

 SEX  
ISN'T  
CASUAL

**ONLY TWO  
YEARS LEFT?**

*Longing  
to Live*



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**How economic crisis is  
transforming Europe**



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*German soldiers mark an observance during the 20th anniversary of the Bundeswehr before a cathedral in Dresden.*

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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

# A Monumental Moment in European History!

**T**HIS MIGHT BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGES ON world events I have ever written.

Do you realize that what is currently unfolding in Europe is going to affect your life in a *radical* way more than anything else ever has?

In May 2010, Germany was forced to bail out Greece's economy. Last November it rescued Ireland. Other European countries are in the same mess, such as Spain, Italy and Portugal. The economies of these nations, and the future of the entire EUROPEAN UNIFICATION PROJECT, are on LIFE SUPPORT—and Germany's fingers are on the power switch!

Last December, Stefano Micossi, a professor at the College of Europe, wrote that soon, "either all of the sovereign debts [of Europe] become German public debt, or the euro will collapse ..." (VoxEU.org, Dec. 10, 2010). Unless Germany rescues Europe, the Continent will collapse as a political and financial union. This is exactly what Herbert W. Armstrong warned would happen—as far back as the 1940s: that a massive financial crisis would give Germany the opportunity to shape a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!

Ambrose Evans-Pritchard warned that it seems inevitable that the debts of Europe will have to be "fused immediately with German debt." Germany has the only healthy economy in Europe. It's the only "solution" to Europe's financial woes. "THIS IS THE SORT OF GAME-CHANGER THAT MAY NOW BE REQUIRED TO SAVE [THIS UNION]," he wrote (*Telegraph*, Nov. 29, 2010; emphasis mine).

What is happening in Europe is not merely a game-changer—it's a WORLD CHANGER!

The Bible discusses many different beasts. As Mr. Armstrong explained, these beasts picture world empires. In Revelation 17, the Apostle John wrote about a totally unique and terrifying beast. This empire is different because it is a CHURCH-STATE UNION.

Verses 1 and 2 read, "... I will shew unto thee the judgment of the GREAT WHORE that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." Notice, throughout history this woman, or church, has made the WHOLE WORLD *drunk* on her doctrines!

This great church commits fornication with *kings*. In other words, it recruits kings and nations to serve its despicable and ugly ambitions.

Verse 3 continues, "and I saw a WOMAN sit upon a SCARLET COLOURED BEAST, full of names of blasphemy, HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS." This beast has seven heads, or seven distinct resurrections. If you study European history, you will easily see six times when the Catholic Church has guided European empires, such as Charlemagne, Napoleon and Nazi Germany.

The beast of Revelation 17 is responsible for some of the most gruesome and violent wars in human history. Now, the financial crisis is bringing about the seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire!

Verse 3 says this last head has 10 horns. These 10 horns symbolize 10 kings, or 10 nations or groups of nations. Using various Old Testament prophecies, Mr. Armstrong taught us that GERMANY

will lead this 10-king conglomerate. THE FINANCIAL MELTDOWN IS BRINGING TO FRUITION THIS GERMAN-LED, 10-NATION SUPERSTATE!

Watch closely. Germany will use this crisis to FORCE Europe to unite more tightly. In the process, some eurozone countries will be forced out of the union. When that happens, the pundits will say European unification is dead, that the European Union has failed. DON'T LISTEN TO THEM!

Every country that leaves the EU puts us one step closer to seeing the German-led 10-nation European superstate!

Twice in Revelation 17, John calls this church-state union a "mystery." What is happening in Europe today has mystified politicians and other "experts," the media and the public. Many see that this crisis is EMPOWERING Germany and could possibly provoke a complete restructuring of Europe.

But they don't see what this means for humanity. WE ARE WITNESSING ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS EVER IN THE HISTORY OF EUROPE. The final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire is staring us in the face! When this government is fully empowered, the Bible reveals it will plunge this world into "great tribulation," a time more terrifying and violent than THIS WORLD HAS EVER EXPERIENCED!

Revelation 17 shows that Europe is going to emerge from this crisis with MORE power, not less! It will be *more* stable, *more* streamlined, *more* influential, and *more* terrifying than anything any human has ever seen!

But here's the most astounding *and inspiring* part of Revelation 17: God put it in the minds of Europe's leaders to do what they're doing! Verse 17 reads, "For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled." The church leading the Holy Roman Empire is not God's true Church. But God does ALLOW this church to gain control of this German-led European beast power. Expect the Catholic Church to become more vocal and for this church-state axis to become more evident.

We do not hate Germany or the church that is the spiritual force motivating the Holy Roman Empire. Bible prophecy reveals that *God actually employs* this European superstate as an instrument by which He corrects some very evil nations.

That is INSPIRING TRUTH. RIGHT NOW, Revelation 17 is being fulfilled, and we are witnessing the emergence of the most powerful and frightening force ever, and the beginning of the most terrifying and violent period in mankind's history. But God is in TOTAL CONTROL!

God is watching and shaping everything so His will might be fulfilled. In Matthew 24 Jesus Christ says this European superstate will embark on a reign of terror. But He also comforts us by saying that God will intervene to *prevent* the ultimate catastrophe, mankind's annihilation.

Matthew 24 also reveals that at the end of the "great tribulation," JESUS CHRIST RETURNS TO EARTH! As we watch the rise of this Catholic-inspired, German-led beast, we must never forget: The emergence of this institution is a sign that the MOST JOYOUS event in history is about to take place! ■

# Taking Charge

Once more, Germany is leading Europe. Where will it end this time? **BY RON FRASER**



**“W**E BEAT THE GERMANS twice, and now they’re back.” British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher allegedly declared these words to an assemblage of European leaders on Dec. 8, 1989, one month after the Berlin Wall fell.

Three months later, Mrs. Thatcher invited historians and politicians to a discussion at her country residence to address the question, “How dangerous are the Germans?” After the seminar, Thatcher’s adviser Charles Powell said that the attendees agreed unanimously that “we should be nice to the Germans.”

Well, it’s not just since the reunification of Germany, but actually for the past 65 years we have been “nice to the Germans.” Nice enough to hand over the denazification process to the Germans within a few years of the end of the world war the Nazis started. Nice enough to the Germans to

revive their smashed economy through the Marshall Fund and supply starting fuel for its growth into a postwar miracle. And we have certainly been nice enough to the Germans since reunification to allow them free rein to develop their dream of a United States of Europe.

In fact, France is right now being so nice to the Germans that for the first time since German troops were banished from its soil following the Nazi invasion of World War II, a battalion of German combat troops is now formally stationed on the eastern border of that nation. This is being touted as “a gesture that showed the two European powers would never clash with guns and bullets” (Xinhua, Dec. 11, 2010).

Well, we’ll see.

But right now, amid a raging crisis for Europe’s currency, the euro, and the ongoing decline of American power, it is the Germans’ turn to be nice to all those who have been nice to them.

But, really, how nice are the Germans being right now?

Stratfor’s Peter Zeihan, in a keen piece of analysis, observed, “What most people haven’t realized in dealing with the European crisis is that in many ways this is a little intentional. ... Now, in modern Europe, *the Germans are back* on the scene.

“They have a foreign policy, they have opinions, and they’re acting upon them. And so *their goal is to actually restructure the rules, the laws, the institutions* that create the eurozone and make the common currency possible *to their own end*. And that end does not necessarily mean preventing bailouts, it does not even necessarily mean economic austerity. *It’s about making sure Berlin is large and in charge on the Continent*” (Dec. 10, 2010; emphasis mine throughout).

The EU in its present form has obviously had its day as far as Germany is concerned. Germany is reasserting its own national sovereignty over and above the collective of the European Union.

In a classic Germanic way, German elites are using Europe’s sovereign debt



## Irish crisis, German opportunity

**F**ACING ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND AT risk of spreading the contagion throughout the eurozone, Ireland caved in to EU elites' demands to accept a bailout, taking loans of up to around €90 billion on November 21.

This is a hammer blow to Ireland's national sovereignty. Ireland will now hand over control of much of its budget to Europe. The nation's economic policy from this point on will be subject to the purview of the EU's central bankers.

As in the previous Greek bailout, the Irish crisis brought German bullying tactics to the surface. Talk of "hit squads" descending on Ireland to force the EU's (Berlin's) will on the benighted Emerald Isle have added to a spreading sense that Germany is in command of the future direction of EU economic and fiscal policy—that the will of the German elites will prevail in the current crisis.

Marko Papić, Stratfor's analyst for European affairs, declared of the Irish financial crisis: "For Germany the bailout is *another opportunity* .... The uncertainty about the eurozone and its markets means that the euro is trading lower, which helps German exports immensely. Furthermore, *Germany is using the opportunity presented by the crisis to redesign the European Union and its institutions*—especially eurozone fiscal rules and the enforcement mechanisms for those rules. The real test for the eurozone therefore is not the panic level in Madrid or Lisbon or Dublin, but rather the extent to which the policymakers in Berlin are concerned" (Nov. 22, 2010).

It is not by accident that the economies of Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain are failing, risking spread of the contagion to other weaker European nations. It is a direct result of Germany imposing its single currency scheme on Europe!

Berlin and Frankfurt, through their lackeys in Brussels, usurped the means of exchange among European Monetary Union (EMU) member nations by replacing their national currencies with the euro. They seized control of setting member nations' interest rates. The next move is to seize control of their taxation systems. The ultimate third-party control of any EU member nation occurs when, economically exhausted by having sold itself to the EMU, the nation rolls over and capitulates to the controllers in Berlin, Brussels and Frankfurt—just like Ireland did in November.

In his book *The Breakdown of Europe*,

Sir Richard Body clearly articulates German intentions behind the monetary union scheme for the European Union: "The objective of a single currency in the European Union ... is to integrate formally and irrevocably all the economies of the member states. They will be merged into a single economy under the control of a single authority that will be (de facto if not de jure) a government."

Thus, the true intent behind the European Monetary Union is to consolidate control by a single entity over all European economies. The grave danger in all this is contained in economist Maynard Keynes's observation that "Whoever controls the currency controls the government."

Sir Richard further comments that as the Germanic single currency project matures, "A concentration of power over 350 million people will pass into the hands of a few ... the few will be the directors of the [European] central bank."

Ever wonder why the European Central Bank is located in Frankfurt, Germany, not Brussels as are the other centralized bureaus of the EU?

Dr. Walther Funk, Hitler's economic affairs minister, planned to have Berlin impose fixed rates of exchange in European countries. Such a plan would work against the growth of other European economies while allowing the Continent's strongest economy, Germany, to become ever richer, selling its manufactured goods on ever more favorable terms.

German elites have, in reality, imposed the Nazi vision of Dr. Funk on the modern-day economies of the European Union, with exactly the results he envisioned!

Europe's sovereign debt crisis is simply taking that old Nazi vision one step further. As Marko Papić so rightly stated, it is *creating the opportunity for Germany to entirely reshape the European Union to its will*.

The current crisis in Europe actually places us on the brink of the imminent fulfillment of the biblical prophecy of *the carving up of Europe into 10 specific regions* (Revelation 17:12-13), each under a dictatorial power in turn submitting to one overarching government, which the Prophet Daniel labels the king of the north (Daniel 11:13).

Watch for more "Irelands" in the EU over the coming months. And as you watch, note the progressive loss of sovereignty of EU member nations, with the dramatic exception of one—Germany!

crisis to bring EU member nations to heel in what will soon prove to be a dramatic restructuring of the EU into 10 specific regions under Berlin's control. (For an explanation of what informs that statement, request a free copy of our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

This theme popped up in a recent *Financial Times* blog. Under the title "Introducing Greater Germany" was a map of Europe—with countries viewed as German possessions colored blue. "The entire eurozone was blue," EUobserver wrote. "If you passed over the map with your mouse, a caption popped up: 'The area formerly known as the eurozone'" (Dec. 9, 2010). This article mused, "Perhaps the author was ... suggesting that through the EU's Bundesbank-inspired economic strictures, Germany, finally, in its third try at it, had managed to rule most of Europe." Interesting thought.

One thing is certain: The Germans are seizing the moment. Thatcher's words ring loudly today: *Now they're back*.

## Equal partners? Not anymore.

**U**P UNTIL RECENT TIMES, THE strength of the arrangement of convenience between France and Germany has kept designs on European unification alive. For years, the Europe project has represented France's effort to keep German political ambitions in check, and Germany's contentment with using France as a foil for its own expansionist goals.

But that is all now changing.

"France used to like to think of itself as equal partners with Germany in Europe. But aren't these two headed for a clash?" Peter Zeihan responded to the question adamantly: "Definitely. The question is when. At this point, France does not have

a better alternative. So long as Germany is willing to consult and even defer to France in many matters, the French are willing to let the Germans have their way with the financial system" (Stratfor, Dec. 10, 2010).

The team at German-Foreign-Policy.com has also highlighted the unhinging of the Franco-German relationship: "France is clearly lagging behind Germany in important targeted regions of its foreign policy," they wrote, citing a series of recent studies published by the German Council on Foreign Relations. "At the same time, Paris has, for the most part, adopted Berlin's foreign-policy priorities and—contrary to the 1990s—puts up

*no resistance to Berlin on basic issues. ... FRANCE'S LOSS OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE VIS-À-VIS BERLIN IS IN CORRELATION WITH ITS GROWING ECONOMIC LOSS OF GROUND VIS-À-VIS GERMANY. ... Overall, France is pursuing the same line of foreign policy as Germany and has given up previous deviating approaches. But France is clearly lagging behind the European hegemonic power"* (Dec. 6, 2010).

The clearest-thinking analysts see this fracturing of the postwar Franco-German platform upon which the EU has been largely built as highly dangerous and opening up the prospect of a more aggressive expansionist foreign policy from Berlin.

## Merging militaries: More than just lip service

**H**AVING SUCCEEDED IN UNITING Europe economically, commercially, politically and—albeit precarious—financially, Germany is doing what any imperialist power would do as its next move: consolidate its military and security structures. The German government is working to combine the EU's defense forces under German hegemony.

Deutsche Welle reported that ministers at a European Council defense meeting recently "gave their backing to a German and Swedish plan to analyze areas where more collaboration would be possible"

(Dec. 10, 2010). This is entirely consistent with German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg's policy of unifying both European defense industries and military forces.

Just last September, EU members agreed to the formation of a European Air Transport Command, a German idea. This plan is certain to open up other initiatives for EU member governments to unify the Continent's military structure—and it is all being driven by Berlin.

Germany is cleverly using the Continent's financial troubles to justify this

merging of EU military industry and defense capabilities. Defense Minister Guttenberg has declared that the "scarcity of resources in all nations" necessitates the pooling of skills and equipment to support other European states. "The commitment to European defense must be more than just lip service," Guttenberg wrote in an opinion piece for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* daily. "By intensifying our military cooperation, we will all benefit in the end" (Dec. 9, 2010).

Translate that statement, "What's good for Germany is going to be good for all!"

## Return of the SS?

**T**HE OTHER ARM OF ANY IMPERIAL power's security—in addition to military forces for the protection of its own borders and to reach beyond them to colonize weaker powers—is its police force.

German elites, ever ready to convert crisis into opportunity, have now used the terrorist threat as an excuse to consolidate the German state's policing structure. Already the increased terror threat in the country has resulted in airports, train stations and streets being patrolled by more machine-guntoting police. Now they want

to combine the two federal police forces, the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) and the Bundespolizei, into what some have called a "super-police force."

*Der Tagesspiegel*, a Berlin newspaper, sounded the following warning: "There has been a trend, driven by the federal government, since 1990 to centralize the security structure. And this in a country that historically hasn't had good experience with the centralization of the police. That's why the merging of the Bundeskriminalamt and the Bundespolizei should be watched carefully" (Dec. 10, 2010). Amen to that.

As Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière said, in the words of *Financial Times Deutschland*, "The reform is necessary to dispose of more than 60 years of duplication." But that's exactly the point. It is the duplication, or rather the separation of structures, within the German police force that gives it protection from evolving into something akin to the dreaded SS of Nazi infamy. Now Germany's Interior Ministry, by posing the prospect of a centralized super-police force, is again putting Germans—and the rest of Europe—at risk of the revival of such a dreaded system.

# The United States of Europe

**J**UST WHAT IS ALL THIS CENTRALIZING of power under Berlin going to produce within Europe?

Back in 1997, Hans Tietmeyer, then president of the German Bundesbank, stated to a group of Danish corporate executives that regarding the eurozone project, “Any split in real economic trends would naturally exert pressure in the direction of a transfer and social union, or even of a European ‘superstate.’ ... You in Denmark—if I understand it correctly—do not want [it], and ... we in Germany—I can assure you—do not want [it] either” (EUobserver, Dec. 9, 2010).

That was 14 years ago. A lot of water has tumbled under the EU bridge since then. And what do we have emerging today? Exactly what Tietmeyer said Germany did not want—an emerging superstate, with a centrally controlled currency, gearing toward a centralized command of a consolidated EU military structure, already possessing a centralized air command, centralizing control of industry standards, and a centralizing police force in the most centralist-minded EU nation of all: Germany.

As EUobserver put it, “It is no exaggeration to ask whether we are living in the last days of the eurozone, or the first days of a United States of Europe” (ibid.).

*A United States of Europe!*

Sound familiar?

It certainly would had you been one of the multiple millions worldwide who heard a lone voice crying out over the airwaves warning of this prospect throughout the latter half of the 20th century.

## A Clarion Warning

Does the name Herbert Armstrong ring a bell? It certainly should to many who lived from the 1930s to the mid-1980s. Through the voice of the *World Tomorrow* radio and television program, and the pages of the *Plain Truth* magazine, Herbert Armstrong warned the world for decades of what was about to rise up in Europe.

Thirty-five years ago, Herbert Armstrong warned, “Germany is the economic and military heart of Europe. *Probably Germany will LEAD AND DOMINATE the coming United States of Europe.*”

Five years later, he wrote, “The new GIANT WORLD POWER of the *United States of Europe*—the revived ‘HOLY RO-

MAN EMPIRE’ of 554 to 1814—could

conceivably now emerge to stun the whole world in wonder .... This whole situation is extremely serious. The whole world is aflame and in chaos .... The formation of the *United States of Europe* ... is close at hand” (*Good News*, January 1980).

A couple of years later he declared in a message to his supporters, “I have known for years (and you have heard me proclaim again, and again, and again) that the United States of Europe is coming. They are going to unite—10 nations in Europe; and the Vatican will be on top of the heap .... All the pieces are falling into place now, all of a sudden .... All are going to look on with absolute dumbfounded wonder when they see this *United States of Europe* rise up” (Nov. 17, 1982).

Just months before his death on Jan. 16, 1986, Herbert Armstrong again declared in the *Plain Truth* of June 1985, “This coming ‘United States of Europe’ is the dream of many leaders—not only within Europe, but in Britain and America. The Common Market is only its economic beginning.

“Every indication is that this ADVANCE NEWS will be *current* news. And it will completely STUN THE WORLD! Yet the *Plain Truth* has reported this news in advance for the past 51 years!

“Can you envision what that will mean in the world’s balance of power?”

Well we hardly have to imagine that today. Germany is once again the dominant power in Europe. It is back and working hard and fast at the business of once again becoming not only the holder of the balance of power in Europe, but also a dominant world power that will, for a moment in time, tip the global balance of power in its own favor.

It is already happening.

In the run-up to the November G-20 summit, German voices strongly criticized America cranking up the printing presses to try to stave off the inevitable declaration of the bankruptcy of the United States. A couple of Reuters journalists noted that “Berlin has taken the rhetoric to a new level.” They quoted Anton Boerner, head of Germany’s Foreign Trade Association, as observing, “The Atlantic is getting wider” through a “creeping alienation” between America and Europe, which has been exacerbated by the

global financial crisis” (Nov. 10, 2010).

It starts with the rhetoric, a war of words—and as it takes its inevitable course, it ends in hot war. That has happened so many times throughout history.

The current U.S. administration is yet to score one foreign-policy success in its two years of existence. In the meantime, Germany is racking up foreign-policy success upon success. It has been doing it from its first excursion into the foreign-policy arena as a united nation, back in 1990, when it recognized Croatia and Slovenia as sovereign states separate from the greater Yugoslavia and promptly sparked the Balkan wars.

Now, Germany is becoming an expansionist military power of note, and it will—courtesy of a consolidated, centralized European military force, incorporating NATO assets no doubt—spark more wars in its drive for global power. Queen’s Counsel and former lawyer for the British security services Michael Shrimpton believes that Germany is preparing for hot war within two years, no doubt as it gears up to react to the Islamist terrorist threat.

The results will, yet for a third time, prove disastrous for the rest of the world, in particular the U.S., and Britain with its dominions.

So where will this all lead? One has but to have a mind to history to answer that question in the immediate term.

Yet, the real question to be answered is, where will this all *ultimately* lead? How will it affect your future and the future of your loved ones?

You need to read our inspiring free booklet *The Key of David*. It will help unlock the future to you in fantastic detail. It

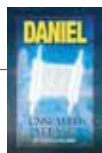
will give you a mind-expanding vision of not only what the immediate future holds. It will expand your vision to see way be-

yond the coming world chaos to a fantastic future which the Savior of humankind will impose, under the rule of godly law, to finally bring peace to this strife-torn, war-weary world.

That will be a time when all peoples—German, Jew, Israelite, Gentile—will learn to live together in harmony and build a world such as man has only imagined and never achieved: a literal paradise on Earth!

**“They are going to unite—10 nations in Europe; and the Vatican will be on top of the heap.”**

**HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG**



Read of the next prophesied phase of the fulfillment of the great prophecies for Europe in our free booklets ***Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*** and ***Daniel—Unsealed at Last!***

BY DENNIS LEAP

**R**ECENTLY I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY to work with a group of people from starkly different backgrounds. Most of our conversations were simply small talk. Yet one woman was surprisingly open about her life. Without prodding, she often articulately explained her philosophy on sex and relationships. Having been married and divorced multiple times, she now welcomed “no strings attached” sexual encounters. She thrilled at the hunt and the conquest.

However, studying her over a period of time I noticed that she was often depressed. One day she came to me and asked, “Why does casual sex hurt people?”

This painfully honest question deserves a truthful answer.

Casual sex is sex for physical pleasure only, without emotional connection, no strings attached. Often it’s a one-time occurrence. It includes any kind of sex act with anyone, heterosexual or homosexual. In its rawest form it involves total strangers—no names, no history, no tomorrow. It coldly seeks to suppress the development of any type of relationship.

Casual sex has been glamorized in movies and on television. Casual sex membership websites, often accompanied with pornographic material, make it easy for partners to hook up. Many authors praise its advantages. They assure us of the thrilling excitement of the casual sex lifestyle. Its joys are made to appear unquestionable.

The philosophy underlying all this hype is that marriage is out; casual sex is harmless fun; everyone is doing it; you are missing out—just do it!

This is a seriously flawed philosophy. Risks are minimized. The threat of possible lifelong damage is ignored.

Let’s face the problem squarely. The misuse of sex brings incredible personal sorrow. Monogamous, *marital sex* is the only source of true fun.

Casual sex is extremely risky and harmful to *all* involved. Yet, without question, casual sex experimentation is most destructive to our youth. All parents must come to grips with this problem. Why? Young adults and the *youngest* of teens are the most likely to be taken in by such thinking.

The current adult generation has yet to deal with the problem of and the problems caused by promiscuous sex. Our sex-crazed society willfully overlooks the bad fruits of its actions.

# The Emotional Corrosion of Casual

Contraceptives—including condoms—are not the solution. The harm done goes much deeper than an unwanted pregnancy or being struck by a health-threatening sexual disease.

New brain research proves that there is no such thing as safe sex outside of marriage. How science has come to this conclusion is amazingly interesting.

## The Brain and Sex

Neuroscience research has uncovered useful information about how sex affects the human brain. Using MRI techniques, scientists have gained a clear picture of what takes place within the brain during sexual activity. Although it is not new knowledge, science confirms that the use of sex can either give us wholeness—or damage us, possibly for a lifetime. These scientific facts add support to necessary sex instruction that must be provided to protect our teens and young adults.

Joe McIlhaney and Freda Bush, both ob-gyns, have taken the current neuroscience research and translated it into a plain-speaking, easy-to-understand book titled *Hooked*. Dr. McIlhaney also founded the Medical Institute for Sexual Health in order to tackle the global epidemics of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). These two medical professionals have much experience in working with teens and young adults. They have seen the incredible damage done to our youth as a result of the improper use of sex.

In *Hooked*, the duo confront the emotional and psychological damage casual sex does to young, developing brains. “[W]ith the aid of modern research techniques and technologies, scientists are confirming that sex is more than a

momentary physical act,” they write. “It produces powerful, even lifelong changes in our brains that direct and influence our future to a surprising degree.”

In other words, the use of sex can either keep the human brain healthy or severely damage it.

## Emotional Bonding

The brain has been described as the largest human sex organ. Neuroscience confirms this fact. Sex triggers a magnificent biochemical process within the human brain. Three different chemicals flood the brain from initiation to completion of the sexual act: dopamine and oxytocin in women, and dopamine and vasopressin in men. Each chemical is designed to fulfill a specific purpose.

Dopamine is known as a feel-good chemical rewarding us when we accomplish something thrilling or exhilarating.



ISTOCK PHOTO



# Sex

Runners often experience dopamine highs during exercise. Dopamine has an addictive property that causes us to want to repeat whatever we have accomplished.

Oxytocin is present in both males and females, but it has a far more important role in the life of a woman. Science has known for some time that oxytocin is present when a mother nurses her baby. It aids and accelerates the human bonding process between the mother and child. During sex, the release of oxytocin in the female brain helps a woman bond with her mate.

Vasopressin serves a similar function in males. Besides helping a man to bond with his children, during sex it aids bonding with his mate.

How does all of this relate to casual sex? McIlhane and Bush connect the dots. They emphasize that parents need to understand the role these hormones play in sexual experience.

Concerning dopamine and young people having casual sex, they write: “It seems that the dopamine reward signal is working very well in these young people. Once they experience sex, they want to repeat it again and again. We have discussed elsewhere how sex is similar to drug, alcohol, or nicotine addiction; it is understandable that a young (or older) person would want to experience that same rush again” (ibid.).

The dopamine reward process in the brain is *values-neutral*: It cannot distinguish between positive or negative behavior. If an individual gets a thrill out of risky sex, the dopamine reward will encourage the repetition of the risky behavior.

## Loss of Connectedness

The dopamine reward for sex is intensely powerful. Thus, a sexually active couple upon breakup will often move quickly to sexual intercourse with a new person. In a culture that encourages casual sex, many people are moving quickly from *partner to partner*. Sexual addiction is often the result. The tabloids are full of accounts of the broken lives of people suffering from

this addiction.

Certainly this is a terrible problem that is extremely difficult to overcome. Yet those who move from partner to partner suffer even greater damage.

The bonding biochemicals oxytocin and vasopressin are just as powerful as dopamine. Neuroscience shows that these hormones are released with intimate physical contact such as hugging or kissing. McIlhane and Bush explain: “When two people join physically, powerful neurohormones are released because of the sexual experience, making an impression on the synapses in their brains and hardwiring their bond. When they stay together for life their bonding matures. This is a major factor that keeps them together, providing a desire for intercourse, resulting in offspring, and assuring those offspring of a nurturing two-parent home in which to grow” (ibid.). Although not new knowledge, science confirms the immeasurable value of monogamous sex within marriage.

Science also affirms a destructive downside to casual sex. The doctors explain: “[E]very time a person has sexual intercourse or intimate physical contact, bonding takes place. Whenever breakups occur in bonded relationships there is confusion and often pain in the brains of the young people involved because the bond has been broken.”

The problem described here also has much deeper and long-lasting effect. The authors report: “Further, there is evidence that when this sex/bonding/breaking-up cycle is repeated a few or many times—even when the bonding was short-lived—damage is done to the important, built-in ability to develop significant and meaningful connection to other human beings.”

Living a casual sex lifestyle spawns a loss of human connectedness. The truth is, we all need human attachment to survive and thrive. Right use of sex promotes personal wholeness and builds stable family life. Casual sex, by contrast, impairs an individual’s ability to form lifelong relationships.

McIlhane and Bush warn that in fact, the emotional corrosion caused by casual sex makes people *less than human*: “It may sound blunt, but if we try to eliminate this connectedness from sex, we remove the uniquely human aspect of it, and the sexual act becomes nothing more than raw animal behavior.” It is time well spent to think deeply about that quote.

## Abstinence Until Marriage

Let’s be honest. Science is uncovering what God knew thousands of years ago.

God placed within the pages of the Bible vital instruction on the proper uses of sex. Just after the creation of Eve and while at the first marriage ceremony, God taught our first parents to “be one flesh.” The newly created couple were to use sex to bind them together for life. They were also instructed to multiply—build a family that would rule and beautify the Earth (Genesis 2:24). There was no shame to sex within this God-ordained boundary (verse 25).

The Bible also warns of the penalties that accompany the abuse of it. Study Romans 1:26-28, 1 Corinthians 6:9, and 2 Peter 2:6.

We shouldn’t need science to tell us what God has already told us. Unfortunately, we have ignored God. It is likely that humans will also ignore the evidence of science.

Human sexuality was designed by a great Creator God to bestow lifelong benefits to mankind. To reap those benefits, sex must remain within the bounds of marriage. Abstinence until marriage is the only workable safe-sex practice. It is interesting to note that a survey taken among teens revealed that 93 percent of the teens questioned believe that teens need to be given a strong abstinence message from parents and other adults.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote this in his book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*: “God designed sex to produce pure, righteous, clean, holy and rich blessings! He made it to be the loving bond which not only would inspire a properly mated couple to marry but which would preserve that marriage in love. Sex should be the energizing magnet to draw constantly closer and closer together with increasing love a husband and wife . . .”

This wonderful, factual book is available to you at no charge upon request. Mr. Armstrong used the Bible and science to provide the *missing dimension* so prevalent in sex knowledge today. In the hands of loving parents, this book is the best tool to instruct our youth on how to avoid the damage caused by casual sex. ■



**FREE  
upon  
request**



# Longing to Live

Life doesn't last forever. But our quest to extend it has raised some vital questions—and obscured some others.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

**T**HE PAIN IS KILLING HIS WIFE, and John is knotted up with grief over it.

“One of the greatest difficulties of any human being I think is to watch another who you love suffer,” he says.

His wife isn't sick. *John* is the one with cancer. He's the one with constricted breathing, erratic sleep, diarrhea, nausea, exhaustion. He's the one in pain. Incessant, almost incomprehensible pain. He takes just enough medication to manage the misery without befogging his mind or building his body's resistance to the treatment more than necessary.

But all the while, his wife is right there waiting on him, feeding him, cleaning him, praying with him, weeping with him. As strong and as loyal as she is, John can see the suffering consuming her life along with his own.

“In some ways this absolutely rips and tears at the very chords of your marriage,” John says. “The marriage is a team. When one is sick, you have more trials—and only half the team. It devastates you.”

The questions and trials surrounding dying and death are among the most excruciating that human beings face. For both the victims and their families.

“Nobody wants to die. And nobody wants to die badly,” says Judith Nelson.

Nelson has wrestled death firsthand like few people. She specializes in end-of-life care. A doctor in the intensive care unit of one of America's most highly regarded hospitals, she regularly serves people on the edge of life, grappling with the unknown beyond.

Nelson recently appeared in a heart-rending *Frontline* episode called “Facing Death,” about doctors and families at New York City's Mount Sinai Medical Center struggling with the raw, painful decisions involved in treating terminal patients.

How much have you thought about it? There is something remarkable, even noble, in this near-universal quality among people and all living things. We want to preserve the spark of life we possess.

Inhabiting perishable bodies, living in an ephemeral world, we pretend life is permanent. Then, rude reality intrudes. Our bodies age and fail. Our friends pass away. Our families suffer loss. And still we are loath to face it. Even in intensive care, where it hangs in the air, the words *die*, *dying* and *death* are almost never uttered.

Dr. Nelson's profession peddles hope. To patients stricken with fatal conditions, it offers an ever growing menu of treatments. A chance of escaping the inescapable.

At the same time, it also creates some gut-wrenching conundrums, and raises questions that are deeply important for each one of us to consider.

## A “Fiction” in Modern Medicine

Medicinal and therapeutic innovation expands the decision-making capacity and responsibility for people facing death. “[T]here's almost always something else that we can do to put off the inevitable—another course of chemotherapy, a little bit more radiation,” says David Muller, dean of medical education at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. “What if we got one more CAT scan? What if we explored this person's belly one more time? There's

always the nagging concern in the back of your mind, ‘Have I really left no stone unturned?’”

In addition to the treatments available, machinery makes it possible to keep a body's vital functions operating—heart beating, blood flowing, lungs pumping—almost indefinitely.

The gritty drive to use any means necessary to preserve life is understandable—some would even say heroic. But these advancements also have a downside. While offering promise to sick patients, the range of possible treatments also creates a formidable set of expectations for modern medicine to live up to. And in most cases, it is simply not equal to the task.

“[T]he availability of the therapies has created this fiction that we can orchestrate this one way or the other, when the truth of it is that, for all of this magnificent technology, the underlying illness and the medical condition of the patient are far and away the most important factors in determining the outcome,” Dr. Nelson says. “But it feels like, when you have the technology available, that your decisions to use or not use it are like the decisions to allow life or not allow life. And that's not a position that any of us want to be in.”

This moral dilemma is a striking by-product of contemporary health care. Nobody wants to die. Death is an intimidating enemy; it has never been easy to confront. But accepting the reality of a body succumbing to a fatal disease becomes *more* difficult when accompanied

## For so many, the last days of life are spent not in peace, but in warfare, armed only with faith in the frail weapons of science.

by the notion—however false—that it was a choice. *I choose death. Do not resuscitate.*

Given that choice, fewer and fewer take it. Per person, Americans spend more on health care than any other people worldwide; the bill totaled \$2.5 trillion in 2009. More Americans now die in hospitals than anywhere else, often after significant medical intervention. According to Dr. Nelson, there are about 100,000 critical patients on artificial respirators at any given moment in America. Their treatments generate a bill of \$20 billion to \$25 billion per year. But there is another, more intangible cost.

“[T]hese are the broken survivors of intensive care,” Nelson says. “And the better intensive care gets, the more of these broken survivors we have.”

### “We Have His Body”

One of these broken survivors is Ryan. He is 21 years old and has been in an “eyes-open coma” for over a year after receiving a horrendous beating. He must be fed through a tube attached to his stomach. He has received nine surgeries, and his heart stopped beating at least twice. Doctors estimate he has a 10 to 20 percent chance of waking up, probably into “basic consciousness, closer to being an infant than an adult.” A year of Ryan’s medical care costs half a million dollars.

Ryan is tended to around the clock by his father. Ken quit his job so he could remain with his son, brushing his teeth, bathing him, administering his medications (50 of them), changing his catheter, stretching his limbs.

Concerned family and friends have formed a prayer group for Ryan. But Ken no longer believes in prayer. “What kind of God would allow this to happen?” he asks. “What kind of God wouldn’t correct it?”

A *Washington Post* article about these two shattered lives quotes Ken testifying at a court hearing for Austin, the 19-year-old boy who kicked his son in the head in a parking lot fight and is now serving time for malicious assault. “My fantasy is to have two minutes in a locked room with a baseball bat,” Ken says ominously. Austin, he promises, “won’t come out in any worse condition than my son.”

Then he relays a bitter fact: that, though losing a child is said to be life’s worst experience, this

is worse. “We have his body,” he says, “but we don’t have his mind” (Dec. 2, 2010).

Ken and his family ask themselves whether it would have been better for Ryan if he had died the night he was beaten. You may think you know the answer. But had it been your son, and had you been offered the hope—however slim—that with the right treatment, he could still have a future, would you have decided differently?

### Putting Off the Big Questions

At the heart of the issue is a painful paradox.

Doctors are applying the utmost of their intellectual and creative powers to pursue the fundamentally benevolent goal of giving individuals a valuable, albeit fleeting gift: more years of precious life. More years to deepen relationships, to create memories, to share wisdom, to dare exploits, to fulfill dreams.

At the same time, they recognize that it is impossible to indefinitely defy human mortality. They have no power to heal. And in many cases, their treatments actually *harm* patients, diminishing quality of life and hastening death. Thus they, along with patients and their families, confront agonizing choices about how much therapy to administer, treading uncertain ground, guided by probabilities and feelings.

“There’s no question that the technology has saved, in a meaningful way, hundreds of thousands, if not millions of lives,” Dr. Muller says. By “lives,” of course, he is referring to *years*, since the most successful treatment can only put off the date of one’s death. He continues, “But with those advances and all of that progress comes an ultimate tradeoff. And the toll is sometimes devastating on the patients themselves, on their family, their loved ones, and on the health care system.”

Three in four Americans say they believe in life after death. But just what that might be remains shrouded in mystery for most people. They simply have never closely examined the subject. Maybe they’re afraid to.

Modern medical advances have clearly given years—of varying degrees of quality—to many people. At the same time, these advances have enabled us to *put off* the fundamental questions that our mortality raises. With death looming, we

become preoccupied with essentially *material* concerns—options, treatments, schedules, odds. For so many, the last days of life are spent not in peace, but in warfare, armed only with faith in the frail weapons of science. We pour what little life we have into fighting the enemy that will end it. And ultimately, that “rage against the dying of the light” always ends in defeat.

Modern medicine promises a kind of immortality. It suggests that our energies are best put toward employing every means to extend physical existence as long as possible. If we are not careful, this “fiction,” as Dr. Nelson termed it, can preempt the important *spiritual* concerns that should dominate our thinking, even our decision-making, as we contemplate the inescapability of death.

### At Peace With Death

Harry has a tumor in his left lung. Nine months ago, doctors said he would live another six months to a year. He is gradually adapting to new inconveniences and discomforts: soreness that forces him to sleep only on his right side; a couple of hours each day sucking oxygen from a machine; upset stomach; numbness and unresponsiveness in his left foot.

Doctors have tried to sell him on getting radiation and chemotherapy treatments, but he has refused. “I’m 80 years old, and I didn’t want to spend all that time in the hospital,” he says with a smile. He has chosen instead to address his condition through a restricted diet, some simple natural treatments—and faith.

“I’ve placed it in God’s hands. Whether I live or die, He can control that,” Harry says. “I want to do everything I can that’s logical and makes sense to help myself, and leave the rest to Him.”

Harry wants to live. But he is frank, clear-headed and unafraid about death. “If God says it’s time to go, okay. I do feel I’m learning some lessons from this trial which are good for me—and I’m thankful for that.” He is focused less on his physical health than on his spiritual health.

John has taken the same approach, but the advanced state of his cancer makes it more difficult. “I wish I would have known how fatiguing this would be,” he says, “so that I would have prepared myself spiritually more for it in advance.”

# Comfort One Another With These Words

**H**EBREWS 6:1-2 show that the resurrection is one of the foundational doctrines taught by your Bible. And it is the knowledge of the resurrection that gives us *God's mind* about the purpose of life—and the meaning of death.

There are several references in the Old Testament to the resurrection, but only the Prophet Daniel begins to hint that there might be *more than one* resurrection. Daniel wrote, “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2). In the New Testament, Jesus Christ said, “... the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation [judgment]” (John 5:28-29).

In Acts 24:15, the Apostle Paul plainly stated “that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” Paul wrote at length regarding the resurrections in 1 Corinthians 15.

The simple truth of your Bible is that there will be three resurrections (Revelation 20:4-15). The first will be at Christ's return to Earth (1 Corinthians 15:22-23) when He will resurrect to eternal spirit life those who have received God's Holy Spirit in order to belong to Christ (Romans 8:9) and who have overcome and endured in God's ways and held fast to God's truth (Revelation 3:11-12; 21:7).

This reality explains God's perspective on the end of physical life: “*Precious* in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints” (Psalm 116:15).

The second resurrection will occur 1,000 years *after* Christ's return (Revelation 20:11-12). Those in this resurrection will be given human

*physical bodies* once again. For the first time, they will receive the opportunity to *understand* God's precious truth and put it into practice in their lives (Isaiah 30:20-21) so that they, too, can be added to the spirit-composed Family of God (Ephesians 3:14-15).

This second resurrection gives us the sure hope of again seeing even those loved ones who never knew the truth of God. Every human being only gets one opportunity to respond to God's truth! Just because a person has lived does not mean they understood God's truth. They will receive their *one* opportunity in the second resurrection!

The third resurrection will also be a *resurrection to physical life*, but the end result of this resurrection will be *eternal death*, complete cessation of life—not an eternity boiling and bubbling in an ever burning hell-fire, but *death*. These individuals understood God's truth and ways but rejected them, through either rebellion or weakness (Hebrews 10:26-27; Revelation 20:13-15; 21:8). God will mercifully impose an eternal death penalty upon them to prevent them from becoming ever living, miserable wretches like Satan the devil.

God's plan in Scripture inspires tremendous hope—a hope offered to every person who has ever lived.

The Apostle Paul, in explaining this truth, wrote thus: “I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep [are dead], that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Then, after describing the first resurrection in glorious detail, he concluded by admonishing us, in verse 18, “Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

Even with faith in God, facing death can be exceedingly difficult, particularly when ongoing pain is involved. “It drives you beyond what you think you can possibly stand, in every way—mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally, financially,” John says. “These things wreak havoc on your emotions, your motivation, your desire to live.”

Even Jesus Christ, who was perfect in faith, struggled mightily as He faced His own death, praying with penetrating emotion that He could *avoid* the suffering He faced (read Matthew 26:36-44 and Luke 22:41-44).

Still, though, there is a serenity that comes from saying, as Jesus did, “Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

And there is tremendous peace in recognizing and understanding the value of the spiritual over and above the physical. What, after all, *is* the real *purpose* for life? Using every possible means to stretch it for a few more years does nothing to answer that fundamental question.

And what happens after death?

hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable,” wrote the Apostle Paul.

This was a man who faced death with confidence. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand,” he wrote. “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Paul longed to *live*, just as we all do. But what he alluded to was not an empty hope of extending his physical life—but the *true* hope expounded in Scripture.

It is a hope founded in understanding God's wonderful purpose in creating man *mortal*, subjecting us to the trials of the flesh—an experience that, in order to fulfill that purpose, He even put His only begotten Son through (e.g. Hebrews 2:9).

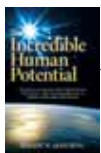
Many people believe that men possess immortal souls, and that when they die, depending on their choices in life, they go to either heaven or hell. The Bible is clear, however, that souls are *not* immortal—they can die (e.g. Matthew 10:28; Ezekiel

18:4, 20; Romans 6:23). Scripture says that when we die, our “thoughts perish” and that “the dead know not anything” (Psalm 146:3-4; Ecclesiastes 9:5; see also Psalms 6:5; 115:17). Jesus Christ Himself said that “no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven” (John 3:13).

The true hope of Scripture is not about our possessing an “immortal soul,” or about the “miracles” of medical intervention. It is the promise of **RESURRECTION**. It is the promise that, “as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall **ALL** be *made alive*”—and that ultimately, “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:22, 26). Human death means nothing to God except a *temporary sleep* (verses 51-55), because God can **RESURRECT** humans from the grave!

There is a reason—a wonderful, inspiring reason—that something within us clings to life. A reason we crave permanence, even as our physical existence passes like a shadow. We were, in fact, created to *inherit eternity*.

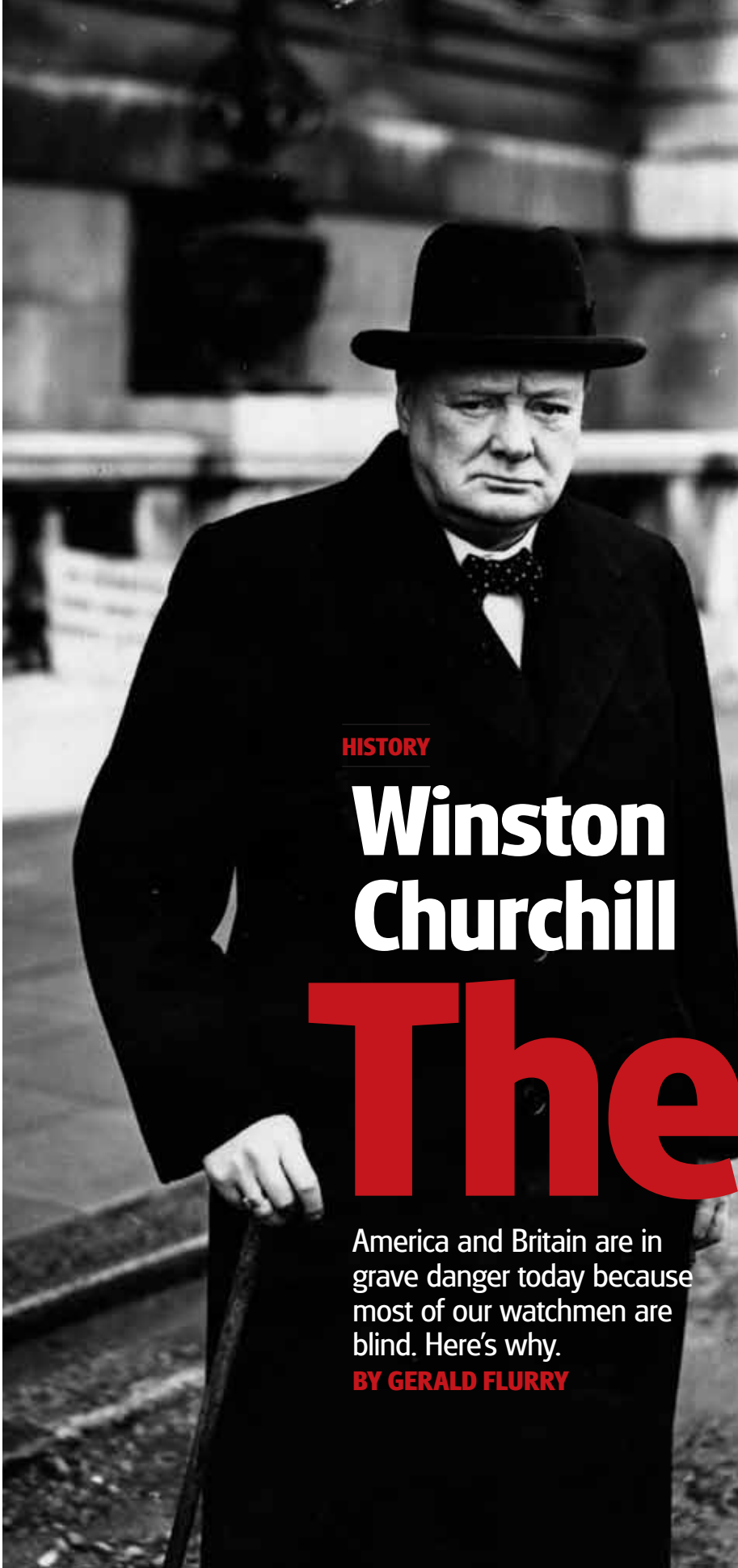
How much have you thought about it? ■



## Real Hope

“If *in this life* ONLY we have

The truths about the purpose for human life and what happens after death are revealed in Scripture. For a riveting exposition of them, request Herbert Armstrong's inspiring book **The Incredible Human Potential**.



HISTORY

# Winston Churchill

# The War

America and Britain are in grave danger today because most of our watchmen are blind. Here's why.

BY GERALD FLURRY

IN 1932, THERE WERE 2 MILLION members in the Nazi Party; 400,000 men belonged to Hitler's semi-military "storm troopers." Three of the Nazis' most strident demands were: 1) They wanted an end to the Versailles Treaty—a treaty to make the Germans pay for the damage they caused by starting World War I! 2) They wanted to rearm—something they were not allowed to do after World War I. 3) THEY DEMANDED THAT GERMAN JEWS BE REMOVED FROM ALL WALKS OF GERMAN LIFE.

This last demand should have alerted the world to where Germany's rearmament would lead! Any good watchman should have understood and warned the people. Actually, there was only one prominent leader who was alarmed by what was happening in Germany. He spoke out publicly against it. That man was Winston Churchill. He wanted to see Britain strengthen its weak military. Yet Britain's foreign secretary, Sir John Simon, was working feverishly to get the British government to rapidly and comprehensively disarm! His appeal gained strong and enthusiastic support. Other members of Parliament were also working to achieve that goal.

Winston Churchill was a watchman crying in the wilderness.

How could so many of our leaders in the United States and Britain—almost all of them—have been so weak in dealing with Hitler? Why was the British Parliament thinking of disarming as Germany rapidly rearmed?

Across the Atlantic, America was assuming a similarly passive posture. We might have remained that way throughout World War II if Japan hadn't directly provoked us at Pearl Harbor. As Edward R. Murrow said, "America didn't enter into the war, they were bombed into it."

Our leaders lacked the *watchman* quality of a strong leader like Churchill. He faced reality and spoke the truth in a dangerous world. Most leaders in the U.S. and UK lived in a weak world of illusion.

Martin Gilbert wrote the greatest biography ever of this great leader, *Winston S. Churchill*. In Volume 5, *The Prophet of*

*Truth*, he wrote, “Into Europe’s ‘highly complicated and electrical situations,’ Churchill declared, ‘our well-meaning but thoughtless and RECKLESS PACIFISTS expect us to plunge with sweeping gestures, ENCOURAGED BY LONG-DISTANCE HALLOOS FROM THE UNITED STATES’” (emphasis mine throughout).

The U.S. was even more pacifist than Britain. Both nations made horrendous misjudgments about Hitler. We should be embarrassed even today by our shameful fear and weakness against one of the worst tyrants ever.

The big question is, did we learn anything from this towering mistake that almost cost us our freedom? Did Churchill’s example teach us why we made such colossal misjudgments? The answer is no to both questions.

Those who fail to learn from history are destined to repeat its catastrophes! Today a nuclear first strike is apt to win the next major war. So our margin for error is much smaller. That means we would have to stop a Hitler-type movement *before* it gained power.

Never was there a greater need for political and media watchmen!

We can’t afford the pacifist attitude we had before World War II and survive nationally. Yet our pacifist attitude today is far worse than it was then. And China, Russia and other nations are exploiting that weakness.

One of Winston Churchill’s greatest biographers, William Manchester, said that Churchill “saved Western civilization” in

and, because he was the very symbol of John Bull, Churchillian. He cherished, as a law of history, the principle that a people who flout these virtues is doomed to decay and dissolution, and that a people who respect them will prosper and survive.”

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

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

### The Lessons of History

Commager wrote, “[Churchill] accepted, instinctively, the attitude toward history which that century took for granted: that history, in the words of Bolingbroke, was philosophy TEACHING BY EXAMPLES. What is more, he was quite ready to stand there and point to the examples. Indeed we can say of Churchill what he himself wrote of Rosebery, that ‘THE PAST STOOD EVER AT HIS ELBOW AND WAS THE COUNSELOR UPON WHOM HE MOST RELIED. HE SEEMED TO BE ATTENDED BY LEARNING AND HISTORY, AND TO CARRY INTO CURRENT EVENTS AN AIR OF ANCIENT MAJESTY.’

“Nowhere does this appear more simply than in the ‘Grand Theme’ which Churchill imposed upon his history of *The Second World War*: ‘In War: Resolution; In Defeat: Defiance; In Victory: Magnanimity; In Peace: Good Will.’ HE READ HISTORY AS A STUPENDOUS MORAL SCRIP-

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

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

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

“Fourth, history bore witness to the VITAL IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL CHARACTER, FOR CHARACTER WAS AS IMPORTANT TO A PEOPLE AS TO AN INDIVIDUAL, AND EVERY NATION MUST BE ALERT TO DEFEND AND PRESERVE IT. That each nation had a special character Churchill did not doubt, and as he contemplated the long arch of centuries he was led to a fifth conclusion, that it was, above all, the English character which had lighted up the corridors of time, flickering now and then but mostly pure and clear and even luminous—the English character and that of England’s daughter nations around the globe.” TODAY, CHARACTER ISN’T EVEN IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO RAISE AS A POLITICAL ISSUE IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA!

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

“Battles,’ he wrote in the *Marlborough*, ‘are the principal milestones in secular history. ... ALL GREAT STRUGGLES OF HISTORY HAVE BEEN WON BY SUPERIOR WILL

# Churchman

World War II—not just Britain and Europe.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT WE LEARN FROM THAT CIVILIZATION-SAVING HISTORY?

Henry Steele Commager wrote an introduction to Winston Churchill’s biography of his ancestor, *Marlborough*. In it Mr. Commager 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 for him the writing was, if not divinely inspired, at least *authoritative*. More, it was straightforward and simple. History was a struggle between the forces of right or wrong, freedom and tyranny, the future and the past. By great good fortune Churchill’s own people—‘this island race,’ as he called them—were on the side of right, progress and enlightenment; by great good fortune, too, it was given to him to buckle these virtues onto him as armor in the struggle for a righteous cause.

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

## HISTORY

POWER wresting victory in the teeth of odds.' [Our WILL POWER has been broken (Leviticus 26:19).] And elsewhere he concluded flatly that "THE STORY OF THE HUMAN RACE IS WAR." Like those statesmen he most admired, Marlborough, Chatham, Wolfe, Clive, Washington, Lee, he was himself a war leader; alone of great war leaders HE WAS A GREAT WAR HISTORIAN.

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

### Education Has Failed Us

Today we hear many academic voices telling people that learning history is of little or no value. This is an *extremely dangerous* trend that may be too entrenched to correct.

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

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

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

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

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

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

What a disturbing survey! MOST OF THE STUDENTS—78 PERCENT—DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE EVEN ONE HISTORY COURSE!

Numerous authorities credit Winston Churchill with saving Western civilization. Churchill could not have accomplished that UNPARALLELED FEAT unless he had been steeped in HISTORY. It would have been impossible for him to become one of the greatest political watchmen ever without his profound understanding of history.

In spite of this recent World War II history, our universities in America and Britain hardly require any courses in history. How important is a deep understanding of *history*? Massive *fruits* from Churchill's life in World War II loudly proclaim the

importance of learning history.

How deplorable and dangerously lacking is much of our education today! These institutional leaders deserve the same contempt for *not* teaching history that most of them display toward teaching history.

IT IS INEXCUSABLE AND DEADLY DANGEROUS!

Educators are often out of touch with reality. And our people will pay the bloody price!

Educational institutions have produced most of our political and media watchmen today. The *fruits* are horrendously bad.

Most of these watchmen are ignorant of history and deeply confused in a world whose number one problem is that of human survival.

When are we going to wake up?

### History Is Prophecy

Churchill made some astounding prophecies before and during World War II. Many of them came true because of his profound understanding of history. He believed that history is prophecy.

He prophesied what Germany would do in World War II because he understood German history so well. The Germans simply repeated what they had done so often in the past. For example, they not only started

World War II, they also started World War I! And many other wars before that!

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

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

If we have a deep understanding of history, it's much easier for us to learn Bible prophecy.

God *always* sends His watchman to warn Israel (that includes America and

Numerous authorities credit Winston Churchill with saving Western civilization. Churchill could not have accomplished that unparalleled feat unless he had been steeped in history.

Britain) of imminent disasters. That is a historical fact.

Those who heed and support that watchman are protected from the catastrophes. They are also given majestic leadership roles in the imminent wonderful World Tomorrow. (Request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.)

### Murrow and Churchill

Here is what Joseph E. Persico wrote in his book titled *Edward R. Murrow*: "Murrow freely confessed that Churchill had been his hero. His own language was influenced by Churchill, not so much the rolling and grandiloquent sonorities, but the other Churchill, the one who spoke in simple, powerful Anglo-Saxon imagery that sounded like the Bible in modern dress. He saw Churchill as 'a gallant gambler, an aristocrat, AN HISTORIAN, and 18th-century cavalry officer ... and an indestructible juvenile .... He is, I think, the most considerable man to walk the stage of world history in 50 years.'"

The "historian" Churchill was Murrow's hero.

During World War II, Murrow, a media watchman, became acquainted with Churchill in a most unusual way.



“[Murrow] was not bothered at being out of doors in the middle of an air raid. He had thought through that risk. He never had gone into an air-raid shelter, except to get a story. ‘Once you start going into shelters,’ he told Larry Le Sueur, ‘you lose your nerve.’ Following his example, Janet did not go into shelters either, though there was one in the news behind their apartment building. ...

“For six nights, Ed stood on the rooftop. The German bombers never failed him. They came every night. He captured on recordings the unearthly howl of a bomb as its fins cut the air and the crumpling sound it made when it exploded. He caught the cursing of an anti-aircraft battery as the crew worked its gun. He submitted his test records to the Air Ministry, which promptly lost them.

“He went back up to the rooftop on Portland Place and started over. The Air Ministry heard this batch of recordings and concluded that he had not betrayed any useful information. But it turned him down



anyway. Who could tell what a man might blurt out with a bomb falling on him? At this point Murrow abandoned bureaucratic channels and got word to the

prime minister. The journalist in Winston Churchill understood instantly what Murrow was trying to achieve. Furthermore, Churchill wanted America to hear what London was going through. Pressure from the top down worked, as it usually does, and Murrow at last received permission to broadcast live during an actual raid” (ibid.).

“The [watchman] journalist in Winston Churchill understood instantly what Murrow was trying to achieve,” Persico wrote. Murrow’s watchman ability caused him to want the world to *see and be warned* by what was happening between Germany and Britain—and learn from that history!

MURROW DID HIS JOB SUPREME-  
WELL. BUT DID WE LEARN WHAT HE  
WANTED US TO FROM THAT DISASTER?

NO, WE DID NOT!

Here is what A.M. Sperber wrote in her book *Murrow: His Life and Times*: “In words that were to become classic, the poet MacLeish paid tribute not only to Murrow but to radio itself, to the qualitative change in mass perception brought about by the mass medium: ‘You burned the city of London in our houses and we felt the flames that burned it. YOU LAID THE DEAD OF LONDON AT OUR DOORS AND WE KNEW THAT THE DEAD WERE OUR DEAD ... were mankind’s dead ... without rhetoric,

without dramatics, without more emotion than needed be ... you have destroyed ... the superstition that what is done beyond 3,000 miles of water is not really done at all.”

How does that compare with what you see in most journalism today? Are we learning these powerful lessons today in our universities where our journalists are taught? To our great shame, we are not! And that portends dreadful days ahead for America and Britain!

Alexander Kendrick wrote this in his book *Prime Time*: “Murrow after the war characterized Churchill as ‘the most remarkable’ man of the age. ‘In some ways and in some moods, he creates the impression of a precocious and indestructible juvenile. At other times Mr. Churchill appears to be a combination of an early 18th-century cavalry officer and A BRILLIANT STUDENT OF HISTORY ...”

Again, many authorities say Churchill saved Western civilization. He did so in large part because he was a “brilliant student of history.”

Still, many dangerously ignorant university leaders think this history isn’t even worth teaching!

Any real watchman ought to see that these educational institutions are leading our countries into a deep sleep about what is happening in this dangerous world. That can only lead to a major catastrophe!

Sperber also wrote, “Murrow, no admirer of the rhetoric of policies of postwar Secretary of State James Byrnes, wrote an English friend that the situation in New York and Washington filled him with foreboding: ‘It isn’t so much that the men who are conducting our affairs are vicious or irresponsible; they simply fail to appreciate the importance of issues that they are deciding in an altogether offhand manner. Their knowledge of THE DYNAMICS OF HISTORY is altogether inadequate, and I am fearful lest my country in the near future become what Professor [R.H.] Tawney described as “merely a great straggling island off the coast of Kamchatka”” (op. cit.).

Those words utterly condemn our leadership today. Our leaders have little interest if any in the “dynamics of history.” And Edward R. Murrow was seriously pessimistic about our future!

What he predicted has come to pass!

### Blind Watchmen

“The Lord God which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him” (Isaiah 56:8). This is referring to the end time, after the nations of Israel have been cast out of their own lands, when God

gathers the “outcasts.” The Great Tribulation will afflict Israel very soon. The terrifying end time is being discussed. “All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest” (verse 9). THE GENTILE “BEASTS” ARE ALMOST READY TO DEVOUR ISRAEL. The nations of Israel are living on the edge of disaster. We are entering into the “times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24; Revelation 11:2-3). IF EVER THERE WAS A TIME TO WARN OUR PEOPLE, IT IS NOW!

But then unfolds one of the strangest events ever to occur in our nations or in God’s Church! “His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber” (Isaiah 56:10). At a time when America and Britain face their greatest danger, the watchmen are “blind.” Capture this dumbfounding picture. Fero- cious Gentile beasts are surrounding Israel, *ready to devour*, AND THE WATCHMEN ARE DUMB DOGS WHO WON’T BARK!

Under similar physical circumstances, if lions, bears and wolves were about to devour the inhabitants of a home, the watch- dogs would be in a barking frenzy! But not these physical and spiritual watchmen. They are asleep, blind and dumb!

THE WORST TIME OF SUFFERING ON PLANET EARTH IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE! (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21).

“Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are SHEPHERDS that cannot understand: THEY ALL LOOK TO THEIR OWN WAY, every one for his gain, from his quarter” (Isaiah 56:11). The shepherds, God’s lukewarm minis- ters, “cannot understand.” Why? Because “they are greedy dogs which can never have enough.” How could God ever work through such an attitude? These ministers put job and money, or “gain,” ahead of God. They have very weak faith, and God condemns them harshly!

### God’s Watchman Warns, Gives Hope

Winston Churchill was a watchman before and during World War II. Without a doubt, his efforts to warn the nations about Germany made a great impact on the outcome of the war.

Ezekiel 33:1-6 are about this end time and may be talking directly about what happened in World War II: “Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if *the people of the land* take a MAN OF THEIR COASTS, and set *him* for THEIR WATCHMAN ...” (verses 1-2). God did bring the sword upon our nations to correct us, and a



### 1 | GERMANY

## Learn German or get out

GERMANY'S CHANCELLOR ASSERTED Germany's role as a major world power, and emphasized Germany's role as a Christian nation, in a powerful speech on November 15.

"Whoever wants to live here must learn German ... (and) obey our laws," Angela Merkel told the Christian Democratic Union Conference. "It's not that we have too much Islam, but rather that we have too little Christianity .... We speak too little of our Judeo-Christian heritage."

Stratfor commented, "The gist of the speech was that Germany was a European leader, it should not be ashamed of its German identity and it needed a modern army to defend its interests. However, its standing in the world was not guaranteed and the looming demographic crisis could very well threaten its preminent position. ...

"[I]ts politicians are beginning to speak of a German security and defense strategy in mature tones, without a prerequisite 'we're sorry' attached to every policy statement. In short, Germany is ascending to what it feels is its rightful place as a global power, if not one of the world's true superpowers" (Nov. 16, 2010).

"Current Cold War-era institutions that dominate Europe politically, economically and in terms of security—the European Union and NATO—were not originally designed for a unified, assertive and unashamed Germany," Stratfor concluded.

"The Germany that Merkel spoke to on Monday will either make these institutions work for Berlin or will leave them behind."

### 2 | HUNGARY

## Following the leader

As Hungary prepared to take over the presidency of Europe for the first half of 2011, Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi vowed that his nation would use its new influence to support Germany. "A strong and successful Germany is vital for the strength of Europe," Martonyi said after meeting with his German counterpart Guido Westerwelle in Berlin on November 4. As EU president, "we will support all that is important for Germany," he said.

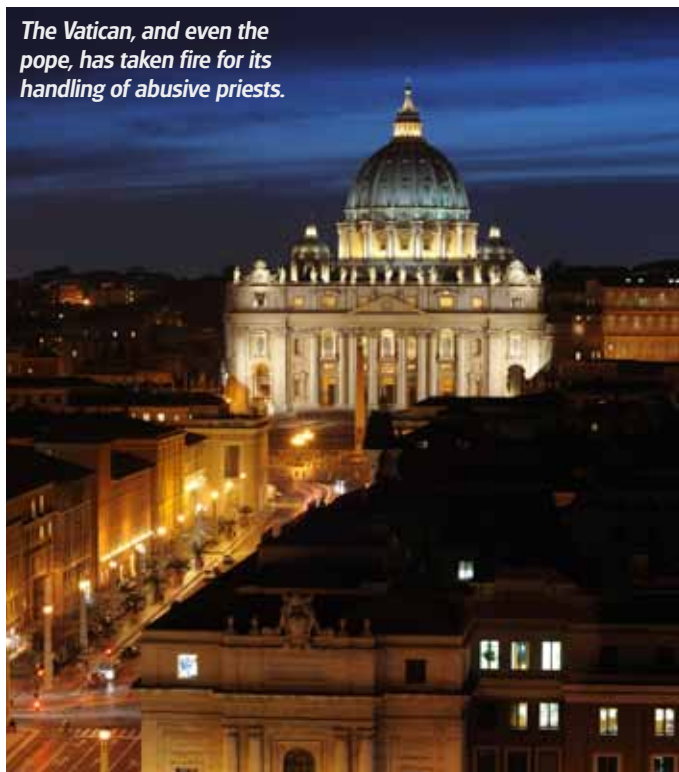


MARTONYI

## Credit risk

Hungary had its credit rating cut by two notches by credit rating agency Moody's on December 6. Its rating is now Baa3—Moody's lowest investment grade.

The Vatican, and even the pope, has taken fire for its handling of abusive priests.



JOHN MACDONALD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; SAMUEL KUBAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCKPHOTO; TIM SLOAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

### 3 | ROME Under fire for failing to fire

More evidence personally implicating Pope Benedict XVI in the Roman Catholic child abuse scandals has emerged. It involves a case in 1980 where a priest was transferred to Munich—then under the jurisdiction of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger—after sexually abusing boys in Essen. The head of personnel in Essen told Ratzinger that "there is a risk which has prompted us to immediately remove him from the parish." The priest was then allowed to go on abusing children, and received a fine and suspended sentence for this in 1986.

**4 | NETHERLANDS** Nearly 2,000 people said they had been sexually and physically abused as minors by Roman Catholic Church personnel in the Netherlands, an independent commission reported on December 9. This makes the Netherlands the second-most abused nation by the Catholics, after Ireland.

### 5 | PORTUGAL Economy tanking; people want more

On November 24, public sector workers in Portugal went on strike for a day as the country's two biggest unions held their first joint strike since 1988. The two unions say they represent 1.5 million workers. The strike was called over dissatisfaction with the government's austerity measures.

## The alliance that lost its way

NATO leaders met to decide on a new strategic concept, or mission statement, for the alliance in Lisbon on November 19 to 20. The result was essentially mush. NATO has lost its way and doesn't really know its mission in today's world. As the *Trumpet* has long forecast, expect either Germany to twist the alliance to its own ends, or for NATO to fade into insignificance.



**6 | ISRAEL****Jerusalem not for sale!**

Israel's Knesset has passed a law to prevent an Israeli government giving up East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights without a significant number of people supporting it. The national referendum law, passed on November 22, means that this territory can only be given away if approved by two thirds of the Knesset. Unless 80 out of the 120 Knesset members approve such a land giveaway, the deal must be approved by a majority of voters in a national referendum.

"The new law makes it extremely unlikely that any government can surrender any of the land covered by the law, barring a drastic shift in political leanings against the growing nationalist

mood," wrote IsraelNationalNews.com (Nov. 23, 2010).

The *Trumpet* has long predicted that Israel would not give away East Jerusalem in a peace

deal. Rather, the Bible indicates that the eastern part of the city will be violently taken over by the Palestinian Arabs.



**"Iran and Pakistan are two brother and Muslim countries which would never let insecurity and border problems damage solidarity among their nations."**

**MASHALLAH SHAKERI**

IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

**7 | PAKISTAN****Watch this anti-West alliance**

Iran and Pakistan have agreed to boost security ties and strengthen regional cooperation, Iran's Press TV reported November 17. In a November 16 meeting between the Iranian ambassador to Islamabad and the Pakistani interior minister, Iran's ambassador reportedly called for the two countries to exchange intelligence and carry out joint operations against drug traffickers. The same day, Iran's parliament speaker, meeting with a Pakistani official in Tehran, also spoke of the need for cooperation to establish peace and security in the region. Signs of increasing solidarity between Iran and Pakistan—based largely on a shared foundation of Muslim ideology and anti-Western sentiment—should concern the West.



*Mubarak's effort to squash dissent appears to have created a backlash.*

**8 | EGYPT****Rigged election—angry mob**

**R**IOTS ERUPTED THROUGHOUT EGYPT AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, resulting in eight deaths and scores of injuries, over accusations that the country's government rigged the November 28 election. The unrest indicates that a shift is underway in Egypt's political alignment.

The party snubbed by the election fraud was the government's only real rival, the Islamic fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood (MB) party. Although the MB is officially banned in Egypt, its candidates run as independents, and it is the largest political opposition to President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP). Suspiciously, in this election, the NDP won its largest share of the legislature in 15 years, while the MB was obliterated, going from 88 seats to zero.

Although the government has defended the integrity of the elections, its refusal to allow international organizations to observe them has undermined its credibility. Egyptian security forces arrested more than 1,000 MB activists in a nationwide crackdown in the days leading up to the election.

In runoff elections on December 5, the NDP won 83 percent of the seats, with the two main opposition groups, including the MB, boycotting the vote. The Brotherhood promised to mount legal challenges against the results, and popular opposition figure Mohammed ElBaradei called for a boycott of the 2011 presidential election, dismissing Egypt's election process as a "farce."

The MB has not abandoned its quest for power in Egypt. MB candidate Sobhi Saleh said the Brotherhood hopes the rigging will discredit the NDP and draw more Egyptians to the MB. Reportedly, 82-year-old Mubarak is terminally ill and will likely be unable to run in this year's presidential election. Will his successor be able to maintain Egypt's dictatorship and its suppression of the MB? The *Trumpet's* editor in chief has predicted, based on a prophecy in Daniel 11:42, that Egypt will fall to Islamists.

**9 | SYRIA Nukes? Um ... er ...**

Syria is refusing UN nuclear inspectors access to multiple suspect sites. An International Atomic Energy Agency report shows that for over two years, Syria has blocked IAEA access to the nuclear site bombed by Israel in September 2007. It is also denying access to a pilot plant used for acid purification, which produces uranium ore as a by-product. At a research reactor in Damascus, inspectors found unexplained particles of processed uranium; Syria gave inconsistent information to the IAEA and dodged questions about this uranium. The UN has proved ineffectual in preventing or even monitoring nuclear weapons development in rogue countries, including Syria, Iran and North Korea.

**10 | LEBANON****Operation Misguided Evacuation**

In an effort to get the United Nations to declare it free of Lebanon border violations, Israel has agreed to withdraw Israeli forces from the northern part of a village that straddles the Israeli-Lebanese border. Israeli Security Cabinet officials voted on November 17 to transfer the northern section of Gharjar, an Arab village, to UN control. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon will take over security for the northern part of the village, supposedly to prevent Hezbollah infiltration. While this may sound plausible in theory, UNIFIL's track record in southern Lebanon does not provide much assurance. In reality, this unilateral retreat by Israel is just one more concession that will weaken its security and only be met with more demands from its Arab enemies.

1 | NORTH KOREA

# Chinese friend, U.S. nemesis

WHEN KIM JONG IL BEGAN SHELLING the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong in November, most of the world, especially regional counterparts such as Japan and Taiwan, roared with disapproval.

Amid the fracas, China remained relatively quiet. China's leaders display little interest in curbing North Korea's belligerence. On December 8, Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated that the "Chinese have enormous influence over the North, influence that no other nation on Earth enjoys, and yet, despite a shared interest in reducing tensions, they appear unwilling to use it."

But China isn't the only country unwilling to use its influence. The question *not* being asked is: Why is the United States—presumably the most powerful nation in the world—looking to China to rein in Pyongyang to start with? After all, China is the nation *helping* North Korea. China's view of North Korea as a strategic buffer against the U.S. has prompted it to defend and increase aid to Pyongyang in recent years. It is the primary source of political and economic support for the rogue nation—and, it is emerging, also a source of its nuclear technology.

The stunning progress North Korea has made in its nuclear technology was recently exposed when a nuclear scientist was invited to tour the facilities in November. Stanford professor Siegfried S. Hecker visited two new North Korean nuclear facilities, including, shockingly, a new uranium enrichment plant that contains 2,000 centrifuges. "The control room was astonishingly modern," Hecker later said. He reported that the uranium enrichment facility was currently configured to produce low-enriched uranium—material for use in a nuclear reactor and unsuitable for a nuclear bomb. However, he pointed out that it could be reconfigured pretty easily to produce highly enriched uranium, the type used in bombs. In addition,

the facility Hecker visited went completely undetected, so North Korea could easily have another hidden site.

China's fingerprints on the project are discernible. The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* wrote on June 18, 2009, that North Korea's uranium procurement scheme involved commercial entities in China. The Institute for Science and International Security, a U.S.-based think tank, confirmed in a report last October that North Korea often procured for its uranium enrichment program in China or used it as a transit point.

In response to North Korea's deadly attack on South Korea, Beijing hosted the chairman of North Korea's parliament the last week of November. While its initial response was muted, it later called for emergency talks among the leaders of the nations involved in the stalled

six-party talks. Washington says the talks can't be resumed until Pyongyang makes concessions over its attacks on South Korea. North Korea's belligerency, which the West has often rewarded in the past, is its latest attempt to obtain aid from the international community. China's calls for the emergency talks suggest that Beijing wants Pyongyang to accomplish this goal.

It is true—China has the leverage to truly pressure North Korea. But the problem is, the United States lacks the leverage to convince China to do so. In fact, America right now needs China to keep the U.S. economy alive by financing its gargantuan debt.

In reality, that the U.S. would look to North Korea's main ally to rein it in speaks volumes of its own diminished power. As a result, America's *allies* such as South Korea are destined to look less and less to the U.S. for support. Such nations will end up searching for security elsewhere—even if it means drawing closer to China. Without a strong America clearly behind them, these nations will have little choice but to make concessions to the nearest rising power.



Kim Jong Il is getting help from his neighbor to the north.



2 | BULGARIA

## Abetting an energy monopoly

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin left Bulgaria on November 14 with an agreement for Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom to work with Bulgarian Energy Holding to build and run the Bulgarian section of the South Stream pipeline. The pipeline is planned to transport Russian gas through the Black Sea and over Bulgaria to Europe's Balkan region. The agreement, Moscow's most recent victory in a rapid expansion of Kremlin-operated energy firms into the EU, means that Bulgaria has followed Poland's example of teaming up with Russia to circumvent the EU's anti-monopoly legislation.

**"China will firmly follow the path of peaceful development and support the renaissance of Russia as a great power."**



WEN JIABAO  
CHINESE PREMIER

3 | INDIA 4 | JAPAN 5 | SINGAPORE  
**Asian giant is coming together**

Foreign ministers from China, India and Russia vowed in November to boost cooperation in energy, aerospace, high-tech, innovation, trade, cultural exchanges and geopolitical affairs. Chinese officials also emphasized the need for Russia, Japan and Singapore to ally themselves with China economically in order to capitalize on the influence they wield within the international monetary system. Watch such economic and political cooperation among these Eastern powers to increase, paving the way for military alliance.

**\$2.4** Trillions the U.S. Treasury owes Asian nations

**61** Percent of the world's population that is Asian

**559** Millions of Chinese and Indian 16-to-49-year-old males fit for military service

**6 | PHILIPPINES**

**Another U.S. ally slipping**

On December 7, Filipino and Chinese military officials met to sign a military logistics deal between their two nations. A spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) called it a step in the direction of bolstering Manila's military ties with Beijing. The AFP is too weak to control either domestic threats or outside security challenges involving the nation's many seaplanes and islands. Historically, Manila has depended on the U.S. for the military assistance it needs, but the U.S.-Philippines military relationship is cooling. Beijing sees an opportunity to gain a foothold in the Philippines and expand its influence in Southeast Asia, while elbowing the U.S. out.



*Philippine armed forces are looking for help from China.*



*EU President Herman Van Rompuy, Medvedev and Barroso are forging a relationship to watch.*

**7 | RUSSIA 8 | POLAND**

**Making nice with Europe**

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev visited Europe in December, boosting Russia's relations with the Continent and bringing Moscow closer to joining the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Medvedev visited Brussels for an EU-Russia summit on December 7, where he signed a bilateral trade agreement between Russia and the European Union, drafted the previous month.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso called the agreement "a milestone." Russia has been negotiating to join the WTO for 17 years, and is the only large nation not a part of the 153-member group. At a press conference with Medvedev, Barroso said Russia is expected to become a WTO member in 2011.

The agreement commits Russia to phasing out lumber and other raw materials tariffs. There are still some other issues the EU wants Russia to change, such as its seemingly arbitrary bans on European meat.

On the same trip, Medvedev visited Poland, where he worked to improve relations in the first official visit to the country by a Russian leader in nine years. Medvedev said that in order to attain better relations with NATO and the EU, Russia must draw closer to Poland. He is right—often it is Polish objections that hinder EU-Russia or NATO-Russia rapprochement.

The visit was an apparent success. Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski said that it heralded the end of a period of "bad drought" in relations between the two countries.

However, Poland hasn't suddenly decided that Russia is a benevolent, friendly nation. "We have no illusions about the nature of the Putin regime," an anonymous government official told the *Wall Street Journal*. "We got tired of being the one country to stand up to Russia. Russia is our number-two trading partner—we have more to lose [than other states in the EU]" (Dec. 8, 2010).

The Russia-EU, and specifically the Russia-Germany, relationship is important to watch. If the two work together, as they have several times in recent history, they can rise in power very quickly—putting them in a better position to wage war.

**9 | CHINA**

**Deserting the dollar**

China and Russia have agreed to abandon the U.S. dollar in favor of using their own currencies for bilateral trade. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced the news on November 23, saying the policy is not designed to challenge the dollar but to protect the Russian and Chinese economies amid the global financial crisis. Expect this movement away from the dollar to continue to gather steam. And watch for Russia and China, as their global economic influence increases, to draw closer to each other.

Prime Minister Putin praised Europe's single currency while criticizing the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency on November 26. "We have to get away from the overwhelming dollar monopoly," he said. "It makes the world economy vulnerable and unbalanced."



**"There are currently problems in Portugal, Greece and Ireland, and the euro is a bit unsteady, but the euro is a stable world currency."**

**VLADIMIR PUTIN**  
RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER

**10 | VIETNAM**

**Yes, them too**

China and Vietnam held their first-ever bilateral strategic defense dialogue on November 27. The two sides agreed to collaborate in the areas of naval and border guard forces, and military science research and training. Previously, Vietnam's concerns over China's mushrooming power had been prodding it to develop a closer relationship with the U.S. These talks, however, show that Vietnam's alignment is shifting.

PHILIPPINES: ALJIBE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; RUSSIA: ALEXEY NIKOLSKIY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; POLAND: JOHN THYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



A Palestinian holding a Brazilian flag argues with an Israeli soldier.

**1 | BRAZIL 2 | ARGENTINA 3 | URUGUAY 4 | PARAGUAY**  
**Forget peace talks—here’s a two-state solution**

On December 3, Brazil said it recognized a Palestinian state existing in the territory owned by Jordan west of the Jordan River in 1967. Argentina followed suit three days later, and Uruguay said it would do so this year. The Palestinian Authority’s foreign minister, Riad al-Malki, said he expected Paraguay and other South American nations to also recognize a Palestinian state soon. Not only does this demonstrate the continuing trend of nations worldwide siding against Israel, but it also reveals these nations’ increasing willingness to publicly spurn their neighbor to the north, the United States.



**“The Argentine government recognizes Palestine as a free and independent state within the borders defined in 1967.”**

**CRISTINA KIRCHNER**  
 ARGENTINE PRESIDENT

**5 | VENEZUELA Eager to shush a drug smuggler**

Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chávez seems to have rescued himself from a very tricky position. Last August, one of the world’s most wanted drug smugglers, Walid Makled, was arrested in Colombia. He is rumored to have recordings of all of his dealings—including those with high-ranking members of the Venezuelan government. If released, that information would be catastrophic for Venezuelan officials—and could even bring down Chávez’s government. Key government members could face charges of money laundering, drug trafficking and even terrorism. But on November 16, Colombia agreed to extradite Makled to Venezuela, not to the U.S.

In exchange, a desperate Chávez is giving a lot to Colombia. On November 18, Venezuela announced it would extradite at least four members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and National Liberation Army—rebel groups that Chávez usually protects—to Colombia. Chávez also agreed to renew trade ties with Colombia.



**CHÁVEZ**

The *Trumpet* has long watched for Latin American nations to draw closer together as part of a trade bloc that will eventually align with Europe. A quieter Chávez could allow the continent to better unite.

**6 | SOMALIA**  
**Ahoy! Pirates moving east!**

Somali pirates hijacked a Bangladeshi ship only 300 miles away from the coast of India on December 5. The *Jahan Moni* was 1,300 miles east of Somalia when it was seized. Western efforts to combat Somali piracy have mainly involved patrolling the Gulf of Aden. They have not dealt with the cause of the problem, but rather merely tried to protect a small area from pirates. This means that the problem has not gone away—the pirates are just spreading out over a much larger area.



**7 | GAMBIA**  
**Iranian arms turn up in Africa**

The government of Gambia broke off relations with Iran and sent all Iranian diplomats home on November 22 over an arms smuggling scandal. On October 27, Nigerian media stated that the government had seized a large shipment of weapons from Iran at the port of Lagos. The government informed the UN Security Council of the seizure on November 12. Despite the fiasco, Iran is certain to find alternative means of smuggling weapons into Africa.

**8 | RWANDA**  
**Africa’s head in the mouth of a lion**

**A**FRICAN LEADERS ARE CONCERNED they’re being exploited by resource-hungry Europe. At an African Union meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, from October 29 to November 2, several ministers of trade criticized the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) the EU is attempting to sign with their nations.

The EPAs are ostensibly designed to benefit African nations by allowing them to trade with Europe on favorable conditions. However, the terms seem more favorable to the EU, and one minister said that by signing an EPA a country puts its head in the mouth of a lion.

Germany is pursuing a similar policy in Latin America. On October 30, German Aid Minister Dirk Niebel left for a week-long trip to the region. “During Germany’s unification and the European Union’s extension to the east, we have not paid enough attention to some other parts of the world,” Niebel said, specifically mentioning Africa and Latin America.

A draft European Commission policy document, titled “Raw Materials Initiative,” states that the EU wants to access most of its raw materials from outside its own borders by means of new trade agreements. Watch for Europe and Asia to compete for raw materials in these areas.



**African Union president Jean Ping expresses concerns.**



## In math, we're #32!

THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED Kingdom were solidly beaten by a host of countries in math, science and reading tests conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the results of which were published December 7.

Asian nations regularly came top in an assessment of 470,000 15-year-olds in 65 different countries in 2009 under the OECD's Program for International Student Assessment (PISA).

Out of the OECD countries, South Korea came top in reading and math, and third in science. Finland came second in reading and math, and took the top spot for science. However, when China (not an OECD nation) is included and subdivided into economic regions, then Shanghai comes out first, by far, in all three categories.

The UK's ranking has plummeted since the PISA first began in 2000. This year it came 16th in science, 25th in reading and 28th in math (ranking includes non-OECD countries, and China's regions). In 2000 it was fourth in science, seventh in reading and eighth in math.

The U.S. performed even worse, coming 23rd in science, 32nd in math and 17th in reading. Both nations remained above the OECD average for reading and science (though only barely, for the U.S.).

The U.S. and UK did not do spectacularly badly; they ranked just above the middle. But the days of their educational superiority are over. The trend is worth noting: The quality of a nation's education is a predictive measure of its future power.

**"Often you get two or three very badly behaved children, but bad behavior spreads like a cancer."**

**KATHARINE BIRBALSINGH**  
FORMER UK DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER

## Hazard pay for teachers?

Almost 1,000 British students are sent home from school every day for attacking or verbally abusing fellow students or staff, a November 17 study found. The figure is thought to be higher, as many such incidents are not reported to the government.

## King James what?

A November survey found that *half* of Britons under 35 did not know what the King James Bible was. The renowned translation is one of the most important books of all time, religiously, culturally and linguistically.

## They'll die in debt and that's OK

Though most dire financial headlines in the UK describe the government, individual Britons are also heavily in debt. A November study found that a third of Britons think they'll never be free from and will die in debt. One in five had no qualms leaving their debts to their next of kin. Half who owed money said they did not feel in control of their debt, and half said they would always need to borrow money in order to fund their lifestyle.

## Guess what your cabbie does on holiday

In October, *Guardian* reporters traveled with a group of Taliban fighters in Afghanistan with a variety of ethnicities, including some from London. One mid-level commander who spoke English with a slight Londoner accent said he fought for three months of the year and the rest of the time lived in East London and worked as a minicab driver. "There are many people like me in London," he said. "We collect money for the jihad all year and come and fight if we can."

## See? Political correctness abets terrorism

**A**S 12,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED A Christmas tree lighting ceremony in Portland, Oregon, on November 26, Mohamed Osman Mohamud attempted to detonate a truck full of explosives. Happily, the explosives were fake, supplied by the FBI in a sting operation, and Mohamud was charged with attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

The bomb, had it been real, "could have killed hundreds," according to the *Portland Tribune*.

Portland's own actions put the city at risk. In 2005, the city council decided to end Portland police's cooperation with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force—the same task force that thwarted Mohamud. The mayor at that time, Tom Potter, wanted top-secret security clearance to ensure that the FBI didn't violate the state's anti-discrimination laws, but the FBI refused it. The American Civil Liberties Union praised the city's refusal to work with the FBI, saying there is "ample evidence that several FBI task forces elsewhere have targeted individuals because of their political or religious affiliations."

The FBI succeeded, despite the city's obstruction. But it could have been very different. Now, the city says it is considering renewing cooperation with the task force.

This is not the first time political correctness has hampered U.S. security efforts. In the 1990s, the government restricted how many agents could keep taps on the growing number of religious jihadist cells in the country. "So, for example," wrote the *Washington Times*, "agents



*Pioneer Courthouse Square, where a would-be terrorist could have murdered hundreds.*

might know that a meeting of radicals was taking place inside a mosque, but they could not watch the building or even collect the tag numbers of cars parked in the parking lot because the entire structure was off-limits" (Dec. 1, 2010).

Today, America's Transport Security Administration refuses to profile obvious potential terrorists. Giving invasive patdowns to small children and elderly people in wheelchairs doesn't make the country safer. Focusing on young, Arabic looking men would. Political correctness, endemic in the U.S., Britain and other Western nations, poses a demonstrable danger.

# America: Only Two More Years?

Don't ignore the warnings! Keen observers say debt-addicted America is about to learn some tough lessons from bygone empires. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

**T**WO YEARS. THAT IS HOW much time America has to fix its problems—or risk *sudden* collapse. This is the startling conclusion of Harvard historian Niall Ferguson. And that was six months ago.

The world has witnessed what happens when investors lose faith in a country's fiscal policy, he says. Just look at Greece.

Is it possible that the richest, most powerful country in the world could realistically face sudden collapse? After all, America isn't Greece. But that is just the problem. America is not some small country that has overspent a few tens of billions of dollars. America is the world's largest debtor, and it is addicted to debt—borrowing trillions of dollars to maintain an unsustainable standard of living.

It is an empire in evident decline—like the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, or Rome just a few years before its fall.

## Debt Addiction

Ask yourself: What exactly holds America together? Is it a common religion or ethnicity? A shared national purpose? The beliefs espoused by the principles of the Founding Fathers? If any of these things ever were the ingredients that bonded the republic together, they are no longer.

Today, just about the only common ground within America is *materialism*. That, and its most obvious manifestation—debt!

In 2010, according to the Congressional Budget Office, America added \$1.5 trillion more to its national debt. And under President Obama's proposed spending plan, America will run trillion-dollar deficits until 2019.

Annual trillion-dollar deficits! And that is if everything goes according to plan: the wars

in Iraq and Afghanistan neatly wrap up; there is no double-dip recession; employers start hiring again; the too-big-to-fail banks don't need more money; and the Fed avoids accounting for government-owned Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac on its balance sheets.

What if things *don't* go according to plan? That is a question the experts either dismiss as unlikely or don't like to think about.

The simple truth is that this once great nation is so addicted to debt that it would collapse if it could no longer borrow money. The addiction goes far beyond subprime mortgages and unaffordable vehicle loans. It starts with the fresh-faced college students bombarded with credit card offers, and universities profiting from every dollar those students spend. It progresses through America's most prestigious corporations, which need to access debt markets on a monthly, weekly, even daily basis to function. It encompasses city, municipal and state governments willing to bankrupt public treasuries to placate greedy unions and to stuff unsustainable pension plans. It culminates with a federal government that has not balanced a budget since 1957!

Ultimately though, it both begins and ends with the typical consumer citizen so engrossed with satisfying the senses that he is blind to the looming catastrophe.

Yet the signs of collapse are not hard to spot.

## Where America's Money Comes From

In December, President Obama's bipartisan Deficit Commission released its report on fixing America's budget problems. The authors say they think America can be saved. But the reality is that few, if any, of their recommendations will be implemented.

America's problem gets down to the fact that 40 cents out of every budget

dollar spent is borrowed. At present, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid take up *all of federal revenue*, reported the authors. The rest of the federal government, including fighting two wars, homeland security, education, art, culture, you name it—the whole rest of the discretionary budget—is financed by borrowing.

Even a child could see that this is a disaster waiting to happen.

Yet before the report even hit the presses, leading members of Congress pronounced it dead on arrival. Cutting programs and handouts would cost too many votes. Too many special interests would be offended.

America's national debt is already close to 90 percent of gross domestic product. By the end of 2011 it could exceed 100 percent of GDP, which is approaching European crisis levels.

And still America's leaders pretend there is no problem.

## Averting Cardiac Arrest

On November 30, the Federal Reserve was forced to release details surrounding its massive Wall Street bailout, corporate bailout and—as it turns out—*foreign central bank* bailout.

Twenty-one thousand loans—\$3.3 trillion worth: That is what it took in terms of hard cold debt for the Federal Reserve to stop the financial meltdown of the United States. Yet where has this mountain of debt gotten America? Is the system fixed?

No. It is just more evidence that the economy is far more precarious than anyone will admit.

Much focus has been put on the scale of the bailouts. \$3.3 trillion is a massive amount of money. More than double America's budget deficit, it is incredibly significant in the U.S. economy.

Most people seem to miss the fact that the Fed created the bailout money out



of thin air. But maybe this fact is fitting, since much of what the Fed traded that \$3.3 trillion for appears to be vastly overpriced junk. \$1.5 trillion worth of collateral came with the “ratings unavailable” designation. Only 1 percent of the pledged collateral was highly rated government treasuries.

It was also revealed that the Federal Reserve not only lent \$600 billion to *foreign* central banks, but also to *foreign* automakers like Toyota and BMW, and billions more to *foreign* private banks at very low interest rates (sometimes at 0.15 percent).

In other words, the Fed was so afraid at the height of the crisis that it was printing and lending money to anyone with a pulse, regardless of who they were and what collateral they pledged.

The Federal Reserve even lent cheap money to speculative hedge funds and pension plans—like the Major League Baseball Players Pension Plan—to “invest,” in an attempt to get money flowing through the economy again. The California Public Employees’ Retirement System, one of the most underwater retirement plans in the country, was among the most enthusiastic takers of Fed money: It borrowed \$5.14 billion to speculate its way out of its massive underfunding.

Under one of its lending programs, the Federal Reserve cycled a mind-boggling \$9 trillion worth of debt in and out of the economy.

Through this program, Citigroup alone borrowed an astounding \$2.2 trillion in multiple revolving transactions to stay afloat. Merrill Lynch borrowed \$2.1 trillion across 226 loans. Bank of America borrowed \$1.1 trillion in emergency money to avoid failure. It asked the Fed for credit *one thousand different times*. Morgan Stanley took out 212 loans to stay in business. Even the venerable Goldman Sachs borrowed \$620 billion across 84 loans.

More ominously, it wasn’t just the banks and failing hedge funds that the Fed propped up—it directly propped up many of the biggest, most famous names in corporate America. Credit card companies, insurance companies and vehicle manufacturers all got loans. Some of this was known. But did you know that Caterpillar took government money? That Verizon Communications needed \$1.5 billion? That Harley-Davidson received bailout money 33 times, for a total of \$2.3 billion? General Electric Co. needed funding 12 times for a total of \$16 billion? Even McDonald’s needed to borrow money from the Fed.

Corporate America is so addicted to



**DIGGING DEEPER**  
Ben Bernanke announced in November that the Fed would print \$900 billion more.

America’s debt addiction appears to have reached the point where it is threatening our ability to borrow. The addiction is so great that the Federal Reserve is now actually printing money to finance federal government spending.

debt that it needs to borrow money each and every day. It needs credit just to keep up business as usual. During the economic crisis surrounding Sept. 11, 2008, the debt markets froze. No one would lend money—at all. Banks were failing. The government was nationalizing trillion-dollar corporations. The whole system was balanced on a razor’s edge.

Just imagine what would have happened if Caterpillar, Verizon or McDonald’s had a failed debt auction and couldn’t borrow money. Contagion could have gone national, even international. A massive domino effect might have swept the business world. The Fed had to step in to provide the money—or it risked total shutdown of corporate America.

That is how addicted to debt America is. Stop the debt and the whole system goes into cardiac arrest. Not convinced?

The Fed needed *21,000 loans at near-zero percent interest* to jump-start the system.

### America’s Catch-22

How long can America continue its debt addiction? We use debt to purchase things to make us feel better and to finance our standard of living. We use it for business as usual. And when all the debt gets us into trouble, we use even more of it to stimulate the economy and to bail us out.

But now, America’s debt addiction appears to have reached the point where it is threatening our ability to borrow. The addiction is so great that the Federal Reserve is now actually printing money to finance federal government spending.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke announced in November that the Fed would create \$900 billion out of thin

air to purchase government treasuries. Fiat money creation has historically led to massive currency depreciation.

Foreign nations, not wanting to be paid back in devalued dollars, are understandably angry at this announcement. This means it is going to become tougher and tougher for America to attract foreign creditors.

It could easily devolve into a Catch-22 where the Federal Reserve is forced to supply more and more money to finance government spending—which would only act to drive even more foreign lenders away. The U.S. government can only issue debt as long as people will take that debt, and the increasing chances of the U.S. defaulting makes that less and less likely.

According to Li Daokui, an academic member of the Chinese central bank's monetary policy committee, the U.S. dollar will only be a safe investment for the next 6 to 12 months. "For now, market attention is still on Europe and for the coming 6 to 12 months, it will not shift to the United States," said Li on December 8. "But we should be clear in our minds that the fiscal situation in the United States is much worse than in Europe. In one or two years, when the European debt situation stabilizes, attention of financial markets will definitely shift to the United States. At that time, U.S. Treasury bonds and the dollar will experience considerable declines."

As international investor Jim Rogers noted December 7, "There comes a time when people say 'I'm not going to lend you any more money.'" When that day arrives, America will not be a place many people recognize.

### Prepare for This Scenario

One day, America will wake up to the news of a failed U.S. government debt auction. Lenders will have had enough. Though many people will be oblivious for a short time, those in the know will rush to the stores to buy everything they can get their hands on—diapers, alcohol, beans, bullets. They will be the lucky ones. Some will turn to gold and silver, but that will only help for so long. Shortages will soon be reported and become endemic.

Attempting to calm markets, the Federal Reserve will announce another round of "money printing," but this time it will have the opposite effect. The dollar will plunge in value, the Dow Jones will plummet and officials will lock down stock markets.

Without access to debt, Wall Street will experience a chain of unstoppable domino failures. Consumer spending will sharply contract. Import prices will soar. Sales will dry up, and indebted corporations will stop sending out paychecks. America will grind to a halt.

That is when the anger will surface.

Debt-financed materialism will have transformed from the glue precariously sticking the system together to the agent of its sudden death.

What then will hold society together?

### The End of Republics

"History says we're not going to make it," said Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn in a speech at President Obama's debt commission meeting in December. Democratic republics *only last about 200 years* before they "rot from within" and then are conquered militarily, he said. "And we're rotting. We're rotting as we sit here and speak today."

Coburn, however, holds out hope. There is a way to "cheat history," he said. "The way we cheat history is for all of us to give up something: everybody ... and then say, 'The way forward for America is for everyone to start sacrificing so we create a future that is honoring the tremendous sacrifices that came before us.'"

Take a look around you. Take a look at Congress. What are the odds that America will embrace sacrifice on a national scale?

The sad reality is that America will not "cheat history." That's prophecy!

In a 1997 article, *Trumpet* writer Tim Thompson compared America's debt-dependent society to the whitewashed tomb of Matthew 23:27: "It is beautiful on the outside—it has the appearance of wealth and wellbeing—but inside it is 'full of dead men's bones, and all uncleanness'—it is a financial nightmare built by hypocrites and filled with all *rottenness!*"

As Mr. Thompson pointed out, borrowed money may make America appear prosperous, but appearances don't mean much. The American republic is rotting on the inside, and time is running out.

Last July, historian Niall Ferguson told business leaders and academics at the Aspen Ideas Festival that America's window to reverse course was closing. "Fiscally and other ways," America is "very near the edge of chaos," he warned. "I think this is a problem that is going to go live really soon."

"In that sense," he said, "I mean *within the next two years.*"

The last days of the republic as we know it are here. ■



## Pope: Don't Take Bible Literally

In his latest treatise, Benedict XVI reverts to medieval teaching.

BY RON FRASER

**C**AN YOU TRUST THE BIBLE? IS IT, in fact, the inspired Word of God? The pope recently weighed in on these questions in an "apostolic exhortation" called *Verbum Domini* ("The Word of the Lord"), issued on November 11. As CNA/EWTN News reported it, this papal message was "a lofty and impassioned plea for everyone in the church to rediscover the Bible."

The truth of it is, this was more than an "impassioned plea" from this pope to his parishioners. *It was a direct attack on all who believe the inerrancy of the literal Scriptures as inspired by God!*

Pope Benedict "criticized 'fundamentalist' or 'literalist' interpretations and urged renewed appreciation for the *symbolic and spiritual interpretation techniques* used by the ancient fathers of the church" (ibid., emphasis mine).

"*An authentic interpretation of the Bible must always be in harmony with the faith of the Catholic Church,*" Benedict declared.

We must look at this declaration in light of other recent endorsements of the



CHRISTOPHE SIMON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

claim that the Roman Catholic Church is the only true church. This pope has said more than once that all Christian denominations other than Roman Catholicism are illegitimate—either defective or not true churches. Now he has reasserted the medieval stance that *only the interpretation of Scripture by the Roman Catholic Church has authenticity.*

That is a blatant papal lie that the very Scriptures themselves oppose!

### How to Understand the Bible

Your Bible clearly declares, first and foremost, that “no prophecy of the scripture is of any *private* interpretation” (2 Peter 1:20).

It further declares that “*all scripture is given by inspiration of God*, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). There is no instruction here to resort first to any “symbolic and spiritual interpretation techniques used by the ancient fathers of the church”!

Those “interpretation techniques” as applied over the centuries have led to many contradictory interpretations of Scripture, even within Roman Catholicism. But Jesus Christ plainly said “the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). The Bible does *not* contradict itself!

It is not for the pope, it is not for any of his priests, it is not for man at all to interpret the Scriptures based on any particular religious ideology!

Only *one* power can unlock the plain, straightforward meaning of Scripture. That is the power of *the mind of God* alone, exerting *His* influence on the mind of an individual by the power of *His Holy Spirit*.

Jesus Christ Himself, the Word of God personified, declared that when the Holy

Spirit comes into the mind of an individual, it reveals all things. He called it “the Spirit of truth, [which] the world cannot receive, because it seeth [it] not, neither knoweth [it]” (John 14:17).

Christ called the Holy Spirit the “Comforter” (John 16:7). It is a revelatory Spirit, the Spirit of truth—actually a portion of God’s own supreme intellect embedded in the mind of a converted Christian. Christ declared that when it is given by the Father to a servant of God, it “will guide you into all truth ... and [it] will shew you things to come” (verse 13).

CNA/EWTN News described “The heart of *Verbum Domini*” as comprising “a long and often technical discussion of ‘hermeneutics,’ or the proper method for interpreting the sacred texts.”

The reality is that Jesus Christ, the very Author of the Word of God, gave us the proper method for understanding the Bible. We read of the direct experience of His original disciples, from whom the original apostles were ordained and who in turn formed the very foundation of the one true Church. Of their experience with the resurrected Jesus Christ, they remembered, “Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while *he opened to us the scriptures?*”

It is thus the living Jesus Christ, the true Head of His one true Church, who opens up the Word of God to us by the power of God’s Holy Spirit!

### The Real Reason Men Interpret the Bible

Yes, it takes dedicated study to grow in *understanding* the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15; Isaiah 28:10, 13). But, in reality, the Bible interprets itself!

Why do men insist on trying to interpret the Bible?

A quarter of a century ago, Herbert Armstrong gave the answer. In the *Plain Truth* magazine of November 1983, he wrote, “The Scriptures are profitable for the purpose of reproof and correcting us. But we resent being reproofed and corrected. How many people do you know who are even willing to be corrected where they are in error—to be reproofed for the wrong things they do?”

“People do not like to be reproofed and corrected. They love praise and flattery. But reproof and correction they surely hate.

“That’s why it is so hard for so many people to understand the Bible and to agree on just what it says. The Bible is God’s great spiritual mirror. It shows up every flaw in our thinking and reveals every spot on our characters. It pictures us as we really

are—as God sees us, not as we like to think we are or to have other men look upon us.”

That’s the plain and simple truth.

Hebrews 4:12 reads, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” The Bible is a powerful weapon that cuts both ways, opening up and laying bare the inner man!

That is not a comfortable process—and thus, too often, men simply won’t subject themselves to it. As Herbert Armstrong further stated, “Too often men have applied some different meaning to the scriptures that reproofed them. They have passed right over some scriptures that corrected and rebuked them. Instead they studied diligently to find some other scripture into which they could read a meaning that would justify their course of action.

“That is how men began, centuries ago, to interpret the Bible. And so God’s Word has become perverted, twisted, wrested, distorted. And almost every false and counterfeit meaning imaginable is read into it instead of seeing the natural meaning—the plain, simple meaning God intended.

“Today we have hundreds of interpretations of the Bible. But you never hear of hundreds of interpretations of a biology textbook. Why? Because biology textbooks do not rebuke and correct men.

“Instead of acknowledging the truth, repenting of the sin, having it legally justified by the blood of Christ, men seek to justify their own acts by perverting the sacred and holy Word of God.”

Melanie Phillips recently mused that the Vatican today, under this pope, may be taking “a giant step backwards into a darker age”—an age when the Vatican dictated that the Roman Catholic Church alone was the sole authority for interpretation of the Bible! (Oct. 25, 2010).

Could it be that this pope is in reality seeking to *hide* what inerrant Scripture reveals as to the true nature of the religious body he leads, its true beginnings, and its prophesied end? *Hide* the truth by insisting on the application of the interpretation techniques imposed by the “ancient fathers of the church” and thus interpreting, or rather *wresting*, the Scriptures to suit the whim and the will of the Vatican? (2 Peter 3:16).

You need to allow the Bible to interpret itself on this burning question and all others. Request our free booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* for insight into, and for the *biblical* answers to, this question.

# How Important Is Music?

What the ayatollah, Darwin and Freud were missing out on **BY RYAN MALONE**

**"**IT'S BETTER THAT OUR DEAR youth spend their valuable time in learning science and essential and useful skills." Those were the words of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei last August when he denounced all forms of music as "not compatible with the highest values of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic."

It's not usual for dictators to forbid harmless or even worthwhile endeavors that they find threatening to their authority. But did the ayatollah have a point? Are science and other skills more "useful" to our children than music? Many people apparently think so, just judging by the impoverished music programs of the average public school.

How important is music to our existence? Our underfunded music curricula aren't able to answer that respectably. Even some recent efforts to validate music have backfired. Consider the famous "Mozart effect" study. Using faulty science, the study endeavored to show music's usefulness—by proving that it improved students' performances in "more important" subjects! "Think how absurd this would sound if we turned it inside out," Daniel Levitin pointed out in his book *This Is Your Brain on Music*. "If I claimed that studying mathematics helped musical ability, would policy makers start pumping money into math for that reason? Music has often been the poor stepchild of public schools, the first program to get cut when there are funding problems, and people frequently try to justify it in terms of its collateral benefits, rather than letting music exist for its own rewards."

What are music's intrinsic rewards? How vital is it to life? Is it a frivolous hobby for the specialized few, or an extracurricular entertainment for the "undertalented" masses?

## Lost Wisdom

Centuries ago, such questions would have sounded absurd.

Music and science were not considered at odds with each other. A scientist examining the ayatollah's comment about "learning science and essential and useful skills" would have been flabbergasted that the ayatollah was excluding music from that grouping.

"It is a recent notion that music is a divertissement to be enjoyed in comfortable surroundings at the end of the day, far removed from the hurly-burly of life's business," writes Jamie James in *The Music of the Spheres*. "[T]hroughout most of the history of our culture, music was itself an essential part of life's business. ... [I]t was taken for granted throughout the whole history of the West that music was a defining human activity, and therefore every educated person was trained in the rudiments of music."

James points out that music "remained an important constituent of mathematics in European education until the 19th century." The concept of music existing merely to give pleasure would have been considered as ludicrous as the idea of believing that sex only existed to give pleasure. Thinkers before the 19th century believed music has a pure and enlightening purpose in human existence—that it links us with the eternal and the spiritual.

"Musical training was considered one of the high marks of refinement in the Middle Ages," write Patricia Shehan Campbell and Carol Scott-Kassner in *Music in Childhood*. By the time of the Enlightenment, "Music instruction was more than 'window dressing' in European schools. It was viewed as 'basic' to the education of all children."

Men of science long believed that music was not only sound that emanated from a minstrel's lyre, but the way both the heavenly bodies and even the *human* body were ordered. It was no coincidence to them that the ratios dictating the measurements of the solar system were the same as the ratios in the frequencies that



created the harmonies we found most pleasing, and that by understanding music, we could better understand the universe. Ancient scientists also believed our bodies and minds are a musical instrument. We find certain harmonies pleasing, in fact, because they agree with our own internal rhythms. Our bodies are soothed or stirred by music because they, like a taut string, vibrate sympathetically to sounds produced around them. Considering the healing properties of music, and new discoveries on how the brain reacts to music, we know they were on to something.

## The Brain Loves Music

New brain-scanning technology is showing us some remarkable things about the impact of music on health and brain function. People who cannot talk have sung. People who cannot walk have danced! Medicine is further acknowledging something it should have known all along: the health-influencing properties of music. The healing properties of music (expounded in our July 2010 article "Well-Toned: A Whole New Meaning") should be enough to make the case for music's intrinsic worth in our lives.

The brain has no single music "center." Listening to or performing music engages "every area of the brain that we have so far identified, and involve[s] nearly every neural subsystem" (Levitin, op. cit.).



You could call it the best mental workout around. Physical education experts laud swimming for using all the body's major muscle groups. Music, you could say, is the swimming of mental activities.

No wonder the corpus callosum (the area connecting the brain's two hemispheres) is enlarged in professional musicians. No wonder studies have found that musicians distinguish and remember sound better than non-musicians.

But music's impact on the brain is true for musicians and non-musicians alike. Brain imaging has shown that the brain "gives a little start of surprise when a passage of music takes an unexpected turn" even in someone without musical training (*U.S. News and World Report*, Aug. 5, 2001).

It is a mistake, in fact, as *Music in Childhood* points out, to buy into the "myth that few children are musically endowed"—one that "threatens the right of all to a musical education, and may even endanger a musical culture."

Music aids our minds in that it can be a powerful mnemonic device. How many children learn the alphabet by having it attached to a Mozartian tune? How many remember the books of the Bible with the aid of a song? At the very least, we can all think of popular products sung to the tune of a commercial jingle.

Music is like a reliable secretary for your mind. Our brain is full of filing cabinets

and papers, but of all forms of organization meant to put those papers in the right drawers, music is most effective.

Music was how the great Irish minstrel-bards were capable of retaining and recalling so much information in their advisement to the Irish kings: They knew, as Dr. Oliver Sacks writes in *Musicophilia*, that "music ... has played a huge role in relation to the oral traditions of poetry, storytelling, liturgy and prayer. Entire books can be held in memory."

Music benefits our mental, physical and emotional health. It aids our thinking and our moods. It also aids our children through their earliest development—even while still in the womb.

Study after study is emerging showing that when our children have musical training, they tend to excel in their development and may even enjoy a boost in IQ. (The studies cite the neurological benefits, though we can't count out the behavioral habits that regular disciplined practicing instills.) Some educators are taking note, and *Kindermusik* and other music programs are receiving more funding.

Research also suggests that the brain is prewired for music from infancy and can learn music as quickly as it can learn speech. Because of parents' tendencies to speak to babies in singsong, Sandra Trehub of the University of Toronto speculates that "we are born with a musical

brain because music provides a special communication channel between parent and child" (*U.S. News*, op. cit.).

*Music in Childhood* states, "Children are stimulated intellectually, physically, and even spiritually in their recognition of music for its own sake as well as its integration with their knowledge of the humanities, the sciences, and the social studies."

### Music Haters

As off base as the ayatollah's comments may seem, he is in famous company—particularly among two thinkers who shaped the musically handicapped modern education system as we know it today: Sigmund Freud and Charles Darwin.

Not only was music simply not important to them, there appeared to be some great chasm between them and this illustrious element of humanity. In all his writings, Freud mentioned his personal connection to music only once: "I am almost incapable of obtaining any pleasure [from music]. Some rationalistic, or perhaps analytic, turn of mind in me rebels against being moved by a thing without knowing why I am thus affected and what it is that affects me."

Darwin was similarly unmoved by it. "Formerly ... music [gave me] very intense delight. But now ... I have almost lost my taste for ... music," he wrote. "My mind seems to have become a sort of machine for grinding general laws out of large collections of fact. ... The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and may possibly be injurious to the intellect, and more probably to the moral character by enfeebling the emotional part of our nature."

Perhaps this inability and even blatant refusal to enjoy music by the fathers of modern psychoanalysis and modern evolutionary thought is evidence of their—ahem—mental instability.

"Music is part of being human," Dr. Sacks writes, "and there is no human culture in which it is not highly developed and esteemed. Its very ubiquity may cause it to be trivialized in daily life: We switch on a radio, switch it off, hum a tune, tap our feet, find the words of an old song going through our minds, and think nothing of it."

How important is music? So important, in fact, that it ironically becomes trivialized by its very saturation of our lives. May we never let that familiarity breed such contempt that we forget its impact on our existence, how intrinsic it is to the world created around us, and how vital it is to the instruction, development and maturation of our children. ■

# Deluged

The latest WikiLeaks downpour didn't just hurt U.S. interests—it exposed just how weak America has become. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**W**HEN JULIAN ASSANGE released a deluge of confidential U.S. intelligence documents on the Internet last November, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton initially called it a *major attack* on the United States. The response was accurate, justified and suitably forceful.

It was also an anomaly. Sadly, soon after that refreshing display of force, the U.S. began backpedaling away from any talk of aggression or retaliation against the blatant act of espionage.

The day after Clinton made her remarks, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates downplayed the significance of the unauthorized release of more than 250,000 classified State Department documents. He said the overall impact of America's secrets going public would be "fairly modest."

Gates explained, "The fact is, governments deal with the United States because it's in their interest, not because they like us, not because they trust us, and not because they believe we can keep secrets. ... We are still essentially, as has been said before, the **INDISPENSABLE NATION**" (emphasis mine throughout).

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs exuded this same air of superiority during an interview on December 1. *We're not afraid of one guy with a laptop*, Gibbs exclaimed. "We're the United States of America!"

America's leaders weren't the only ones claiming the leaks were no big deal. Former *New York Times* columnist Leslie Gelb actually said that WikiLeaks "accidentally helps" America. In his list of WikiLeaks winners, *Foreign Policy's* David Rothkopf handed first place to "The United States of America," and second place to "American diplomats."

Such expressions of inflated self-worth,

however, don't fix the damage the leaks have caused. In fact, the lack of a firm response only reinforces an uncomfortable truth that the leaked cables themselves post on a billboard for all the world to see: that America's will has been broken.

## Broken Connections, Damaged Credibility

Consider the damage done to America's information-gathering abilities. For example, one secret cable contained important testimony from a well-connected Iranian businessman who works in Baku, was educated in Britain and made famous in Iran as a sportsman. His name was omitted from the cable, but how long will it be before Iranian authorities figure out who it is? Next time he's interviewed by American diplomats—assuming he is even alive—how forthright do you suppose he will be?

"We do know ... that our adversaries are out there actively mining this information," a Pentagon spokesman explained. We just don't know how they are going to use it, he said.

Besides abetting the terrorist cause, consider the impact WikiLeaks will have on America's diplomatic exchanges with allies. There have already been reports of foreign diplomats backing away from their dealings with American officials. According to the State Department, fewer diplomats are now attending meetings abroad. In one case, there was a request for notebooks to be left outside the meeting room.

Who can blame them? No one wants their off-the-record comments to go viral. Even America's *own* diplomats must surely be thinking twice about offering candid remarks when reporting back to Washington. How can they be expected to provide the unvarnished truth if, in the backs of their minds, they are worried about someone else seeing that information later?

Remember the example of Theodore Roosevelt. For negotiating peace between Russia and Japan, he became the first U.S.

president to win a Nobel Peace Prize. This feat would have been impossible if either side feared their communications could be made public. Both sides were afraid of losing face by being the one to ask for peace, yet both sides wanted peace. Tsar Nicolas only agreed to negotiate on the condition that his agreement would remain "absolutely secret" until Japan had also agreed to do so. Actually, Japan had been asking the U.S. the same thing for some time.

In this case, Japan and Russia put their trust in America firstly because it was in their interest, but also *because they trusted America to keep their secrets*. Thus Roosevelt was able to negotiate a treaty that stopped a war, helped American interests in the Far East, and increased America's global prestige.

Now that trust is gone. "[T]aking away privacy makes diplomacy impossible," wrote Stratfor's George Friedman. "If what you really think of the guy on the other side of the table is made public, how can diplomacy work? ... [W]hat [Assange] did in leaking these documents, if the leaking did anything at all, is make diplomacy more difficult. It is not that it will lead to war by any means; it is simply that one cannot advocate negotiations and then demand that negotiators be denied confidentiality in which to conduct their negotiations. No business could do that, nor could any other institution" (Dec. 14, 2010).

All in all, as former CIA officer Robert Baer wrote in the *Financial Times*, American credibility and diplomacy have suffered "incalculable" damage. "[T]he credibility of the State Department as a reliable interlocutor has evaporated, and no doubt for a long time," Baer concluded (Nov. 30, 2010).

## No Consequences

The most disturbing development, as *Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer noted, "is the helplessness of a superpower that not only cannot protect



its own secrets but shows the world that if you violate its secrets—massively, wantonly and maliciously—there are no consequences” (Dec. 3, 2010).

A reporter asked Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell why the United States didn’t employ its recently developed Cyber Command in order to prevent the WikiLeaks fiasco. This was his stunning response: “We ... clearly have offensive capabilities. But at the end of the day ... the decision was made *not* to proceed with any sort of aggressive action of that sort in this case. *It was just deemed not appropriate for us to consider such a thing.*”

The Pentagon, in other words, might have stopped WikiLeaks before it even got started, *but that wouldn’t have been appropriate.* And besides, as Morrell went on to explain, at the end of the day, the document dump “does *not* ... adversely impact America’s power or prestige.”

*Don’t worry—we’re the United States of America! We’re invincible and indispensable!*

The rest of the world, meanwhile, sees America as a former superpower in rapid decline. The pride of America’s power has already been broken, just as God said it would be (Leviticus 26:19). Nothing illustrates this quite like America’s passive response to the WikiLeaks sabotage—a blatant act of international espionage aimed directly at the United States.

It’s a far cry from the iron-handed approach to foreign affairs that presidents like Theodore Roosevelt once employed, when America was on the rise as a prestigious and dominant world power. “Speak softly and carry a big stick—[and] you will go far,” Roosevelt said. As Thomas Bailey wrote in his 1968 volume, *The Art of Diplomacy*, Roosevelt’s proverb means that for diplomatic courtesy to produce tangible results, it has to be backed by a show of real strength.

Now, America seems to be ditching the proverbial “big stick” altogether.

## Yemen

Consider the now-blown cover of Yemen’s president (a covert U.S. ally). The CIA lists the Yemeni branch of al Qaeda as the most urgent threat to U.S. security. One leaked cable shows that Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave U.S. Gen. David Petraeus permission to routinely bomb al Qaeda targets within Yemen, saying, “We’ll continue saying the bombs are ours, not yours.” The cable also indicts Yemen’s deputy prime minister for blatantly lying to parliament when he claimed Yemeni forces were dropping the bombs on the terrorist positions—implying that heathen American forces were not allowed in the country.

Another cable reveals President Saleh gave his approval to alcohol smuggling by government officials, even as he worked to boost his popularity by portraying himself as an Islamic leader in the full religious sense. The cable paints him as a blatant hypocrite. Greg Johnson, a Yemen expert at Princeton, said, “In some of the tribal areas where al Qaeda is really attempting to recruit people, having something like this where the president and his ministers are on the record talking about lying and deceiving parliament and the Yemeni public, I think it will have traction. Al Qaeda will be able to use it in the months to come.”

Now, not only is America’s ability to attack al Qaeda in Yemen in peril, but there is also the potential loss of an ally and the reinforcement of the terrorists that America will have to deal with.

## Lebanon

WikiLeaks also gave Hezbollah terrorists a boost in Lebanon. The cables quote Lebanon’s Defense Minister Elias Murr, former Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamade and other politicians giving sensitive information about Hezbollah to American officials. Murr offered advice for the U.S. to pass on to Israel to use against Hezbollah. The leaks show that Murr wanted Israel to weaken Hezbollah so the Lebanese Army could “take over.”

This is exactly the type of propaganda that Hezbollah, which paints itself as the true defender of Lebanon, loves. Hezbollah will no doubt use it to justify radical actions against the Lebanese government.

The Lebanese leaks will also affect the international tribunal investigating the murder of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. A Lebanese tribunal was expected to implicate Syria and accuse several Hezbollah members of being involved in the murder. However, leaked cables reveal that the tribunal had asked the U.S. for intelligence. Hezbollah is using this to claim that the tribunal is a setup. Again, the leaks hurt the politicians that chose to work with the U.S. against terrorist groups.

## Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe too, the position of America and its allies has been undermined. Leaked cables paint President Robert Mugabe’s chief opponent, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, as an American stooge, and a crummy one at that. They relate Tsvangirai’s discussions with the U.S. on how to oust Mugabe. The leaks also reveal the name of a member of Mugabe’s own party who was informing the U.S. Now he could end up fired, in prison, or dead. Zimbabwean officials are accusing Tsvangirai of treason.

Liesl Louw-Vaudran of the Institute for Security Studies said the leaks could easily destabilize Zimbabwe: “We are sitting with a very tense situation, very delicate, where we’ve got a dictator now for the last 25 years here in Africa, absolutely insistent that any opposition to him is being instigated by the West. And now he has that on paper, and that is dangerous. ... I do fear that the revelations [are] really going to give ammunition to President Robert Mugabe, especially while we are facing a new election in Zimbabwe [in 2011].”

The cables have made a mess of America’s efforts to undermine a despotic regime that disregards human rights and works closely with China.

## Pakistan

America's tenuous alliance with Pakistan also took a hit. U.S. critics in Islamabad, of which there are many, cannot be happy about the cable accusing Pakistan of "playing a double game." Other leaks reveal America's aggravation over the lax security surrounding Pakistan's nuclear arsenal. As one Pakistani official recently noted, "The documents show what Washington *really* thinks about us." Which is to say, not much.

## Iran

The WikiLeaks reveal an America not only unwilling to use force against its most avowed enemy, but a nation going to extremes to cover up that nation's hatred for the U.S.—even going so far as to hide from Americans the fact that Iran is at war with America and killing its soldiers.

Try to wrap your mind around that: Even as American soldiers are asked to sacrifice their lives in the war against terrorism, two U.S. presidents—representing *both* political parties—have been hard at work covering the tracks of the world's number-one state sponsor of terror!

In October, when WikiLeaks released another batch of secret documents coming from the Iraqi battlefield, the *New York Times* said it revealed how Iran's military had "intervened aggressively" to support combatants fighting American troops. Another *Times* piece noted that U.S. troops had discovered evidence of Iran's role in training Iraqi militants and supplying militias with rockets, magnetic bombs and other weapons. "The reports make it clear that the lethal contest between Iranian-backed militias and American forces continued *after* President Obama sought to open a diplomatic dialogue with Iran's leaders," the *Times* wrote (Oct. 22, 2010).

Even as Iran continued its deadly assault on American troops, President Obama worked to erase the Iranian connection. Who can forget his Cairo speech, when he showered praise on the Iranian people and encouraged the mullahs to finish their nuclear power project?

For his part, President Bush repeatedly stressed toward the end of his second term that he had "no desire" to go to war against Iran.

Even as practically every major leader in the Middle East was pleading with the United States to do something about

the primary source of state-sponsored terrorism, America backed down.

In November 2009, according to one diplomatic cable, King Hamad of Bahrain "argued forcefully" for the U.S. to use "whatever means necessary" to knock out Iran's nuclear program. "The danger of letting it go on is greater than the danger of stopping it," he said.

His plea was shared by numerous other Arab leaders. "Bomb Iran, or live with an Iranian bomb. Sanctions, carrots, incentives won't matter," said one senior representative from the Jordanian Senate.

**"The danger of letting [Iran's nuclear program] go on is greater than the danger of stopping it."**

**HAMAD IBN ISA AL KHALIFA**  
KING OF BAHRAIN



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak referred to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as being irrational and accused Iran of continually "stirring trouble." In another cable, America's ambassador in Cairo described Mubarak as having "a visceral hatred for the Islamic Republic."

Abu Dhabi's crown prince said it was only a matter of time before Ahmadinejad plunged the Middle East into war. He said if American air strikes didn't take out the nuclear program, then the U.S. should send in ground forces. He urged such action back in 2006.

Even before that Saudi Arabia's powerful King Abdullah angrily expressed his disapproval of the Bush administration for disregarding his advice against the Iraqi invasion. Prior to the war in Iraq, Abdullah said, the U.S., Saddam Hussein and Saudi Arabia had collectively kept Iran in check. But by knocking out Saddam, the U.S. had unwittingly handed Iraq over to Iran as a "gift on a golden platter."

## Terrorist Targets

The leaks broadcast to the world the locations of America's hard-to-defend soft spots. According to Agence France-Presse, one secret cable contains a list of important global infrastructure locations, including underwater pipelines, communication ports and mineral reserves. Said P.J. Crowley, spokesman at the State Department, it's exactly the kind of classified information that can be used by terrorist groups as a *target list*.

As many of our readers know, we were talking about the likelihood of Iraq falling to Iran as early as 1994. Can you imagine the power Iran would have, Gerald Flurry asked in December of that year, if it gained control of Iraq? Then, soon after the war broke out in March 2003, we wrote, "It may seem shocking, given the U.S. presence in the region right now, but prophecy indicates that, in pursuit of its goal, Iran will probably take over Iraq" (June 2003).

According to one cable that turned up in the latest WikiLeaks dump, King Abdullah "frequently exhorted the U.S. to attack Iran and put an end to its nuclear weapons program." The Saudi ambassador to Washington implored America "to cut off the head of the snake."

Many of our readers will remember us using that same analogy when the war on terrorism began. "If the Taliban is just one tendril of the monster, where is the head?" we asked in November 2001. "The real head of the snake of terrorism is referred to in end-time prophecy as the *king of the south*." And Iran, that article explained, was the one Mideast nation with enough strength, willpower and resources to be the king of the south.

Students of Bible prophecy are well aware of the coming clash between the kings of the north and south, spoken of in Daniel 11:40. This is referring to a German-led European combine, the king of the north, coming against the Iranian-led king of the south *like a whirlwind*.

The United States, meanwhile, isn't even mentioned in the Daniel 11 prophecy. In fact, no Bible prophecy speaks expressly of a major clash between the United States and Iran.

What prophecy *does* reveal is that God has broken the pride of American power—that America's military strength in these latter days will be spent in vain (Leviticus 26:19-20). ■





# The Sin of Idolatry

It's more common than you might think.

**O**F ALL GOD'S COMMANDMENTS, THE BAN ON IDOLATRY might *seem* the most outdated. *It must be for another age, many assume—when people offered sacrifices before man-made statues or deified the sun, moon and stars.*

In fact, idolatry is **JUST AS COMMON** today as it was in the Stone Age. Of course, the materials, technologies, trends and fashions are much different than they were then. But human nature remains the same.

In the pivotal Old Testament prophecy of Leviticus 26, God reaffirmed the birthright promises He had made to Abraham. He told the Israelites of Moses's day that they would receive the birthright blessings *then*, **IF** they faithfully obeyed God's laws. In outlining these conditions to Israel, God placed **SPECIAL EMPHASIS** on *two* of the Ten Commandments.

Notice: "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God. Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 26:1-2).

*Keep my sabbaths*, God said, and **DON'T BOW DOWN TO IDOLS**. These were the two great **TEST** commandments for the people of Israel. Now why would God emphasize these two? Because these two, more than the others, were designed to *keep man in the closest, most intimate contact with his Maker!*

"I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage," God thundered at Mt. Sinai, before reiterating the **TEN INDISPENSABLE LAWS** mankind has always needed to regulate their relationships with God and man.

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me," God continued (Exodus 20:1-3). That word *before* means "in place of." God **MUST** have first place in our lives—*always*; without exception. This First Commandment forbids man from placing *anyone* or **ANYTHING** in front of God. *It forbids idolatry.*

Now notice how the Second Commandment flows right out of the great command to put God above all else. "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the wa-

Whatever it is, if we place it ahead of God and living according to His laws, it becomes a false god.

ter under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:

for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God ..." (verses 4-5).

This commandment obviously forbids the use of any *physical* substitutes or aids man sets up in order to "worship" God. But what about the *spiritual* idols we **SET UP IN OUR HEARTS**, as it says in Ezekiel 14:3? We may not bow down to physical idols made of stone, wood or precious metals, but our modern world is **FILLED** with idolatry just the same!

"Every person has his **IDOL**," Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his *Autobiography*. For Mr. Armstrong, it was an egotistical sense of self-importance—the desire to attain status in the eyes of his

peers. For us, it may be an inordinate love of self—or vanity—as it was with Lucifer. His heart was lifted up because of his own beauty—so much so that he wanted to raise his earthly throne above his own Creator's (Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:13).

Maybe it's pursuing the physical beauty of *others* that we place in front of God. Just look at how our Western culture glamorizes beauty, among women especially—as if good looks and a youthful appearance are all that matters. Look at the reverential treatment of celebrity icons.

Perhaps it's physical wealth and materialism that prevents us from putting God first, like the young man who told Jesus he had obeyed all of God's commandments since his youth. When Jesus told him to give up his earthly possessions, he went away sorrowful because his heart was so attached to material things.

Pleasure-seeking also separates a lot of people from God—things like entertainment and sports or excessive television viewing. God's way of life, after all, is demanding. Among other things, God expects us to observe His weekly and annual sabbaths, to tithe on all of our income and to seek Him daily through effectual fervent prayers and diligent Bible study. If we spend most of our leisure time pursuing things other than God, this might be an idol.

Some make an idol out of gluttony, drunkenness and other such addictions. Instead of looking to God in time of need, they turn to physical substances in order to cope or to escape.

Still others insist on putting friends or family members ahead of God. They would rather give God second or third place in their lives than face alienation from loved ones over their obedience to God's laws.

What about our profession or career? God praises those who work with all their might, but if we turn to work in order to avoid responsibilities at home or in the church, then we can make a god out of working. On the other hand, there are also those who refuse to work—who make a god out of idleness and ease.

Whatever it is, if we place it ahead of God and living according to His laws, **IT BECOMES A FALSE GOD!** If it interferes with our relationship with God, the Bible says, then it becomes an idol—and it must be crushed!

In Mr. Armstrong's case, it took God 28 years to finally stamp out every vestige of self-assured confidence, which was idolatry!

"Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **FLEE** from idolatry," Paul wrote to the brethren at Corinth, well over a thousand years after Israel had come out of Egyptian captivity. He knew well that the idolatry command was not meant for some bygone age. *It was written for us.* Like the rest of the Ten Commandments, it applies to our time **TODAY!**

And it remains, even to this day, as one of two critically important **TEST** commands. If faithfully obeyed, it automatically draws us closer to our Maker!

Keep yourselves from idols, as John wrote to conclude his first epistle. Give God first place in your life. Make your **RELATIONSHIP with Him** more important than **ANYONE** or *anything* else. Nothing in this material life is as important as that.



## TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

# How Humanity Will Learn Its Lesson

*The Philadelphia Trumpet, in conjunction with the Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!*

**T**HE STATE OF OUR WORLD WAS PROPHESED and written in advance. About 2,000 years ago, the greatest “newscaster” the world has ever known foretold today’s chaotic world conditions. He foresaw today’s scientific discoveries and technological advancements, and the radical changes they would effect on humanity. He foretold the wars, famines, disease epidemics and natural disasters now increasingly occurring before our very eyes.

This famous newscaster knew that men would produce the destructive forces that now threaten cosmocide! He warned: “For that will be a time of greater horror than anything the world has ever seen or will ever see again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race will be destroyed” (Matthew 24:21-22; New Living Translation).

This great newscaster was Jesus Christ of Nazareth—the same Jesus who is coming again to intervene at the last moment to save humanity from extinction and establish world peace!

But before He intervenes, a number of catastrophic events that will impact all humanity must first occur.

These events are outlined in the book of Revelation. In the last two installments, we have learned that this last book of the Bible details “seven seals” that reveal events to occur in the years leading up to the return of Christ (Revelation 5:9). The seventh seal contains seven symbolic trumpets (Revelation 8:1-6) that represent consecutive punishments from God on a rebellious mankind. And, as we saw last month, the fifth and sixth seals are also known as the first and second woes, signaling warfare between military powers in Europe and Asia.

Next in the sequence of events described in Revelation is the seventh trumpet.

1. What will happen when the seventh trumpet sounds and the third woe begins? Revelation 11:14-15. Who will then be given the kingdoms, or governments, of this world? Verse 15.

**COMMENT:** On the climactic day of Christ’s return, a myriad of events will take place at whirlwind speed. The very first event that occurs at this time is the coronation of Jesus Christ (Daniel 7:13-14), followed by the announcement at the trumpet blast that His government will finally replace those of Satan and man. Other events will take place at the moment of the seventh trumpet’s blast as well, as we will see later. But first, let’s notice what happens as Christ’s return to claim the Earth is noticed by the people of the world.

2. What will be the reaction of the nations of this world? Revelation 11:18.

**Comment:** Jesus Christ, the new world Ruler, will not be automatically accepted by the warring nations as the King of the Earth. The nations will actually gather their armies to challenge Christ. They will consider Him their common enemy, and will rage against Him for coming to take control of all earthly governments. They know that with Jesus Christ ruling, their human schemes can never be completed.

It is this climactic battle that will determine the outcome of World War III, and who will rule the world!

### Seven Final Punishments

1. Is this time of God’s intervention the time of His righteous wrath on rebellious mankind? Revelation 11:18. What more is revealed about this time of God’s wrath? Revelation 15:1.

**COMMENT:** Just as the seventh seal is divided into the seven last trumpets, so the seventh trumpet is divided into seven last plagues. These plagues will finally crush all rebellion.

2. Are the seven last plagues—likened to vials of God’s wrath—about to be poured out? Verse 7. How are the seven last plagues described? Read Revelation 16 for a summary of all seven plagues.

3. Because men refuse to repent, will God continue to send each plague in sequence? Revelation 16:9, 11.

**COMMENT:** Despite the plagues, the majority of mankind will not turn to God in repentance right away.

4. How long will it take for all seven plagues to be administered? Revelation 18:8.

**COMMENT:** All seven vials against the disobedient will begin in one 24-hour day—the day ushered in by the blowing of the last trumpet. Some of these vials of wrath will continue to be administered beyond this 24-hour period. The combined power of these plagues will devastate the disobedient.

5. With the sixth plague, will God prepare the way for the kings of the east and their armies to cross the Euphrates into the Holy Land? Revelation 16:12. Is this part of God’s plan to gather the armies of all nations that remain rebellious to His government into one place for the final battle of World War III? Verses 13-14. See also Zephaniah 3:8 and Joel 3:9-14.

**COMMENT:** Recall that the fifth and sixth trumpets are also called the first woe and second woe. In the first two woes, the beast power will attack, then be devastated by a counterattack from the kings of the east. But on the day of the seventh trumpet, when Christ returns to Jerusalem, both armies will unite to fight Him!

6. Will Christ make war in righteousness against those nations that fight Him and His armies? Revelation

# The Seven Seals of Revelation

<b>1ST SEAL</b>	<b>White Horse: False Prophets</b> Rev. 6:1-2 Matt 24:3-5	<b>1ST TRUMPET</b>	<b>Hail, fire and blood; one third of trees, grass burned</b> Revelation 8:6-7							<b>THE SEVEN TRUMPET PLAGUES</b>	<b>THE DAY OF THE LORD</b> A ONE-YEAR PERIOD OF GOD'S WRATH	
<b>2ND SEAL</b>	<b>Red Horse: War</b> Rev. 6:3-4 Matt 24:6-7	<b>2ND TRUMPET</b>	<b>One third of sea becomes blood</b> Revelation 8:8-9									
<b>3RD SEAL</b>	<b>Black Horse: Famine</b> Rev. 6:5-6 Matt 24:7	<b>3RD TRUMPET</b>	<b>One third of fresh water made bitter</b> Revelation 8:10-11									
<b>4TH SEAL</b>	<b>Pale Horse: Pestilence</b> Rev. 6:7-8 Matt 24:7-8	<b>4TH TRUMPET</b>	<b>One third of light darkened</b> Revelation 8:12									
<b>5TH SEAL</b>	<b>The Great Tribulation</b> Rev. 6:9-11 Matt 24:9-10, 21	<b>5TH TRUMPET</b>	<b>War inspired by Satan</b> Revelation 8:13; 9:1-12									<b>1ST WOE</b>
<b>6TH SEAL</b>	<b>The Heavenly Signs</b> Rev. 6:12-17 Matt 24:29	<b>6TH TRUMPET</b>	<b>Army of 200 million; 1/3 of mankind killed</b> Revelation 9:13-21									<b>2ND WOE</b>
<b>7TH SEAL</b>	Silence in heaven for half an hour (Rev. 8:1-6), followed by the seven trumpet plagues.	<b>7TH TRUMPET</b>	<b>RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST</b> <b>First resurrection occurs; all seven vials begin within 24 hours.</b> Rev. 11:15-19; 19:1-21; Matt. 24:30-31; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:16; Zech. 14:3-4									<b>3RD WOE</b>
			<b>1ST VIAL</b>	<b>2ND VIAL</b>	<b>3RD VIAL</b>	<b>4TH VIAL</b>	<b>5TH VIAL</b>	<b>6TH VIAL</b>	<b>7TH VIAL</b>			
			Terrible sores inflicted	Sea turned to blood	Fresh water turned to blood	Scorching by the sun	Darkness and pain	Euphrates dried up	Greatest earthquake; hail			

19:11; Isaiah 11:4-5. Is Christ going to smite the nations with His sharp sword, symbolic of His divine power, and rule them with a rod of iron? Revelation 19:15.

7. Who will be defeated in this climactic battle of World War III? Verses 19-20.

8. After all organized military resistance to the Kingdom of God has been crushed, will Christ then punish the leaders of this world's political and religious system that warred against Him? Verse 20.

## Why God Sends Punishment

1. Are God's angels who will pour out the seven last plagues upon Earth clothed in white linen, a symbol of righteous judgment? Revelation 15:6.

2. Does God have to punish mankind because their sins would eventually lead to the destruction of life on Earth? Zephaniah 1:17; Revelation 11:18.

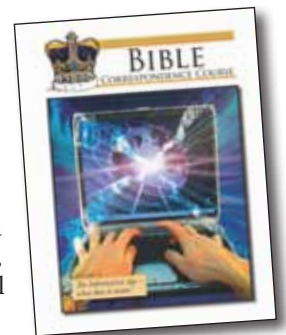
**COMMENT:** God is love (1 John 4:16). God and Christ love all of humanity (John 3:16). But Christ will be angry at the sins of mankind when He returns. He is coming to punish—*in love!* Otherwise, man would destroy all life upon the planet! Power-mad politicians at the helm of human governments will have already destroyed much of the Earth, and unless God intervenes with force to stop warfare, no human would be left alive (Matthew 24:22).

3. Will the nations finally accept God and repent, and seek to learn His way? Isaiah 2:1-4.

**COMMENT:** The glorified Christ is coming in all the splendor, power and glory of God to stop escalating wars, nuclear mass destruction, human pain and suffering. He is coming to usher in a radically different, utterly transformed global order. God's laws will be taught, embraced and enforced worldwide, which will result in peace, abundant prosperity, happiness and joy for all mankind.

Meanwhile, each of us can receive the blessings of God's way of life and His protection *now*. But first we must come to see the catastrophic effects of sin as God does. Left unchecked, man's sins would lead to the destruction of humanity. The events that occur at the seventh trumpet show how much God hates sin—and what He will do to finally eradicate it in the world. We must have this same attitude toward sin. That means coming to have a sincere willingness and earnest motivation to completely eliminate it from our own lives, just as Jesus Christ will utterly destroy the sin in the world at His return.

Those who turn to God and seek to do His will, instead of following the sinful ways of this world, will be given divine protection (Revelation 3:10; 12:14-16). You need not suffer any of the coming plagues! ■



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 50,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.

**T** You can read previous articles in this series online at [theTrumpet.com/BibleIQ](http://theTrumpet.com/BibleIQ)

## The way to peace?

Thank you for taking the time to warn people willing to read and prove all things for themselves by reading the Bible (“The Last Crusade,” January). Nuclear weapons have kept peace for 64 years. Nuclear weapons now in the wrong hands will soon start World War III. The Bible says the way to peace they (humans) do not know. ... Keep on watching and warning, *Trumpet* staff.

Robert Corbett—WISCONSIN

## Change of perspective toward Iran

*Awesome* and *inspiring* are two words that come to mind (“The History Iran Forgot,” January)! Thank you for this article! Every person on the planet should read this. It would make an Earth-changing difference in our perspective toward Iran!

J.B.—CALIFORNIA

## A must-see website

I don’t know what prompted you to write such an article, but it was a refreshing piece to read—and inspiring (“Break Through Giant Barriers,” January). Thanks. Just a comment about theTrumpet.com. In my opinion, it is the best site now on the Internet. The addition of the Forum, the blog, and the other video news just make it a must-see website.

Charles Woelfel—CEBU, PHILIPPINES

## Thanks for visiting my country

I have taken the liberty of reading your well-researched article about South Africa (“Clouds Across the Rainbow,” January). It is clear that you are well aware of what the status quo is in South Africa unlike so many others that report on our country without even having visited it. Our country is a mess. We have the highest number of murders and rapes committed in the world. Corruption is on par with all other African nations. What more is there to say? ... The fact is that we have sinned against God. This is truly our punishment. Most of us know exactly which way this country is heading and it’s definitely not toward prosperity.

Durandt—SOUTH AFRICA

You have the entire frightening, but wholly predictable, future of this latest example of Afro-tribal fascism down to



the last dot and comma. We of the taxpaying class are now feeling more and more uncomfortable in this continuing atmosphere of sullen tribal dislike of us in the ethnic minority. I’m personally a retired white male, and I simply cannot bring myself to invest any of my funds or my wife’s savings in any asset class other than liquid money market ac-

counts due to this everyday discomfort we feel. There is a movement of Mugabeism smoldering under the surface, with media freedom now openly being threatened. This is combined with a racial ethnic-cleansing agenda/state religion known as “transformation.” A sad but predictable outcome to totalitarian ANC rule.

David—JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Well spoken. It takes courage to say what no one else will for fear of being politically “incorrect.” I work in a “politically correct” environment, and I see what happens when someone messes up and speaks their mind. It’s not pretty. Although the subject of South Africa is a hotbed of controversy to say the least, I admire that you took this on and spoke the truth!

J.B.—CANADA

## Grotesque and creepy!

I had never heard of zombie walking before (“Don’t Even Think About It,” January). Then yesterday, we were trying to drive through the city of Brisbane, and we could not get through. There were people everywhere. They had red paint on clothing and faces to look like blood, and people had masks, etc. It was grotesque and creepy. I looked it up and found that it was Brisbane’s annual Zombie Walk, and they were raising money for the Brain Foundation of Australia. I actually thought it was insulting to the families with brain injuries to have money raised for them in this way.

L.K.—AUSTRALIA

Spot on! Halloween has never been any real big deal in Australia until the last couple of years where it is taking root (probably attributed to the TV series/movies you mentioned). I don’t even like being around the paraphernalia at the checkout at the shops with our two young boys—it is so offensive and impressionable on a young curious mind. ... As for vampires, they are selling T-shirts for toddler girls saying, “Forget being a princess, I’d rather be a VAMPIRE!” and parents are

obviously buying them. Thanks again for another fantastic article!

Angela—QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

I really do believe what they’re saying here about our world and all the ugliness that goes along with it. I’d rather worship the God of understanding, truth, love, light, compassion, caring and helping others. These pagan holidays are for kids, but under it lies evil. ... I could never understand anything the Bible said until I started reading the *Trumpet* and the literature.

Anthony—NEW JERSEY

## Setting the stage for Germany

Brilliant analysis! (“Britain Buddies With France. What Could Possibly Go Wrong?” January). This pact also sets the stage for future military integration at German insistence—with the excuse that no one complained about the British and French “aligning militarily.” Political correctness will force the world to not hurt Germany’s feelings by protesting their military integration plans.

John Hopkin—NORTH CAROLINA

## Your humor has me rolling

“Therefore, scientists have reasonably expected to find thousands, or at least hundreds, or maybe 10, fossils of transitional species. But they can’t find a single one!” Your humor has me rolling (“Have You Ever Looked at a Monkey?” January). I love this line. The ending was brilliant. The link we have to God is amazing, so it’s clear why the god of this world wants us to believe we are merely primates. If he can keep our focus on the physical we will never reach our potential.

K.O.—UNITED STATES

How can it be that these very same people (or at least people with a similar mindset) trying so desperately to conjure up a link between monkeys and man would scoff at hard, physical evidence being dug up out of the ground in Jerusalem of a city, a king and a nation?

Mike B.—PENNSYLVANIA

## An eye opener!

This is the first publication of your magazine I have received, and what an eye opener! I have often wondered how the newsworthy stories depicted on our cable news fit into the Bible’s prophecies. Now I have a source to explain them using the Bible itself. How refreshing is this? An entity that wants to gain nothing for itself, the overall result is gain for someone else, i.e. our Heavenly Father and Christ, our Lord and Savior! Truly remarkable.

D. Walton—HANOVER, PA.

# Marriage—Soon Obsolete?

Americans say yes, but they are wrong.

IS MARRIAGE ON THE WAY OUT? IS ADULTERY STILL WRONG? Are home and family life to disappear from society? How and when did the institution of marriage originate? Does it serve any necessary purpose? Herbert Armstrong asked those questions well over 40 years ago in his booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*

The title of that booklet flashed before my eyes when I read a recent Associated Press headline using the same terms. “Four in 10 say *marriage is becoming obsolete*,” it said (emphasis mine). “[N]early one in three American children is living with a parent who is divorced, separated or never-married,” it said. “More people are accepting the view that wedding bells aren’t needed to have a family” (Nov. 18, 2010).

Those people couldn’t be more wrong! I *know* the negative statistics surrounding the families without monogamous marriages. And I have, over the years, worked with people whose lives have shattered as a result.

I *know* and have studied for years the figures surrounding the devastation caused by single-parent, broken families produced by couples without the courage nor the sense of *responsibility* to make a lifetime marriage commitment. Not to mention the terrible psychological damage done to those who deign to establish a “family” within a homosexual relationship.

But more, I *know*, from a lifetime’s experience, the very *opposite*—the unspeakable blessings, the peace, the happiness and the security that come from being bound in marriage to one wife for almost half a century, and the tremendous *stability* such a relationship produces in a second and on to a third generation!

I *know* because I’ve simply *lived it!*

I’ve heard every argument over the years from the feminists, the leftists, the so-called swingers of the ’70s, and the morally deprived generations produced from the beatnik to the rap generation. Most have argued against marriage as the ideal way to build healthy families and societies. And most used their argument to justify their own chosen immoral lifestyle.

Well, I’m thankful that, as a young person seeking after truth, I came across one who preached the truth, and who challenged his listeners to prove he was right!

I took the challenge and *proved it!*

Around 29 percent of children under 18 now live with a parent or parents who are unwed.

As a young married parent of two 42 years ago, I read Herbert Armstrong’s booklet proph-

esying of a coming generation that would see marriage as largely obsolete. Now I read the headline that shows the *fulfillment* of that prophecy.

The sure thing about prophecy is that all you have to do is wait, and one day it will be fulfilled.

The Pew report that sparked the newspaper article revealed that around 29 percent of children under 18 now live with a parent or parents who are unwed or no longer married—five times more than in 1960. Among these, about 15 percent have parents who are divorced or separated; the other 14 percent have

parents who were never married. A notable chunk within those two groups—6 percent—have parents who live together, but decided to raise children without getting married.

When I attended elementary school from the mid-1940s to early 1950s, I did not know the meaning of the term *divorce*. I was the only child in my class from a single-parent home. My mother was widowed. I consciously felt my status diminished by not having a father like all my peers.

By the time my eldest son reached high school, half his peers came from either single-parent homes or homes that had suffered the identity trauma of divorce and remarriage.

We pride ourselves on just how we have “matured” as a highly developed, politically correct society. But in reality, our society is rapidly devolving back to the pre-Flood Noachian era of trashed moral standards, no absolutes, and popularized perversion in human relationships. The result was annihilation!

Your Bible prophecies of those times repeating themselves today, times of mass carousing, times when the God-given laws of marriage would be *trashed as obsolete!* (Matthew 24:37-38).

We live in this society *today*.

The Pew poll revealed that about 39 percent of Americans say marriage is becoming obsolete. As the Associated Press brought out, “that sentiment follows U.S. census data released in September that showed marriages hit an all-time low of 52 percent for adults 18 and over. In 1978, just 28 percent believed marriage was becoming obsolete” (ibid.).

But the deepest concern ought to be that our society has lost the definition, the meaning, and the vision of the term *marriage* as revealed in Scripture—applying to the monogamous relationship between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24).

“When asked what constitutes a family ... four of five surveyed pointed ... to an unmarried, opposite-sex couple with children or a single parent. Three of five people said a same-sex couple with children was a family” (ibid.).

What would happen within another lifetime? Could the marriage institution itself even *survive*? The reality is that if marriage as an institution does *not* survive, then civilization as we know it will *collapse!*

Thank the Eternal Creator of man and woman, the Creator of the institutions of marriage and family, that we will *never* reach that stage! The Son of God, the Savior of mankind, has declared that when we see society degenerate back to its pre-Flood condition, the Creator is about to intervene in the affairs of man! He will put a defining STOP to humankind’s rebellious, anti-God ways, and usher in the establishment of His very own government on Earth!

“But of that day and hour knoweth no man .... But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matthew 24:36-37).



► **CHURCHILL** from page 15

man named Winston Churchill came on the scene, and *the people* set him up as their watchman. God had a hand in it, but still, the PEOPLE chose Churchill.

Mr. Churchill's warning in the 1930s would fulfill those verses better than any example I know of in America and Britain's history in this end time.

In verse 7, however, it is no longer talking about World War II or a period like that. The setting dramatically shifts to this present time: "So thou, O son of man, I have set THEE a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me." This is *not* a watchman that the people chose, like the one referred to in verse 2. God says boldly and strongly, "I have set thee a watchman." This watchman is set there and sustained by God.

Why is this important? Because God has now taken the situation to another level. This is not the same as the people choosing a Churchill to save America and Britain, or modern-day Israel. That will not happen this time around. Times have changed dramatically! THIS TIME, PEOPLE WILL EITHER HEAR GOD'S MAN OR SUFFER NIGHTMARISH CATASTROPHE!

Here is an amazing point. By going through that tribulation, according to Ezekiel, all these victims are going to get to know God! They don't know Him today.

If a Churchill came on the scene today, he wouldn't be telling us to repent. He might tell us some of our flaws and weaknesses, but he wouldn't tell us to repent of our sins toward God. Only God's watchman would do that. And that is what Israel, or America and Britain, needs.

Can we appreciate the significance of this end-time event? God chooses a watchman and gives him words: *Hear the word at MY MOUTH*, He says. The words from Ezekiel (and the rest of the Bible) are from the very mouth of God! God gives this man *revelation*. Then He sends him out to proclaim those words: *You tell them this warning is from me. No matter what they say, unless they repent of their sins, they will go into captivity or die.* This is not about a Winston Churchill; this is a direct message from God to the nations of Israel! If they don't hear God's watchman, there is only invasion and captivity, worse than any ever known.

There is no solution in having a Churchill anymore. But God has a message that WOULD save them if they would listen!

Will you listen? ■

TELEVISION LOG

# THE KEY OF DAVID

All times are a.m. local time unless otherwise noted.

**UNITED STATES**

**Nationwide Satellite**

Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu  
Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET

**Direct TV DBS** WGN Chan. 307 8:00 ET, Sun  
**Direct TV DBS** ION Ch. 305 6:00 ET, Fri  
**Dish Network** ION Ch. 216 6:00 ET, Fri  
**Dish Network DBS** WGN Chan. 239 8:00 ET, Sun  
**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 ET, Sun  
**Alabama, Birmingham** WPHX 5:00, Fri  
**Dothan** WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Montgomery** WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Anchorage** KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Fairbanks** KATN-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Juneau** KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Phoenix** KPPX 5:00, Fri

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

**Arkansas, Fayetteville** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Fort Smith** KCWA 8:30, Sun

**Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30, Sun

**Rogers** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Springdale** KWFT 8:30, Sun

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

**Chico** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

**El Centro** KWJB 9:30, Sun

**Eureka** KUVU-DT 9:30, Sun

**Los Angeles** KPXM 6:00, Fri

**Monterey** KMWB 9:30, Sun

**Palm Springs** KESQ/KCWO-DT 9:30, Sun

**Redding** KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

**Sacramento** KSPX 6:00, Fri

**Salinas** KION 9:30, Sun

**San Francisco** KKPX 6:00, Fri

**Santa Barbara** KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

**Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00, Fri

**Denver** KWGN 10:00, Sun

**Grand Junction** KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

**Montrose** KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

**Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00, Fri

**Delaware, Dover** WBD 9:30, Sun

**Salisbury** WMVD-DT 9:30, Sun

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

**Jacksonville** WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

**Miami** WPXM 6:00, Fri

**Orlando** WOPX 6:00, Fri

**Panama City** WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

**Tallahassee** WTXL 7:30, Sun

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

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

**West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00, Fri

**Georgia, Albany** WBSK 9:30, Sun

**Augusta** WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

**Brunswick** WPXC 6:00, Fri

**Columbus** WLGA 9:30, Sun

**Macon** WBNN 9:30, Sun

**Savannah** WGSB/WGCW-LP 9:30, Sun

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

**Kauai Ho'ike** Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

**Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku**

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

**Idaho, Idaho Falls** KPFI/KBEO 10:30, Sun

**Pocatello** KPFI 10:30, Sun

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

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

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

**Peoria** WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Rockford** WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

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

**Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00, Fri

**Terre Haute** WBI 8:30, Sun

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

**Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00, Fri

**Des Moines** KFPX 5:00, Fri

**Keokuk** WEWB 8:30, Sun

**Kirkville** KWOT 8:30, Sun

**Mason City** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30, Sun

**Mason City** KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

**Sioux City** KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

**Kansas, Topeka** KSNT 8:30, Sun

**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO 8:30, Sun

**Lexington** WUPX 6:00, Fri

**Louisiana, Alexandria** KBCA 8:30, Sun

**El Dorado-Monroe** KNOE-DT 8:30, Sun

**Lafayette** KLWB 8:30, Sun

**Lake Charles** WBLC 8:30, Sun

**New Orleans** WPXL 5:00, Fri

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

**Presque Isle** WBPQ 9:30, Sun

**Maryland, Hagerstown** WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

**Salisbury** WBD 9:30, Sun

**Massachusetts, Boston** WBXP 6:00, Fri; WZMY 8:00, Sun

**Holyoke** WBQT 9:30, Sun

**Springfield** WBQT 9:30, Sun

**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30, Sun

**Cadillac** WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun

**Detroit** WPXD 6:00, Fri; WADL 10:00, Sun

**Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00, Fri

**Lansing** WLAI-DT 9:30, Sun

**Marquette** WBKP 9:30, Sun

**Traverse City-Cadillac** WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

**Minnesota, Duluth-Superior** WDLH 8:30, Sun

**Mankato** KWYE 8:30, Sun

**Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00, Fri

**Rochester-Austin** KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun

**Sioux Fall (Mitchell)** KWSW/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBG 8:30, Sun

**Columbus** WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Greenville** WBWD 8:30, Sun

**Greenwood** WBWD 8:30, Sun

**Gulfport** WBP 8:30, Sun

**Hattiesburg** WBH 8:30, Sun

**Laurel** WBH 8:30, Sun

**Meridian** WTOX-DT 8:30, Sun

**Tupelo** WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

**West Point** WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

**Hannibal** WGEN-DT 8:30, Sun

**Jefferson City** KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

**Joplin-Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30, Sun

**Kansas City** KPXE 5:00, Fri

**Quincy-Keokuk** WGEN-DT 8:30, Sun

**St. Joseph** WBJO 8:30, Sun

**Montana, Billings** KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun

**Bozeman-Butte** KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30, Sun

**Glendive** KWZB 10:30, Sun

**Great Falls** KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun

**Helena** KMTF-DT 10:30, Sun

Philadelphia Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry appears each week on **The Key of David** television program, explaining the meaning behind world events and teaching the inspiring truths of the Bible. Check below for when the program airs in your area—and don't miss it!

The program is also *always* available for viewing at **keyof david.com**



**Missoula** KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun  
**Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings** KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun  
**Kearney** KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun  
**North Platte** KWPL 8:30, Sun  
**Scottsbluff** KCHW 10:30, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KREN/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00, Fri  
**Binghamton** WBXI 9:30, Sun  
**Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun  
**Elmira** WBE 9:30, Sun  
**New York City** WYPX 6:00, Fri; WLN 10:00 Sun  
**Syracuse** WSPX 6:00, Fri  
**Utica** WBU 9:30, Sun  
**Watertown** WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun  
**North Carolina, Charlotte** WLMY 8:30, Sun  
**Durham** WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greensboro** WGPX 6:00, Fri  
**Greenville** WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00, Fri  
**New Bern** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Raleigh** WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**Washington** WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wilmington** WBW 9:30, Sun  
**North Dakota, Bismarck** KWMK 10:30, Sun  
**Dickinson** KWMK 10:30, Sun  
**Fargo** WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Minot** KWMK 10:30, Sun  
**Valley City** WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00, Fri  
**Cincinnati** WSTR 8:30, Sun  
**Lima** WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Steubenville** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Zanesville** WBZV 9:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KSHD 8:30, Sun  
**Lawton** KAUZ 8:30, Sun  
**Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00, Fri  
**Tulsa** KTPX 5:00, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Eugene** KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun  
**Klamath Falls** KMFD 9:30, Sun  
**Medford** KMFD 9:30, Sun  
**Portland** KPXG 6:00, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WBEP 9:30, Sun  
**Philadelphia** WPPX 6:00, Fri  
**Pittsburgh** WPCW 9:00, Sun  
**Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun

**Florence** WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Myrtle Beach** WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun  
**South Dakota, Mitchell** KWSD 8:30, Sun  
**Rapid City** KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun  
**Sioux Falls** KWSD 8:30, Sun  
**Tennessee, Jackson** WBJK 8:30, Sun  
**Knoxville** WPKX 6:00, Fri  
**Memphis** WPXX 5:00, Fri  
**Nashville** WNPX 5:00, Fri  
**Texas, Abilene** KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Arillo** KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Beaumont** KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Brownsville** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun  
**Corpus Christi** KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Harlingen** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun  
**Houston** KPXB 5:00, Fri  
**Laredo** KTXW 8:30, Sun  
**Longview** KCEB 8:30, Sun  
**Lubbock** KLCW 8:30, Sun  
**Midland** KWWT 8:30, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun  
**Odessa** KWWT 8:30, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun  
**Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30, Sun  
**San Angelo** KWSA 8:30, Sun  
**San Antonio** KPXL 5:00, Fri  
**Sherman-Ada** KTEB-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Sweetwater** KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Tyler** KCEB 8:30, Sun  
**Victoria** KWVB 8:30, Sun  
**Weslaco** KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun  
**Wichita Falls** KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00, Fri  
**Vermont, Burlington** W V N Y 10:00, Sun  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Harrisonburg** WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Norfolk** WXPX 6:00, Fri  
**Roanoke** WPRX 6:00, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WDCW 8:00, Sun; WXPX 6:00, Fri  
**Washington, Kennewick** KCWK 9:30, Sun  
**Richland** KCWK 9:30, Sun  
**Seattle-Tacoma** KWFX 6:00, Fri  
**Seattle** KVOS 8:30, Sun  
**Spokane** KGFX 6:00, Fri  
**Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick** KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Bluefield** KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Charleston** WLPX 6:00, Fri  
**Clarksburg** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Oak Hill** KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun

**Parkersburg** WBWP 9:30, Sun  
**Weston** WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun  
**Wheeling** WBWO 9:30, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**La Crosse** WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun  
**Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00, Fri  
**Rhineland** WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun  
**Wausau** WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** 10:30, Sun  
**Cheyenne** KCHW 10:30, Sun  
**Riverton** 10:30, Sun

## CANADA

### Nationwide satellite

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

### Nationwide cable

WGN 8:00 ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun  
 Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun.

### British Columbia, Vancouver

KVOS 8:30, Sun; CHEK 9:00, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun

### Victoria

CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun

### Maritime Provinces

CIHF 7:30, Sun

### Ontario, Toronto

WADL 10:00 Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun

### Quebec, Montreal

W V N Y 10:00, Sun

## LATIN AMERICA

### Regional satellite

Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu

### El Salvador

WGN 6:00, Sun

### Guatemala

WGN 6:00, Sun

### Honduras

WGN 6:00, Sun

### Mexico

WGN 7:00, Sun

### Panama

WGN 7:00, Sun

## CARIBBEAN

### Regional satellite

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

### Aruba

WGN 8:00, Sun

### Bahamas

WGN 8:00, Sun

### Belize

WGN 7:00, Sun

### Cuba

WGN 8:00, Sun

### Dominican Republic

WGN 8:00, Sun

### Haiti

WGN 7:00, Sun

### Jamaica

WGN 9:00, Sun

### Puerto Rico

WGN 8:00, Sun

### Trinidad and Tobago

WGN 8:00, Sun

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**THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET** (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. ©2011 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. How your subscription has been paid:** The *Trumpet* has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

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