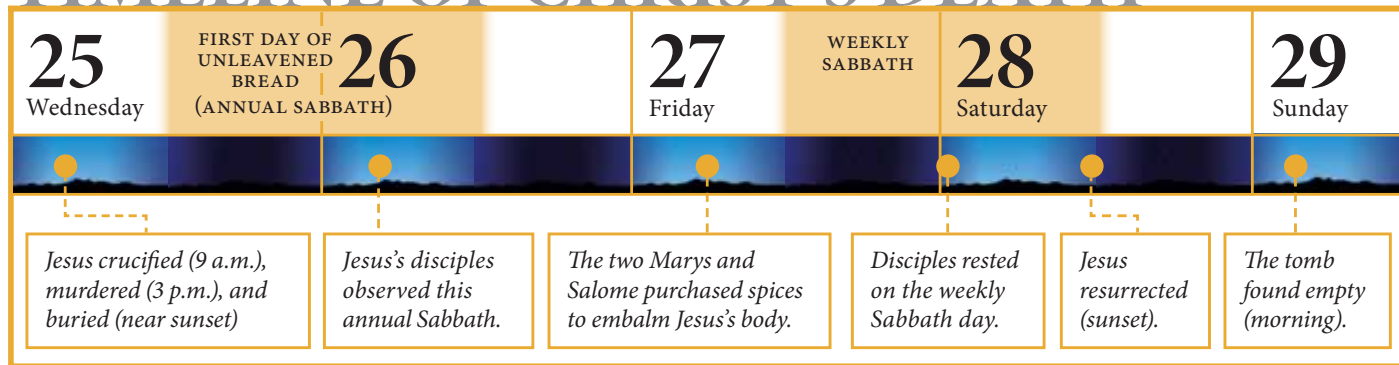
First, religious leaders point to the fact that Jesus was crucified the day BEFORE a sabbath day. Then they wrongly conclude it means He was killed on a Friday, since the Bible calls Saturday the Sabbath. (As an aside, this proves that those same religious leaders know Saturday is the biblical Sabbath we are commanded to keep holy in the Fourth Commandment. For more on this topic, request our free booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*) They overlook the fact that it was actually an *annual* sabbath, as we will see.

Second, it was prophesied that there would be false teachings that would sway or be accepted by “*many*” (e.g. Matthew 24:4-5, 11). Satan, who has worked at deceiving mankind for 6,000 years (Revelation 12:9), is the one behind this deception.

These religious leaders who claim that Jesus was killed Friday afternoon and resurrected Sunday morning, totaling one day and two nights in the tomb, are—by denying the only sign Jesus gave of His Messiahship—actually denying Christ.

Your Bible proves that the murder of Jesus occurred on Wednesday, April 25, in the year A.D. 31—NOT Friday. It also proves that the resurrection of Jesus occurred at sunset on Saturday evening,

TIMELINE OF CHRIST'S DEATH



April 28, not at sunrise on Sunday.

Let us look closely at what really happened when Jesus was killed.

Not Buried Before a Weekly Sabbath

“After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death” (Mark 14:1).

This was just before the spring holy days in Israel. The Passover and the annual sabbath day called the first day of Unleavened Bread were just ahead. The annual sabbaths are listed in Leviticus 23. (For detailed information about the annual holy days, request our free booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?*)

“And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?” (Mark 14:12).

Jesus was having His disciples prepare for the passover, which is not a holy day, but is a sacred service. “And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15).

This is the event commonly called the Last Supper; however, in reality it is the “Lord's Passover” (Exodus 12:11, 27; Leviticus 23:5). It is not the Passover of the Jews, as so many churches teach today.

Continue reading through Mark 14, and the events and timing become clear. It is also recorded beginning in Matthew 26, Luke 22 and John 18.

Jesus and His disciples partook of the Passover in the evening, then went to the garden where Jesus prayed. In the night, Jesus was taken prisoner by a band of men from the chief priests and Pharisees. “And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes” (Mark 14:53).

This was in the night, following the Passover. Immediately the next morning, Jesus was taken to Pilate. “And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate” (Mark 15:1).

After the charade that passed for a trial, Jesus was sentenced to be killed.

“And they bring him unto the place Golgotha And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting

God's Word proves beyond question the Messiahship of Jesus Christ. All the verses surrounding His death and resurrection are perfectly coordinated, without contradiction.

lots upon them, what every man should take. And it was the third hour, and they crucified him” (Mark 15:22, 24-25). Time was measured according to the military watches, or guards. The third hour was 9 a.m. in our modern terms.

“And when the sixth hour [noon] was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour [3 p.m.] Jesus cried with a loud voice And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost” (verses 33-34, 37).

Jesus died at 3 p.m. the day before the

first day of Unleavened Bread referred to in Mark 14:1.

The day before a holy day is called a day of preparation. This was such a day. The first day of Unleavened Bread is an annual sabbath, or a holy day.

Next was the burial of Jesus by Joseph.

Two Sabbaths That Week

Luke 23:50-55 describe Jesus's burial and clearly state that Jesus died and was buried on a preparation day, the day before a sabbath day *also called a high day* (John 19:31). The phrase “the sabbath drew on” shows it was getting very near sunset—when days start and end according to biblical reckoning.

Look closely at the next event in the book of Mark.

“And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him” (Mark 16:1). The word *had* was added by the translators.

The *Anchor Bible* on Mark states this verse like this: “When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdalla, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought aromatic oils to go and anoint him.” The Fenton version of this verse states: “Now when the Sabbath was over, Mary the Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought aromatic spices, so that they might embalm him”

Lange's Bible Commentary says: “Only the two Marys had remained too long at the grave to do so, and hence they could not make their purchases till the Sabbath had passed.”

Jesus was buried in the afternoon, just about sunset before an *annual* sabbath, as has been clearly shown in Scripture. Now, it is *after* that annual sabbath day that Mark tells us the Marys bought spices. Luke 23:56 fills in another detail: “And

they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.”

So Mark 16:1 states the women bought spices *after the sabbath* and Luke 23:56 says they *THEN* rested *on the Sabbath* after they bought spices. There is only one explanation that fits both scriptures: After buying the spices, the ladies prepared them for use on the body of Jesus. Then they *rested on the weekly Sabbath* (Exodus 20:8-11; see also Exodus 23:12; 31:15).

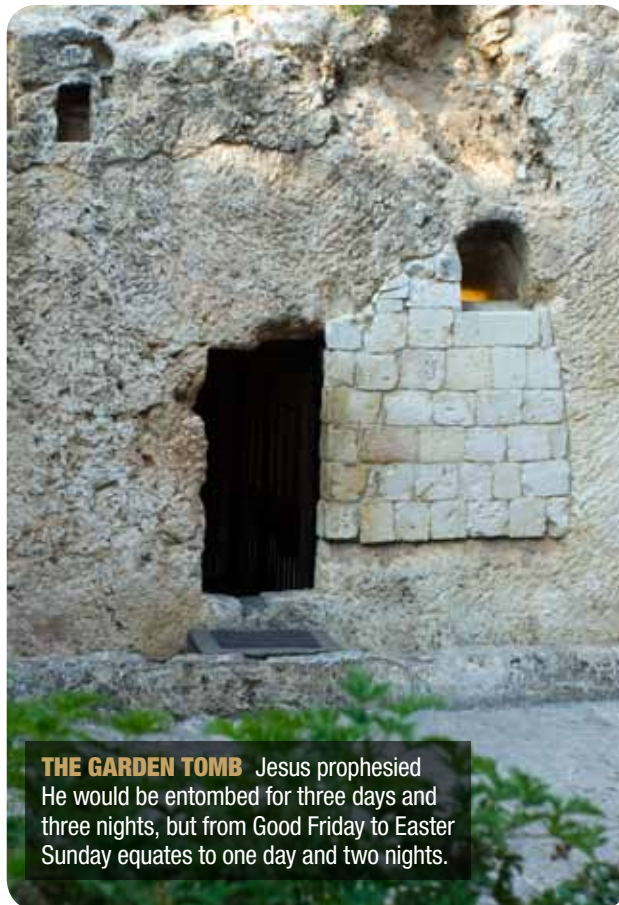
John states the sabbath before Jesus was buried was the **HIGH** sabbath of the first day of Unleavened Bread: “The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (*for that sabbath day was an high day*), besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away” (John 19:31).

A high day is an annual sabbath, not the weekly seventh-day Sabbath. So the Bible is clear that there were two sabbath days the week Jesus was crucified, but it takes some detective work to discover it. Begin by reading *The New Englishman’s Greek Concordance and Lexicon*, by Wigram-Green. Look up the Greek word numbered by *Strong’s* as 4521 and translated as “sabbath” in Matthew 28:1 (King James Version). This publication uses a “note” to delineate whether the word is singular or plural in its original form. There are several plural forms indicated by the note; however, pay particular attention to Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1; John 20:1, 19. Each of those usages is a *plural* form of the word *sabbath*; each should have been translated “sabbaths.” To verify this, check each of these verses in *The Holy Bible in Modern English* by Ferrar Fenton. You will find that each uses the plural word “sabbaths” rather than the mistranslation in the singular. By leaving off the “s” to reflect the plural of the word *sabbath*, a very subtle deception is started.

The Timeline

The order of events during that terrible and great week of Christ’s murder is clear. Only one explanation fits all the verses perfectly, and there are no contradictions in the Word of God.

Follow the only timeline that fits every verse surrounding these events and coordi-



THE GARDEN TOMB Jesus prophesied He would be entombed for three days and three nights, but from Good Friday to Easter Sunday equates to one day and two nights.

Your Bible proves that the murder of Jesus occurred on Wednesday, April 25, in the year A.D. 31—not Friday.

dinates with the three-days-three-nights prophecy of Christ.

On a Tuesday evening, after sunset, Jesus and His disciples kept the Passover. Afterward they went to the garden, and Jesus was captured.

Wednesday morning, He was brought before Pilate and sentenced to death. He was crucified at 9 a.m., and Wednesday afternoon at 3 p.m., Jesus died. Joseph begged the body from Pilate very near sunset.

Wednesday evening, Jesus was buried.

Thursday was a high day, or annual sabbath, the first day of Unleavened Bread, and they ceased from work.

Friday was the weekly preparation day, and the women bought and prepared spices and ointment to properly complete the burial of Jesus.

Saturday, they rested on the weekly Sabbath.

Sunday morning, near sunrise, the ladies came to the tomb to find that Jesus was already risen.

Using elementary math, we can count the following: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night total three nights. The days of Thursday, Friday and Saturday total three days.

The holy days actually lined up to these dates in A.D. 31. The first day of Unleavened Bread fell on Thursday, April 26. That meant Wednesday was the preparation day for the high sabbath. After the high day came Friday, April 27—the preparation day for the weekly Sabbath, when the ladies prepared the spices. Saturday was the weekly Sabbath and Sunday was the first day of the next week, when the ladies came to the tomb early in the morning.

Jesus was in fact killed on Wednesday, buried near sunset Wednesday evening and remained in the tomb until near sunset Saturday evening. Any other count

disqualifies the **ONLY** sign Jesus gave verifying that He is the Son of God and the Savior of mankind.

Someone may ask about the testimony of the angel at the tomb on Sunday morning (e.g., Luke 24:1-6). Each reference simply states that Jesus was not there: He “is risen,” as Luke stated it. Of course He was not there—He had been resurrected at sunset the evening before. Again, with a little detective work anyone can discover the meaning of the original Greek words, and none of them suggests in any way that Jesus was in the act of rising at that time.

Another person may ask whether Mark 16:9 states that Jesus arose on the first day of the week. It says Jesus appeared to Mary, not that He was rising. There is simply no verse anywhere in the Bible to support a Friday crucifixion or a Sunday resurrection.

God’s Word proves beyond question the Messiahship of Jesus Christ. All the verses surrounding His death and resurrection are perfectly coordinated, without contradiction. You can read it clearly in your own Bible: Jesus was in the grave three days and three nights, from sunset on Wednesday until sunset on Saturday, when He was resurrected.

He is the Christ; He is our Savior, the Son of the living God. ■

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.*”

What a disturbing survey! MOST OF THE STUDENTS—78 PERCENT—DIDN’T HAVE TO TAKE EVEN ONE HISTORY COURSE! But don’t expect our elite colleges to start teaching history. That subject carries an aura of authority they dislike.

How can you become educated by *closing your mind* to a multitude of lessons from the past—good and bad? That approach makes our teachers and students some of the most ignorant people on Earth!

The truth is, our forefathers possessed more of the foundational truths than we have today, and we are about to pay a terrifying price for our willful ignorance!

Let the college and university students beware of the poison they are being taught today!

Why is this information so shocking? Here is Mr. Will’s conclusion: “[A]s Madison [one of America’s Founding Fathers and former president] said, in words inscribed on a Princeton building, ‘a well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people.’”

Are we losing our freedom? The answer is a resounding *yes!*

Henry Steele Commager wrote an introduction to Winston Churchill’s biography of his ancestor, *Marlborough*. In it Mr. Commager wrote, “... 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.”

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

However, our arrogant educators refuse to even study the heroic virtues of history that helped to make us great. They consider themselves so much more intelligent and enlightened.

America and Britain are paying a dreadful price for this rebellious and inexcusable ignorance. They are going the way of ancient Rome. And in case they are unaware of that history, Rome collapsed. Numerous people warned Rome too, but the Romans were too spiritually sick and proud to heed the warning.



The God who inhabits eternity wants to teach us and dwell with us for all eternity. Einstein said he “talked to the stars.” But we can talk and live with the Creator of the stars.

Many in the present U.S. political administration have utter contempt for the Constitution. Our fathers founded that document on many Bible principles. The Constitution is the foundational law of the land. What happens when you tear down your foundation? Anarchy and chaos result. Then—according to history—other powers often move in and enslave the people. That is especially true if you are the number-one superpower in the world. That adds a lot of prestige to the conqueror.

The opponents of our founding document say they want an “evolving Constitution,” which means they don’t want to be ruled by it or any other authority or law unless it reinforces their political views.

The Bible describes them as being “lawless.” They hate for any authority to enforce a law contrary to their beliefs. That means they believe only their human reasoning should rule, regardless of how ignorant and inadequate it may be. Only the worst kind of suffering will change those twisted values.

A New Government Is Coming Very Soon

Thankfully, there is a grand hope. Notice this beautiful poetry written by Isaiah from the Revised Standard Version:

“For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
‘I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite’” (Isaiah 57:15).

This is vigorous, imaginative poetry that will cause our spirits to soar if we have a humble spirit and are receptive to God’s view.

We dwell in the confines of *time*. But not God. He “inhabits eternity”! And this high and lofty Being also dwells with the man “who is of a contrite and humble spirit”—the opposite of those educators and students of our elite universities!

That omnipotent God is already reviving “the spirit of the humble” in His little remnant. Soon, God’s *firstfruits* are going to teach Harvard and other universities what true education is.

The God who inhabits eternity wants to teach us and dwell with us for all eternity. If we are receptive to God’s education, it will stir our imagination as nothing else ever could. Albert Einstein said he “talked to the stars.” But WE CAN TALK AND LIVE WITH THE CREATOR OF THE STARS!

Now that is true education, but it’s given only to the spirit of the humble.

Herbert W. Armstrong College, a liberal arts institution sponsored by the same organization that publishes this magazine, is fervently working to revive the spirit of the humble. We teach that the Bible is the foundation of all knowledge. We have proven for more than 50 years that this Bible education works beautifully. ■

SOCIETYWATCH



Britain to Educate Teens on Parenting

BRITAIN HAS THE HIGHEST teenage pregnancy rate in Europe. Four of every 100 British girls under age 18 become pregnant every year. An average of 22 girls under 15 become pregnant every day. The government's solution? Require all British teens to take lessons on how to be a parent.

Under Children's Secretary Ed Balls's proposal, all 14-year-olds will receive parenting lessons starting in 2011. They will be taught parental responsibilities, stages of child development, and techniques for controlling unruly children. Balls hopes his strategy will discourage teens from having children—but it risks sending the message to children that teenage pregnancy is natural and normal.

The plan appears to be based less on right teaching and more on the political correctness that has contributed to Britain's moral mess. For example, a government leaflet on how parents should teach their children about sex warns parents not to educate their children about right and wrong, as it “may discourage them from being open.”

Some educators say sex education does nothing to slow teen pregnancy rates. That is

likely true of such misguided programs as this one. Educate children with the *right* education, however, and pregnancy rates *will* fall. To learn what is conspicuously absent in Britain's education, request a free copy of a detailed book dedicated to true education on dating, marriage, pregnancy and family: *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

Race Policy Dumbs Everyone Down

AMERICANS PERFORM poorly on science tests. America also issues thousands of science visas so foreign graduates from China, India and elsewhere can come to the United States and fill chemistry and physics positions that Americans can't. However, the Berkeley High School Shared Governance Committee approved a proposal in December 2009 that will cut the school's science labs and five science teachers. The reason? Not because of lack of funds or science students, but because the school lacked science students of the *right race*.

Authorities deemed that the science classes mostly benefited higher-achieving white and Asian students, and felt resources should instead be diverted to help black and Hispanic students that were

deemed to be struggling. “Berkeley High was identified as the high school with the largest racial equity/achievement gap in the state,” an internal study reported.

There are several reasons for the difference in test scores between races, including lack of discipline, broken family life, single parenting and alcoholism. A *San Francisco Examiner* report on the issue also blamed the test score differential on gangster rap and the crack-cocaine epidemic.

Regardless of the causes, eliminating the achievement gap by bringing down America's few science achievers is not the answer.



Ignorant of Basic U.S. History

A STUDY BY THE LIBERTARIAN Lexington Institute shows that de-emphasizing U.S. history in American schools' curricula has brought about “appalling results.” The report, “The Teaching of American History: Promise and Performance,” analyzes data collected from an American Revolution Center (ARC) survey conducted in December.

The ARC's study shows that 83 percent of Americans failed a basic test on the American Revolution.

More than a third of the Americans surveyed believed the American Revolution occurred *after* either the Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation, or War of 1812.

Many more Americans knew that Michael Jackson wrote the song “Beat It” than

knew that the Bill of Rights is part of the Constitution.

A 2006 study by the National Assessment of Educational Progress proved the knowledge gap begins early. Only a quarter of American elementary, middle and high school students surveyed were deemed “proficient” in U.S. history at their grade level.

Robert Holland, author of the Libertarian Lexington Institute's report, said, “The success of our democratic republic depends upon citizens who believe in a common set of ideals as originally expressed in the founding documents.”

Holland identified the 1960s and 1970s as the time when the focus in American history began to shift away from traditional subject matter—such as the founders and the Revolutionary War—and toward less central subjects like “women, racial/ethnic minorities and immigrants.”

“Whatever might be said for or against a broadening of the study of history,” Holland said, “there is no doubt that the sharp switch led to declines in knowledge of the founding of the American republic, its enduring principles, and its accomplishments.”

What is the real danger in an educational system that produces students and adults ignorant of history? *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has recognized this tendency to de-emphasize history as “an *extremely dangerous* trend that may be too entrenched ever to correct” (January 2006; also see article, page 1).

American history will continue to fade as political correctness and apathy increase. This approach will weaken the nation and leave entire generations ignorant of and vulnerable to the dangers that history warns against.



BIG MAN Vladimir Putin, president of the world's new top oil exporter, listens to a presentation about shipyard building projects.

How Russia Is About to Change the World

In a remote corner of the globe, a port bristles with cranes, smokestacks, mammoth ships—and trouble for Europe. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

IN JANUARY, RUSSIA MADE A WORLD-changing move. It completed a new oil pipeline and port complex that sets Russia up to become a more powerful oil exporter than Saudi Arabia. The ramifications for Europe and Asia are profound: The shape of the global economy—and the global balance of power—will soon be altered forever.

December 28 was a big day of ceremony in Russia. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin pushed a button that transformed global oil dynamics. The button released thousands of barrels of Siberian crude into a waiting Russian supertanker and heralded the opening of Russia's first modern Pacific-based oil export facilities.

The multibillion-dollar, state-of-the-art oil terminal was a "great New Year present for Russia," Putin said during the inauguration. The strategic terminal, located in the city of Kozmino on the coast of the Sea of Japan, is one of the "biggest projects in contemporary Russia" he said, not only in "modern Russia," but "the

former Soviet Union too."

Putin has every right to be enthusiastic about his new port. Kozmino will unlock a two-way gate through which Russia's vast Siberian oilfields will gush into Asia's energy-hungry economies—and Chinese, Korean and Japanese currency will flow into Russia.

If the seven ships scheduled to berth in January are all filled, the port of Kozmino will instantly become Russia's third-most important oil outlet. As of January 20, five of the ships had set sail will full cargoes.

In a symbolic move highlighting Russia's warming relationship with China, Hong Kong received the first shipment.

Kozmino's importance will exponentially grow over the next year. Currently,

all Siberian oil shipments into Kozmino are delivered by train—but that will soon change. Phase one of the East Siberian-Pacific Ocean Pipeline (ESPO) was also completed during December. Phase two will connect the Siberian fields directly to the new port. When phase two is finished in 2014, total exports could jump from the current rate of 250,000 barrels per day to over 1 million. Kozmino will transform into one of the largest oil centers in the world—capable of handling 14 percent of total Russian oil exports. It will be one of the most strategic geopolitical assets in Russia's arsenal.

Russia pumped more than 10 million barrels of oil per day during November. With Saudi Arabian production falling, Russia is now the world's largest oil exporter. Toss in Russia's natural gas exports, and Russia is the biggest energy superpower in the world by far. That does not even count Russia's massive uranium resources and nuclear expertise.

But here is why the new port in Kozmino could radically affect the future of both Asia and Europe. For over a century, Russia's entire energy infrastructure has focused mainly on supplying Europe. That has now changed forever!

Russia's Energy Weapon

The first and now-complete phase of the ESPO pipeline, which connects Russia's Siberian oil fields to within just a few kilometers of China, is already destabilizing global oil dynamics and shifting them in Russia's direction. "ESPO is what political strategists might call a 'game-changer,'" wrote the *Telegraph*. "It means that Russia will be able to send its oil *either east or west*—so it can drive a harder bargain when selling crude to Europe" (Dec. 26, 2009; emphasis mine throughout).

Previously, when Russia has had pricing disputes with Europe, Moscow had to play the embargo card with an obvious bluff. It had no alternative outlet for its oil. Without the Europeans, its oil would sit in the Siberian oil

fields of Samotlor and Tyanskoye, costing money instead of making it. But now Moscow can turn off the tap to Europe and still pump in the profits by opening the pipe wide to its energy-hungry Asian partners.



But Russia's stranglehold on Europe is about to get even tighter—much tighter. By 2012, the ESPO pipeline will be twinned with a pipeline for natural gas exports so Russian *gas supplies* can also flow east instead of west if necessary.

This development is truly scary to Europeans.

Moscow has already demonstrated that it is unafraid to turn off Europe's energy supplies when it feels it needs to. In the middle of winter 2006, Russia shut off gas supplies to Germany and several other countries in order to punish Ukraine. Since then, it has used the same method each winter to strong-arm its former Eastern European satellites back into accepting Russian dominance.

The message is clear: Russian oil and gas supplies are a strategic weapon to be used—or not used—to freeze opponents into submission.

Europe's Only Choice

Europe, in a tenuous relationship with Russia to begin with, desperately needs to secure another energy source. Only one other region in the world can supply the energy to warm and lubricate modern Europe's homes and industries: the Middle East. Countries like Germany, which imports 90 percent of its oil, are now likely to become much more dependent on one of the most volatile regions of the world for energy supplies.

It is inevitable that Berlin will seek to expand its ties with oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council members: the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and especially Saudi Arabia, the world's second-largest petroleum producer. Europe has no choice but to become much more intimately involved with the affairs of the Middle East, from where it currently gets 40 percent of its oil.

It is therefore no surprise that Germany, the most dominant nation in Europe, has made sure it has troops on the ground surrounding this Middle Eastern "golden triangle" of energy production (Gulf Cooperation Council members plus Iran and Iraq). On the seas, the European Union's naval presence is growing too. The European anti-piracy task force operates in both the Gulf of Oman and the Gulf of Aden. Forty percent of the world's ocean-borne

oil is shipped through the Gulf of Oman.

Europe is critically dependent on imported oil. And Germany knows it must have a strong presence in the world's most oil-rich region if it is to secure its flow and the country's future.

The Bible predicts that a major military clash will soon occur in the Middle East—specifically between a European power, led by Germany, and radical Islam, led by Iran.

Daniel 11:40-45 indicate that Iran will continue to push at this European power until it finally responds in "whirlwind," blitzkrieg-type fashion. As we have explained for almost 20 years—and has been borne out repeatedly in real-world events—the "king of the south" spoken of in these verses is radical Islam under the leadership of Iran. And as *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote as far back as November 1996, a big part of Iran's push against Europe "is probably going to involve oil."

Amid an Unstable Climate

The Middle East is a powder keg that could explode at any time. Syria dominates Lebanon and is stirring up trouble there. Iran is about to create a nuclear weapon and has said it wants to wipe Israel off the map; it is test-firing missiles that can strike European capitals. Israel knows that the window to prevent Iran from getting the bomb is closing. Hamas is preparing to violently take East Jerusalem as a Palestinian capital.

And to top it off, the world is suffering through its worst depression since the 1930s. Oil prices remain above \$70 per barrel, and the International Energy Agency has indicated that world oil production will now peak in 2020—10 years sooner than it previously estimated. Some analysts think the world has already reached peak oil production.

In this climate of global instability, Russia's recent moves on the world's oil stage will be amplified in dramatic fashion. By unlocking Siberia's energy reserves, Russia is simultaneously binding Asia together and lighting a fire under Europe.

Watch for the development of an Asian alliance between Russia, China and Japan. And watch for Europe's next moves toward the Middle East. ■



By unlocking Siberia's energy reserves, Russia is simultaneously binding Asia together and lighting a fire under Europe.

Keep an Eye on the Balkans

Trouble could be brewing.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

THE BALKANS IS A REGION PEOPLE tend to forget about. Sandwiched between the Adriatic and Black seas, the peninsula is a hodgepodge mix of religions, peoples and cultures. The complexity and obscurity of the Balkans—together with its geographic situation—fosters the perception of the region as a largely irrelevant backwater to Europe, Russia and the Middle East.

History punctures this perception.

Historically, the Balkans is where civilizations have converged and clashed. During the Middle Ages, the peninsula fell under the control of the Byzantine Empire. In the 15th century, it became a focal point of the westward-bound Ottoman Turks. In the 19th century, it emerged again as a point of tension between East and West during the Crimean War. When the great European war comes, observed Bismarck, it will "come out of some ... foolish thing in the Balkans." Turns out, he was right. Less than 50 years later, the Balkans was where Germany instigated the First World War. Twenty years after that, it became a key strategic theater for Hitler and the Axis powers. And don't forget the Balkan crises of the 1990s.

It is no surprise then that a decade later, the Balkans is emerging once again as the convergence point of Russian and European ambitions.

Bringing the Balkans Into Europe

In November 2009, German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with Serbian President Boris Tadic in Berlin, where she expressed Germany's full support for Serbia's entry into the European Union. Serbia's hopes were further boosted in January, when Spain's foreign minister promised that his country's EU presidency would do its utmost to integrate Serbia into the EU. "2010 is going to be a key year for all the Western Balkans," said Miguel Moratinos. "I can guarantee

THE BALKANS



on behalf of the Spanish presidency that we will do everything that is possible to advance in this direction.”

It appears Serbia will not be making the trek alone. On the same day Merkel announced her support of Serbia last November, EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels agreed to proceed with Albania’s request to enter the rapidly evolving 27-member bloc. By January, EU leaders were talking about easing visa restrictions to make it easier for Albanians to travel through Europe.

Doubts about the EU’s ambitions in the Balkans were put to rest by a letter that circulated among EU foreign min-

isters meeting in Brussels on January 25. According to Deutsche Welle, the letter ambitiously stated that in 2010 the EU should “complete accession negotiations with Croatia, start talks with Macedonia, reinforce its role in Bosnia, abolish visas for Albanian and Bosnian citizens and advance Serbia’s bid to join the bloc” (January 27).

From a defensive standpoint, the Balkans demands the Kremlin’s watchful eye. But for the offense-minded Putin, the peninsula requires much more.

“This is the right moment to renew at high level the EU’s commitment to the [Balkans] and to set out the course ahead

in concrete terms,” Dimistris Droutsas of Greece and Michael Spindelegger of Austria said in the letter. Reporting on Germany and the EU’s statements in support of Serbia’s accession last November, Stratfor noted that they were “the clearest indication thus far from the European Union that it is serious about bringing the rest of the Balkans into the European Union *as soon as possible*” (Nov. 17, 2009; emphasis mine throughout).

While enthusiasm in Brussels for integrating the Balkans into the EU excites many west of the Urals, not everyone is pleased.

The Russia Factor

Under strongman Vladimir Putin, Russia has been actively reasserting itself regionally and globally. Since 2000, the Kremlin has secured power over much of its periphery, particularly along its border with the European Union. (This, essentially, was the reason for Russia’s invasion of Georgia in August 2008.) Strategically and historically, the Balkan Peninsula—though it doesn’t fall within Russia’s immediate sphere of influence—has been a critical steppingstone for periodic European incursions into Russia.

From a defensive standpoint, the Balkans demands the Kremlin’s watchful eye. But for the offense-minded Putin, the

peninsula requires much more. This is why last October, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev made a much-publicized visit to Belgrade, where he offered a €1 billion (US\$1.4 billion) loan to the Serbs and openly discussed the possibility of a strategic partnership with Serbia.

The next month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov visited Bosnia-Herzegovina, where, according to the *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, he encouraged the “Sarajevo government to oppose U.S.- and EU-proposed constitutional and economic reforms” (Nov. 9, 2009). Beyond its political wrangling in the region, Moscow remains a primary economic player in the Balkans, particularly in the energy sector.

Russia also has intriguing military designs on Serbia. On October 21, Russia signed a deal with the Serbs to construct a humanitarian center for emergencies in the southeastern city of Nis. While it was billed as a regional hub for emergency relief in southeastern Europe, some experts couldn’t help but notice the political and military nature of the planned facility. With the center’s connection to the highest levels in the Kremlin, analysts at Stratfor reported that “it has the potential to redefine how the world looks at the Balkans and Russia’s involvement in the region” (Oct. 21, 2009).

The humanitarian center will be operated by the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations. Rooted in Russia’s foreign military intelligence directorate (also known as the GRU), this ministry handles more than just national emergencies. Stratfor reports that “it is involved in the suppression of militant activity in the Caucasus and is in charge of the Russian civil defense troops,” which essentially gives the ministry its own military force, as well as access to the Russian military. When you consider the connections, “it has to be considered that Moscow might lay logistical groundwork [in Serbia] that—intentionally or not—has *military value*” (ibid.).

What do Germany and the EU think about that? Stratfor continued, “Despite [some] limitations, which make the move largely symbolic for the near future, *Moscow is on its way to setting up its first logistical center with potential military uses outside of the former Soviet Union*. In addition, the center will be run by a ministry that serves as the wing of the Russian military intelligence unit. If one puts this in the context of the recent visit to Belgrade by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ... it must be concluded that **RUSSIA IS MOVING INTO THE BALKANS WITH ENTHUSIASM.**”

Remember, that was the end of October. In November, Germany and the EU informed Serbia (and Albania) that they were ready to put them on the track for full EU membership. The timing is interesting. Coincidences of this nature are rare in international relations. It certainly appears the Balkan Peninsula, particularly Serbia, is emerging once again as a major point of tension between Russia and Europe.

The Outcome

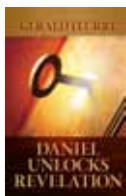
Ultimately, Europe and Russia face two options. The first is to sit down together, debate their strategic interests, and carve up Eastern Europe and the Balkans between them. Hitler and Stalin did that very thing in 1939. The alternative is to allow the tension to mount until it erupts in armed conflict. More than likely, as the *Trumpet* has forecast, we will see the first option. Watch for Russia and Germany/Europe to come together and hash out some kind of non-aggression pact akin to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact struck just days before World War II.

It is also possible that the Kremlin, concerned by the rapidly evolving and strengthening European superstate, could decide it needs to send the EU and the West a shot across the bow. The provocation by the Kremlin of a military or energy crisis in a place like Serbia, or maybe Ukraine, would certainly caution Berlin and Brussels against ignoring the strategic interests of its eastern neighbor. It would also likely bring Germany and Europe to the negotiating table with Russia.

Whatever happens, history demands that we keep an eye on the Balkans. And so does Bible prophecy. In May 1953, Herbert Armstrong wrote about a crucial end-time prophecy: "Suddenly the world will behold a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!" he wrote. "Some of the Balkan nations which have been under Russia's boot will be members of it!" (*Good News*).

That statement alone explains Germany and the EU's moves to invite Balkan nations into the European fold. Mr. Armstrong based his forecast about a united Europe (which will include an eastern bloc) on multiple Bible prophecies, including Daniel's spectacular prophecy in Daniel 2. This prophecy is key to understanding both European history and prophecy. To learn more about it, request a free copy of *Daniel Unlocks Revelation*.

In the meantime, keep an eye on the Balkans! ■



UNITED STATES

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

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

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

Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00 am ET, Fri

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

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

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

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

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

Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00 am, Fri

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

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun

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

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

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

California, Los Angeles KPXX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

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

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

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

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

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

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

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

Florida, West Palm Beach WXPX 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

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

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

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

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

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

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

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPP 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

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

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

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

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

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

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun



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

North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle-KVOS 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

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

LATIN AMERICA

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

CARIBBEAN

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

Here Europe! Feel Free to Spy on Us.

The White House signs away its internal security to the EU. BY RON FRASER

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BY PRESIDENT Barack Obama in December created quite a stir.

Signed by the president on Dec. 16, 2009, the order is headlined, “EXECUTIVE ORDER AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 12425 DESIGNATING INTERPOL AS A PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ENTITLED TO ENJOY CERTAIN PRIVILEGES, EXEMPTIONS, AND IMMUNITIES.” It reads, “By the authority vested in me as president by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including Section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288), and in order to extend the appropriate privileges, exemptions and immunities to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 12425 of June 16, 1983, as amended, is further amended by deleting from the first sentence the words ‘except those provided by Section 2-c, Section 3, Section 4, Section 5 and Section 6 of that act’ and the semicolon that immediately precedes them.”

This automatically brings Interpol under Section 2-c of the International Immunities Act, which reads, “Property and assets of international organizations, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, unless such immunity be expressly waived, and from confiscation. The archives of international organizations shall be inviolable.”

Just what does this mean to the average citizen of the United States? To answer that question, we need a little history about Interpol.

The Rise of a German Intelligence Model

In 1923, Dr. Johannes Schober, president of the Vienna police, established the International Police Commission (IPC). Within four years, at a conference in Berlin, member countries of the IPC adopted a German idea to establish National Central Bureaus of investigation (NCBS) in addition to estab-

lishing centralized police records registries.

In 1938, the Nazis seized control of the IPC, relocating its headquarters to Berlin. They maintained control of European policing till the end of World War II.

Based on the same German model of the NCBS, Interpol was established in Paris after the war. It became an autonomous body in 1956. In 1989, just before the Berlin Wall fell, it moved to new headquarters in Lyon, France.

Throughout the 1990s, Interpol upgraded its systems to adapt to the latest technological improvements in data search, maintenance and sharing between various sub-regional bureaus, launching its first website in 1997.

In 2001, a Command and Coordination Center was established coordinating the operations of Interpol’s 187 member countries. By 2004, it had planted a liaison office at the United Nations staffed by a special representative, and in 2008, a special representative was appointed to the EU in Brussels.

The real concern here is the degree to which Interpol is becoming associated with the global security initiatives of the *European Union*. The EU is itself a very German idea, closely associated with the old Nazi vision of centralized government in Europe.

An Interpol media release in 2008 stated, “The concept of strategic global partnerships is central to Interpol’s future mission as enshrined in its Global Security Initiative (GSI), with the organization having entered into a variety of partnerships with the European Union, United Nations and the private sector” (Nov. 4, 2008).

So just what is this EU Global Security Initiative? According to Interpol’s website, it is “the *strategic vision* that will guide Interpol’s development and its support for *global policing*.”

That may seem a worthy goal. However, when matched with another even greater initiative of the EU—the EU’s Program for Global Monitoring for the Environment

and Security (GMES)—the closer cooperation between Interpol and the EU raises significant red flags. It is the same *strategic vision* that the German national socialists held back in the 1930s! The fact is, it illuminates the direction that EU elites are taking in their imperial quest for global rule.

Surveilling the Whole Globe!

GMES is a powerful semi-space project being developed by the EU for the *total strategic surveillance of the whole globe*. Its potential to override and excel any equivalent initiatives developed by opposing powers in the race for global hegemony, in the wake of America’s decline, is *staggering*.

Integrating observation of the planet by both satellites and ground-based technology, the GMES project is being sold under the deceit of its being mainly for use in environmental control. As described by the European Parliament’s Directorate General for Internal Policies, all conceivable applications of the project “can be classified under the topics of atmospherics, marine, land, security and emergency.” Though an EU-conceived, -developed and -funded initiative with EU strategic goals in mind, the scope of its applications is “not restricted to the European area”; rather they are “worldwide.”

Of real concern as to the surveillance power of GMES and its potential *strategic* use by imperialist EU elites is the Directorate’s declaration that “*GMES can be the appropriate strategic tool to support Europe on geopolitical issues* through unified earth observation. GMES has *strategic importance due to the EU’s role as a global actor ... and makes an important contribution to the EU’s civil security [police] needs*” (emphasis mine throughout).

Though couched in terms that would appeal to global warmists, carbon traders and old-fashioned greenies, the essence of this document is in the recurring *military* and “civil security” themes that

thread their way through its verbiage. “Emergency response” (read *rapid reaction force*), “land monitoring,” “marine services,” “external border surveillance,” “crisis prevention”—all phrases used in the Directorate’s description of the GMES project—can all too readily connote not just police usage, but also *military usage*, especially in terms of the EU’s emerging role in *global defense and security*.

Already well advanced, though given little publicity, the GMES project will rapidly deploy a series of space satellites over the next five years. The Metop satellite was deployed in 2007. Next will come the Pleiades satellite in 2010-11, the Jason 3 and the system of three satellites termed the Radarsat Constellation in 2012-15, and the five-satellite system “Sonic” over the same period. The whole program is conceived, developed, funded and controlled by the EU. The major contributor is Germany, which so far has committed €1.15 billion to the deal. And there’s more.

The GMES program is designed to dovetail with the EU’s Galileo project, which will eventually send 30 satellites into circular orbit at an altitude of 23,000 kilometers above Earth. A global, space-based location-identification system, Galileo is planned to be superior to both the U.S.-based GPS and Russian Glonass systems.

The newly ratified Lisbon Treaty/EU constitution grants control of the entire global surveillance system jointly to the European Parliament and European Commission. Prime end users will be *EU global police and peacekeeping missions*.

Giving the EU License to Spy

The above may well signal danger to those who fear the “big brother is watching you” potential of such a powerful system of global surveillance and intelligence gathering. But perhaps of deepest concern is the European Parliament Directorate’s indication that “*Civil and defense applications* increasingly draw from the *same technological base*, and there is an increasing overlap of functions and capabilities required for *military and non-military [police] security purposes* which often allows for the use of the *same technology* for the development of both *security and defense applications*. ... The decision whether global positioning or Earth observation systems ... are to be used for security or defense purposes is *primarily political* in character, not technological.”

That language simply puts EU elites in charge! And sadly—as many an intelligent observer both within and outside of

Germany has noted—too many of those elites are tainted with the same imperial vision of their old Nazi mentors.

The point is that, since the EU-based Interpol is to become a prime end user of this surveillance technology, what the White House has now permitted through this latest executive order is the completely unchecked usage of GMES and Galileo by the EU via Interpol to extract intelligence of strategic value to the imperialist European Union, destined to be used to counter American power!

with Iran—it gives them all sorts of extra legality in the United States in a way that has never, ever before been offered to Interpol” (Politico.com, January 5).

When one truly understands what is at play here, shades of Europe’s medieval Inquisition, with a high-tech, space-age touch, loom large—especially considering what happened when Interpol’s predecessor was taken over by the Nazis!

Sound extreme? Only to those ignorant of the real power behind this European empire. As our editor in chief wrote last



PRECISION INSTRUMENTS

A computer rendering of Europe's Galileo satellite surveillance system

The newly ratified Lisbon Treaty/EU constitution grants control of the entire global surveillance system jointly to the European Parliament and European Commission. Prime end users will be EU global police and peacekeeping missions.

Next to the U.S. signing up a year ago to the regulation of its economy by the EU-controlled Financial Stability Board, this has to be one of the most significant foreign-policy blunders of America’s current administration. *It literally permits the EU to spy on the U.S. unfettered by any control from its government.*

Newt Gingrich has accused the Obama administration of “very quietly” signing an executive order that removes “all American constraints” from Interpol.

“Freedom of information acts don’t apply,” he said. “All the constraints that you as a citizen could use against an American police force, based on a recent Obama-signed executive order, give Interpol—which has relationships with Syria, Libya,

month, this is none other than the seventh and the final resurrection of an ancient police state, the “Holy” Roman Empire!

You need to read our February edition to fully grasp what is afoot and just what is at stake. We are witnessing the appearance, yet one final time, of this old and brutish empire that has shed more blood throughout its long and cruel history than any other politico-religious entity on Earth!

Yet, to those truly attuned to this final resurrection of this old church-state combine, its arrival on the world scene is a great harbinger of hope! For it is perhaps the greatest of signs at the moment that the long-awaited and -expected coming of the Messiah, the only true peacemaker, is just about here! ■

Fulfilled Prophecy

THESE DAYS I MAKE IT A POINT TO SURF the *Trumpet* website at least twice a day.

No news/current affairs source had been as informative as yours. After all, Jesus Himself commanded us to watch the news and pray constantly. In my own country, many people who are not Christians can sense that something is dreadfully wrong with this planet. Even Hollywood blockbusters focus on cataclysmic world destruction in recent years . . . There is a global “Zeitgeist” of impending doom. Thank God, it will not last forever!

Peter Thomas—SARAWAK, MALAYSIA



lies will not want to risk the lives of any of their few children and grandchildren for any type of imperialism, hard or soft. (True, some German units are in Afghanistan. But it is too bad they fear venturing out of fortified compounds to do any real fighting.) Furthermore, if Europeans are too fearful to even reproduce themselves and sacrifice any of their present comfort for the sake of having children, how can these same neutered men expect to go out and re-conquer the world? Sorry, European Union as a military colossus doesn't add up. Europe might indeed rise again someday, but that day is in the far, far distant future.

Peter Skurkiss—STOW, OHIO

WHILE IT'S CLEAR THAT AMERICA IS IN decline, the idea that America must police the world is antiquated at best and has proven too costly a stance to maintain. It stands to reason then that the U.S. is basically saying to various factions “take care of yourselves.” Yes, I agree that taking care of our interests often means maintaining a presence in other nations; however, given the nature of “modern” warfare this is largely unnecessary. Today we need better intelligence gathering and rapid strike forces that can and should be capable of handling conflict should it directly affect our interests.

Martin Gorman—UNITED STATES

A European Superpower?

THE *TRUMPET* CONTINUALLY CLAIMS that Europe, under German leadership, is on the verge of becoming the world's next economic, political and military superpower. Count me skeptical, particularly when it comes to the military part of that prediction. Why? Because, among other things, one of the prime prerequisites for military might is the willingness to take casualties. Europe's demographics are in a free fall—unless you count Muslims. This means that the life of each soldier is extremely precious; fami-

Here are a few thoughts to consider. Demographics in Europe play one definite role in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. That is revealed in Revelation 18:13, which refers to the entity known as the “beast” power being involved in slavery. This is but a repetition of that same power in an earlier revival in the 1940s employing slave labor to empower its industry. This is how that power will cope with any natural deficit in its home populations.

As to the alleged unwillingness of German troops to fight in Afghanistan, this is not the case, though it could certainly have appeared to be until very recently. Before the Kunduz bombing, the German government had been careful to employ other nations to do its fighting for it—witness the Balkan wars. However, the German government is now using the Kunduz inquiry to change the Bundeswehr's rules of engagement to legitimize German troops' active combat roles in foreign theaters. The German warrior is among the best in the world. Once the constraints are lifted on the Bundeswehr's rules of engagement, you will see a reaction from German troops in combat very different to the reaction of restraint that, until recently, the German government imposed on them.

What many forget when assessing EU military power is the potential of its combined force strength (2 million in uniform) and the world-class standard of its combined defense industries. With the Lisbon Treaty now ratified, EU elites are working to consolidate EU military industries and armed forces, plus bring the extant nuclear weapons stationed in Europe under the wing of the newly developing European defense force. Remember, only 70 years ago—without satellite technology, without sophisticated computers, robotics,

instantaneous mass transit systems and communications—it only took the German High Command six years to develop Germany's military power to the greatest in the world. With the German High Command now revived, it is entirely feasible that what Hitler achieved in six years could be achieved in far less time under the current scenario. Remember, Hitler had to obtain by war that which EU elites have obtained by treaty: a virtual European empire. No military strength has been sapped from the EU in its project of building an empire of currently 27 nations plus the Balkan colonies.

Overarching all of these clear realities on the ground is the guarantee that inerrant biblical prophecy will be fulfilled.

Born Again

THIS ARTICLE IS VERY BIBLICAL, EDUCATIONAL and perfectly explained (“What Do You Mean, ‘Born Again?’” January). God bless you for such a perfect Bible-based, clear-cut explanation. Thank you.

Gene Drekeke Iyovo—PAPUA NEW GUINEA

I READ YOUR MAGAZINE FROM COVER TO cover each month and appreciate your frankness about the times in which we are living now. I have followed the teachings/publications of H.W. Armstrong since the early '80s. God help us to become stronger each day in our nearness to Him.

Dorene Caudill—SPARTA, N.C.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR THE WORK THAT YOU are doing worldwide and continuing with what was originally began by the *Plain Truth* magazine by Herbert W. Armstrong, a true biblical prophet of truth, which I first received in 1954. My wife and I, she is now deceased, followed his work for years. We broke away from the Church in 1967, and I am so very blessed I found your website and *Trumpet* recently.

Walter Baer—RAIL ROAD FLAT, CALIF.

I FOUND YOUR MAGAZINE IN MY doctor's office and have been a subscriber ever since, reading each issue cover to cover. Your magazine is fascinating, and I learn new things each month. You have caused me to read my Bible and search the Scriptures even more. I thank you for your service to the Kingdom of God.

Betsy Leifeste—FLORESVILLE, TEX.

Corrections

In “The World's Next Superpower” (February 2010), we referred to Luke 12:20 as proof of an EU-led force surrounding Jerusalem. The scripture reference should have been Luke 21:20. In the same article, Portugal was inadvertently labeled as Poland on a map. The *Trumpet* regrets the errors.

Comments?

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The System

Its beauty lies in its simplicity. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

THE OTHER DAY, MY DAUGHTER TOLD ME VENEZUELA WAS producing some of the best young classical musicians in the world. “Venezuela?” I said. “Are you sure you don’t mean another nation—perhaps somewhere in Europe?” “I don’t think so,” she replied. “I’m pretty sure it’s Venezuela.” She and her violin teacher had recently viewed a 12-minute video about a music program so extraordinary that some maestros are hailing it as “the future of classical music.”

In fact, it is in Venezuela. It’s called *El Sistema* in Spanish, meaning “The System.” It started 35 years ago with 11 students and an amateur musician who believed classical music was an effective antidote to the societal ills of family breakdown, crime and poverty. “I had a feeling this was the beginning of something very big,” remembers José Antonio Abreu, *El Sistema*’s creator.

Today, some 300,000 Venezuelan children—most of them coming from impoverished neighborhoods—are enrolled in one of *The System*’s several hundred orchestras, ensembles and choirs. Enrollment is expected to exceed more than a million within the next two years.

Outside Venezuela, numerous international organizations in more than 25 countries have developed music programs based on Abreu’s model. In Harmony, for example, is the British version of *El Sistema*. Cellist Julian Lloyd-Webber spearheads the fledgling program in England. After just one year of implementation in poor British communities, educators have noticed remarkable changes. “Teachers are reporting hugely increased levels of concentration, discipline, motivation and attendance,” Lloyd-Webber wrote for the *Telegraph* (Dec. 22, 2009). In Venezuela, where the program has a much longer track record, there have been noticeable declines in crime and drug use wherever *The System* is in place.

What is the secret to *El Sistema*’s success?

One thing that stands out is how much *discipline* and *hard work* it adds to the child’s EDUCATION. “Every day after school throughout Venezuela, you can see kids practicing,” reporter Bob Simon said in the *60 Minutes* piece my daughter shared with me. “Fifteen thousand trained musicians work with them. But *The System* also uses gifted kids to teach other kids. On top of eight hours of schoolwork, it makes for a long day.”

It amounts to about 11 hours of schoolwork and music training every day, six days a week. It’s a grueling pace for any youngster to maintain, but consider the alternative: hopelessness, disorder, delinquency and violence in the slum.

Parental involvement also plays a significant role. Teachers make house calls to inform parents about what the program expects of its students. The government provides a small stipend for families of *El Sistema* students, which helps encourage families to stick with it. But more than anything, it is the RESULTS that encourage parental support. When families saw how *The System* helped keep their children off the streets, Abreu says, “they

became our most important allies.”

Children *need* discipline and structure in their education. They *need* support from involved parents at home. And, Abreu believes, *they need music*. Not the noise that masquerades as music in popular culture. *Real* music—music that feeds the mind, uplifts the human spirit, builds confidence and inspires achievement.

Popular music won’t work, one *El Sistema* teacher told *60 Minutes*. Children can get that anywhere, even at home in the slum. But “when they sit in one of these chairs in the orchestra, they think they’re in another country, in another planet, *and they start changing*” (emphasis mine throughout).

“My struggle is for a society in which art is *something more* than just an aesthetic dimension of life,” Abreu explained to the *Globe and Mail* last year. “It is a primary INSTRUMENT for the development of the individual and of the people.”

Using beautiful music as an instrument to educate and train young people for a brighter tomorrow. It’s a model that is as beautiful as it is simple.

We use it at Herbert W. Armstrong College and Imperial Academy. Our “José Antonio Abreu” was Herbert W. Armstrong, an amateur musician with



STRING THEORY
Venezuelan girls play in a children's orchestra.

a maestro-like genius for using God-inspired music to disseminate God’s truth while educating the young. “Music is another study we want to teach at Ambassador,” Mr. Armstrong wrote several months before he opened the college in 1947—“for music has an important place in evangelistic work.”

It was a system rooted in the foundation of God’s Word. Whole-some and uplifting music has ALWAYS played an instrumental role in the work of God’s ministry and the education of our young. Colossians 3:16 tells us to *teach* using psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. 1 Chronicles 25:1 even describes the role musical instruments have in *prophesying!* And did you know that in ancient Israel, there were a number of priests whose *sole* responsibility was to MAKE MUSIC to honor and praise God? (See 1 Chronicles 9:33.)

God is the author of beautiful music. He’s always intended for it to be used as an instrument to bring human beings into His Family!

That’s why Abreu’s story is so inspiring. True, it’s not *God’s* system. But it does reveal how much *one visionary* can improve the quality of life for MANY people by using a simple, family-oriented system of education that revolves around fine music.

Think of the wonderful abundance, the beautiful peace and prosperity that will soon spread over all the Earth once God’s government is established in Jerusalem and His system of reeducating the world is finally in place. Will music play an instrumental role? You know it will!

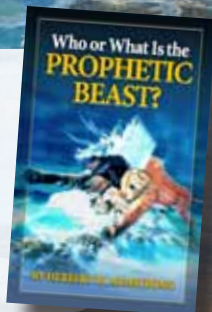
As prophesied in *hundreds* of Bible passages, the dawn of that beautiful new civilization—fittingly signaled by a thunderous blast from a musical instrument—is almost here. ■

Who Is the “Beast?”



IS the seven-headed “beast” of Revelation a powerful world dictator about to appear? Is he the anti-christ? Or a government? Or a church? The plagues of God’s wrath, we are told, will be poured out upon those who follow this mysterious “beast”! Our free booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* unveils the biblical prophecies concerning the “beast” and the course of end-time events unfolding now!

Request your free copy today!



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