

 **China
Rising**

KILLING PROP 8

Same-sex 'marriage' back on the books

*Flying
Dinos?*



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**screen
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how to beat it**



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A youth enraptured by gadgetry. iStockphoto

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Biblical Family—Our Most Noble Institution

Homosexuality destroys that vision, which is man's only hope.

IN 2008, THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT MADE HOMOSEXUAL “marriages” legal. Millions of Californians voted in the election five months later, and they passed a state constitutional amendment that banned these “marriages.” But this past August, ONE HOMOSEXUAL FEDERAL JUDGE from San Francisco struck down that ban. He said the religious belief that homosexual relationships are inferior to heterosexual relationships harms homosexuals. *Believing the Bible is harmful!* He also ruled that the *Constitution* guarantees the right to homosexual “marriage.”

What a false and twisted judgment! The Constitution was founded to a great extent on the law of God and the principles of the Bible. All 13 of the original colonies defined sodomy as a criminal offense!

Only Sodom and Gomorrah ever had a constitution that guaranteed the right to homosexual “marriage”! America's recent voting record shows that we are close to becoming a modern Sodom and Gomorrah.

Do we have any idea what this says about our spiritual condition? Do we see how dangerously *degenerate* we have become since the time of our original 13 colonies? Do we realize what this portends for our future?

George Washington said that of all the things that lead to political prosperity, “religion and morality are indispensable supports.” John Adams said that the Constitution was made “*only* for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” This judge, by contrast, HATES GOD'S LAW. To men like this, even the secular CONSTITUTIONAL LAW carries no authority!

IT'S ALL ABOUT LAWLESSNESS.

Even *religious people*—people who say they love Christ—HATE THE LAW OF GOD!

In 2006, when liberals swept into the majority in both houses of Congress, I wrote that American politics had been changed forever. Nancy Pelosi became speaker of the House of Representatives and brought “San Francisco values” to Washington. “San Francisco values will now permeate every major decision made by the American government,” I wrote at that time. “San Francisco is the homosexual capital of America. It is the seat of liberalism, and one of the most morally and spiritually bankrupt cities in the country. Now a leader saturated in San Francisco values and beliefs [Mrs. Pelosi] is one of the most powerful politicians in the land.”

In this environment, a homosexual judge has FORCED HIS TWISTED VIEWS ON MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. When those “San Francisco values” become so powerful, there is no way a nation can stand.

The Bible is ABUNDANTLY CLEAR about God's view of homosexuality. Sodomy is a grievous sin. God calls it an ABOMINATION! If you understand God's purpose in creating family, you clearly

see how it goes against everything God stands for. Even the way human beings are created teaches you that. (Request our booklet *The God Family Vision*. All of our literature is free.)

WHERE ARE THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WHO WILL STAND UP AND PROCLAIM THE TRUTH OF GOD? Religion today is sick and pitifully weak.

This nation is spiritually bankrupt!

God wants us to stand up and fight for our belief in Him and His law and tell the world His message!

The devil is behind the scenes doing everything he can to destroy *any* understanding of marriage, because it is a type of marriage to Jesus Christ! (Ephesians 5:22-32). He is trying to destroy *any* understanding of family, because it is a type of the Family of God. THESE ARE GOD-PLANE RELATIONSHIPS! Marriage was designed to lead the Church into marriage with Christ. The family was created to lead humanity into the Family of God. Satan is twisting these most noble institutions to push people into a black abyss! (Request our free booklets *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* and *God Is a Family*.)

Making Them an Example

One of the strongest warnings in the Bible is against homosexuality. So we must bring God into the issue. There are many specific scriptures we could go to, but notice 2 Peter 2:4—in the New Testament: “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell,” that is, restrained them to this Earth, “and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment ...” Satan and the demons are in *chains of darkness*, the highest degree of darkness. “And TURNING THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH INTO ASHES condemned them with an overthrow, MAKING THEM AN EXAMPLE UNTO THOSE THAT AFTER SHOULD LIVE UNGODLY” (verse 6).

What happened to Sodom was a warning of how God will respond to sodomy!—fire, nuclear fire, from heaven coming down on your nation! God did not spare the rebellious angels, and He is *not* going to spare us! These verses tell us that evil spirits are the moving force behind homosexuality.

Jude 7 repeats that same warning.

When I read these scriptures, I realize that even when the best thinkers in the world come up with a worst-case scenario, it's *not even close* to the suffering that is about to come on our people. God is going to blot that sin out with nuclear annihilation!

What is happening here tells us a lot about where we are in Bible prophecy. ➤ See **FAMILY** page 36



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

‘Unconsti

The danger in the ruling against Proposition 8 BY JOEL HILLIKER

ACCORDING TO VAUGHN Walker, it was “unconstitutional” for Californians to vote to declare homosexual marriage illegal.

Why unconstitutional? In his ruling on *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, Judge Walker criticized the *moral reasoning* behind Proposition 8, by which voters tried to prevent the institution of marriage from being legally redefined from what it has been for the whole of human history.

“The evidence shows conclusively that *moral and religious views* form the ONLY BASIS for a belief that same-sex couples are different from opposite-sex couples,” Walker wrote. This, he concluded, is an *irrational* basis for legislating against same-sex unions.

Religion and morality, in other words, must have *absolutely no bearing* on the law in these modern, secular United States.

This is the latest and most prominent example of an extraordinarily dangerous trend in American jurisprudence—and society in general: the effort to systematically, completely scrub God from public life.

Where Does Law Come From?

God is the Author of morality and law. “There is ONE LAWGIVER, who is able to save and to destroy,” explained the Apostle James.

Biblical history shows God instructing man at various times in the particulars of His law. Just as the manufacturer of a sophisticated product includes an instruction manual, so the Creator of mankind provided detailed instructions on how to make life work—specifically, how to cultivate harmony between God and man, and with fellow man. He did not force man to work out on his own that murder, theft and deceit are wrong. He created sex, marriage and family, and then safeguarded them by forbidding all extramarital sex. He spelled these laws out, and

later gave specific instructions on what to do to *enforce* those laws.

God is love, and His law represents His love (1 John 4:8; 5:3). His law is spiritual; it is holy, just and good (Romans 7:14, 12). Even the individual statutes and judgments enumerated in the Old Testament—though many no longer apply in letter today—illuminate the eternal principles of that law. As King David wrote, “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: ... The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ... [T]he judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether” (Psalm 19:7-9).

The fact is, the degree to which human beings obey the eternal spiritual law of God—whether or not they realize or understand it—will determine their success in their relationships with God and fellow man.

However, our *rejection* of that revealed knowledge, and our selfish desire to pursue the course of action that seems right to us, is as old as humanity itself. The first two people chose to discard God’s instructions and believe the deceitful serpent who seduced them with promises of the glitter-

ing potential of self-conceived wisdom.

That *same serpent* is at work in the hearts of men today (Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9). As a result, Paul wrote, “[T]he mind that is set on the flesh is *hostile* to God; IT DOES NOT SUBMIT TO GOD’S LAW, indeed it *cannot*” (Romans 8:7, Revised Standard Version).

The notion that society would be better off if we only eliminated laws derived from “moral and religious views” vividly testifies of this carnal hatred for God’s law.

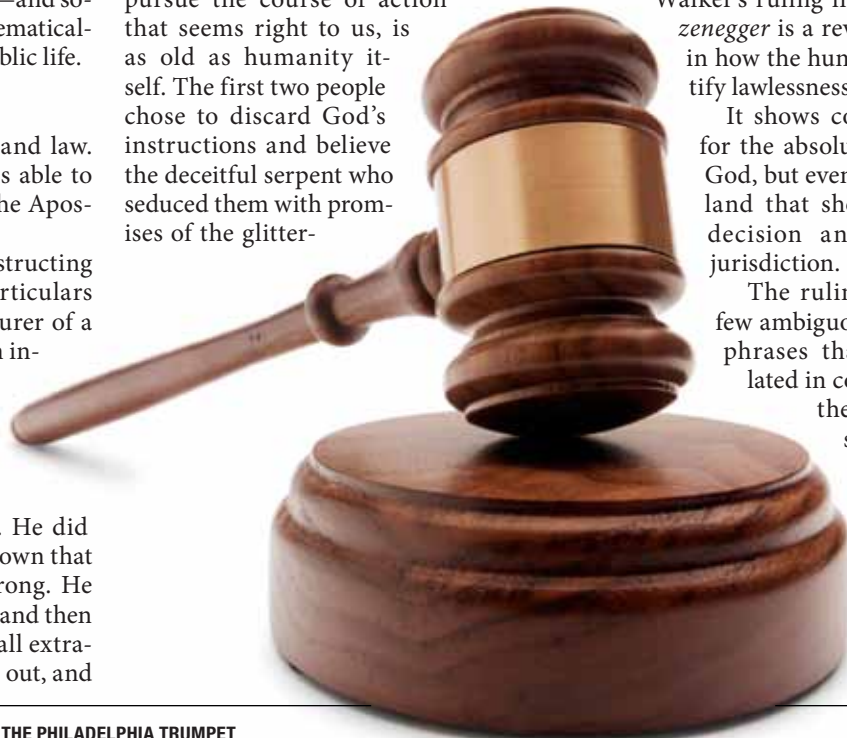
Scripture is *filled* with admonitions and warnings about the dangers of human reasoning cut off from God’s direction. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). A society that exalts rationalism and rejects divine revelation as the foundation for its laws is writing its own epitaph.

Right to Privacy?

The legal reasoning that led to Judge Walker’s ruling in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* is a revealing case study in how the human mind can justify lawlessness.

It shows contempt not only for the absolute, eternal law of God, but even for the law of the land that should guide court decision and limit judicial jurisdiction.

The ruling was built on a few ambiguous or problematic phrases that have accumulated in court opinions over the past 45 years or so. Within America’s precedent-based legal system, that shaky sequence of loaded language has been used to stretch and re-



tutional'?

fashion the Fourteenth Amendment into a potent weapon with which liberal judges can force their twisted will on society.

The Fourteenth Amendment was passed in 1868 to safeguard the rights of the slaves freed after the Civil War. Part of it reads, “No state shall make or enforce any law which shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws” (emphasis mine throughout).

These two clauses—the promise not to deprive anyone of “liberty ... without due process of law” and that of “equal protection” for all—are the two upon which Judge Walker based his legal argument.

The road from protecting the rights of freed slaves to banning voters from prohibiting homosexual “marriage” began with a single step.

In his 2005 book *Men in Black*, Mark Levin traces its origins to the 1965 *Griswold v. Connecticut* case, in which Justice William O. Douglas found a heretofore-nonexistent “right to privacy” in the “due process” clause. To strike down a law that prohibited the sale of contraceptives, Douglas argued that it deprived married couples “liberty.” He wrote—try to follow this—that “specific guarantees in the Bill of Rights have penumbras, formed by emanations from those guarantees that help give them life and substance.” That is smoke-and-mirrors phraseology. *Penumbras* and *emanations* are scientific terms without legal meaning—except as Douglas appropriated them to justify stretching the Fourteenth Amendment.

By finding a “right to privacy” in a penumbra of an emanation, Justice Douglas put his personal opinion above the law and struck a severe blow to the foundation of many other laws.

The invention of this right is a perfect example of the danger in flawed, self-justifying human reason. Essentially, the “right to privacy” as the court began to view it is a cloak for the “right” to commit crimes and to sin.

Obviously, many acts can occur in the

privacy of one’s bedroom that are still illegal—rape or cooking up drugs, for example. As Justice Hugo Black wrote in his dissenting opinion in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, “Privacy’ is a broad, abstract and ambiguous concept which can easily be shrunken in meaning but which can also, on the other hand, easily be interpreted as a constitutional ban against many things other than searches and seizures. ... I like my privacy as well as the next one, but I am nevertheless compelled to admit that government has a right to invade it unless prohibited by some specific constitutional provision.”

Sure enough, the *Griswold v. Connecticut* decision enabled secularist thinking to wedge the door open for greater influence down the road.

“Unwarranted Governmental Intrusion”

Seven years later, the issue of contraceptives and unmarried couples came up in *Eisenstadt v. Baird*. Here the Supreme Court used the “equal protection” clause to say that if married people could have access to birth control, then so should single people.

The majority opinion predictably expanded the “right to privacy,” saying, “If the right of privacy means anything, it is the right of the individual, married or single, to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child.” (The superfluous insertion of “whether to bear” a child, which had no connection to the case, proved significant the following year, 1973. In *Roe v. Wade*, the court relied on this thin justification to rule that the “right to privacy” included a woman’s right to abortion. Here is another example of legal language becoming a lethal weapon.)

Thus the court again exalted the justices’ personal preferences—a mere five unelected individuals—over the laws legitimately created by a state legislature elected by the people. Levin calls this a “quiet revolution against representative government.”

More fundamentally, however, it further dismantled the moral underpinnings of the law. The state’s authority to forbid certain

behaviors was condescendingly dismissed as “unwarranted governmental intrusion.”

The issue of homosexuality stormed the Supreme Court in 1986, in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. In that case, a 5-4 majority upheld a Georgia state law against sodomy, pushing back against the forward march of the “right to privacy.” The court argued that the notion that “any kind of private sexual conduct between consenting adults is constitutionally insulated from state proscription is unsupportable.”

Not only did that ruling uphold the Constitution by respecting the power of individual states in such matters, but it also respected the legitimacy of using morality as the basis for law.

Sadly, it wouldn’t stand for long.

“The End of All Morals Legislation”

In 1996 it was again court versus state in *Romer v. Evans*. This case addressed the constitutionality of an amendment to Colorado’s constitution that excluded “sexual orientation” from civil rights laws banning racial and religious discrimination. The Supreme Court killed the amendment based on the “equal protection” clause.

In his dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia exposed the central fallacy in this decision: “If it is constitutionally permissible for a state to make homosexual conduct criminal [which, of course, the court had acknowledged it could only 10 years before in *Bowers v. Hardwick*], surely it is constitutionally permissible for a state to enact other laws merely disfavoring homosexual conduct”—and certainly to pass a provision “merely prohibiting all levels of state government from bestowing special protections upon homosexual conduct.”

So true: There was a glaring contradiction between the court’s ruling on *Bowers* and its ruling on *Romer*. But rather than judge according to precedent and in respect of its clear constitutionally prescribed limitations, the court doubled down and, in 2003, reversed its *Bowers* decision. In the landmark *Lawrence v. Texas* case, a 6-3 Supreme Court found that—lo

➤ See **UNCONSTITUTIONAL** page 15

As the smoke clears and the mirrors begin to crack, Westerners are forced to acknowledge the menacing reality of China's rise.



The Collapsing 'China Fantasy'

BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES AGO, Napoleon Bonaparte nicknamed China the "Sleeping Dragon" and advised the Europeans of his day not to awaken it. Today, the dragon is wide awake, and the dynamic changes it has undergone are astounding.

Few international relations developments have been as epic and consequential as the exploding increase of China's political power, military muscle, cultural influence and, towering above all, economic capacity. And all of the monumental growth began with the liberalization of China's economy, when Beijing abandoned the Maoist economic planning model and transformed more than 100 million oppressed peasants from the "Great Leap Forward" into a colossal middle class.

Since China's first steps toward this economic liberalization 35 years ago, Western political and commercial leaders have celebrated the trend. The assumption was that Beijing's rapid integration into the global economy would lead China to replace its oppressive and authoritarian political ideologies with responsible international behavior, and that the nation's burgeoning middle class would be granted greater political rights.

In short, the West believed that China's rise would become a boon to the whole

world. Based on this belief, Western nations pursued policies of engagement with Beijing and worked to facilitate China's growth. James Mann's 2008 book of the same name identified the pervasive Western optimism toward the Middle Kingdom as the "China Fantasy."

But decades after Beijing's first moves toward economic liberalization,

the popular assumptions are coming under question. Westerners are beginning to grasp a truth that the *Trumpet* and its predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, have proclaimed for decades: China's rise means trouble on the global stage, especially for Europe.

"When China wakes up," Bonaparte said, "the world will shake." Westerners are now beginning to sober up to the implications of China's multiplying power.

China Then and Now

The China of the mid-20th century was unmistakably hostile to the West. Under Maoist rule, the proclaimed constitutional goal of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was to eradicate capitalism from the planet. But the country was in an ideological stupor. It was too mired in the fetid swamps of Maoism to pose a real threat or advance toward its goal.

A set of political and diplomatic events in the early 1970s prompted a reversal in the hostile international relations between

China and its capitalist rivals, and moved Chinese leaders to launch an economic reform in 1978. Political leader Deng Xiaoping replaced the previous autarkic model with the opening-up strategy, and China's export-oriented industries started to boom.

Since then, the growth rate has averaged a sizzling 9.8 percent per year. The number of citizens living in poverty has plummeted from 250 million to 14 million.

In April of 2009, China Reform Forum Chairman Li Jingtian gave the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace a startling collection of statistics illustrating his country's meteoric growth between 1978 and 2008. During that period, China's overall foreign trade blossomed from \$20.6 billion to \$2.56 trillion, its foreign exchange reserves skyrocketed from \$167 million to \$1.95 trillion, and foreign investment leaped to more than \$100 billion. In 1978, only 52 Chinese students were studying abroad. By 2008, that number had risen to 1.36 million students matriculating in 109 countries.

This August, news of China dominated headlines when it was revealed that China's economic output, for the first time, had overtaken that of Japan to become second only to the U.S. The World Bank and other analysts say that, even though its economy is presently only one third as large, China will overtake the U.S. in no more than a decade.

The deep economic impacts of the reform make it easy to see why China's

FORCE MULTIPLIER

China is translating its latent economic power into real political and military capital.

ascendancy as a world power was, until recently, a globally celebrated story of success. But China's newfound economic clout has enabled it to act with a growing geopolitical assertiveness—a trend that is beginning to disillusion many observers, especially in the West.

A growing list of grievances has onlookers on both sides of the Atlantic reevaluating their stance on China's rise: the CCP's refusal to liberalize the nation's political system; Beijing's behavior at last year's Copenhagen climate change summit; China's tarnished human rights record; its heavy-handed political repression; Beijing's support for tyrannical Third World regimes in a rapacious drive for resources; its obstinacy over Iran's nuclear program; its military build-up; its soft power build-up; its increasingly belligerent claim to sovereignty over the entire South China Sea—and the list goes on.

The fantasy was that the budding economic freedoms would become a boon for the world economy. The reality is that, as China gains power, it only becomes *more antagonistic* toward the West, more oppressive, and more authoritarian.

Starry-eyed geopolitical forecasters have to come to terms with a sobering reality: China is an authoritarian economic behemoth with little in common with the West except an appetite for resources. It has always been oppressive and belligerent, but its insularity and weakness made it harmless. Pundits are beginning to understand that Beijing's newfound power will enable it to project its same old communist and nationalistic ideologies with far greater force. China has not liberalized its society as the West had hoped, and it has not become a responsible member of the international community.

The fantasy is collapsing.

Feeding the Dragon

The speed at which China's economy is growing is staggering and historically unprecedented. As it wakes up from its long slumber, China is bent on consumption, consumption and more consumption. On July 19, International Energy Agency (IEA) chief economist Fatih Birol said, "In the year 2000, the U.S. consumed twice as much energy as China; now, China consumes more than the U.S."

China is presently growing at five times the speed of the U.S. economy. Data released by the IEA in July shows that, at some point in 2009, China overtook the U.S. to become the world's largest energy consumer. To sustain explosive growth on such

a mind-boggling scale, a country requires resources—vast expanses of resources.

In 2007, China was a net exporter of coal. This year it will *import* between 105 and 115 million tons of coal, putting it on track to overtake Japan as the world's largest coal importer. In recent years, China has also become the world's leading consumer of rice, meal, wheat, fertilizer, steel and cement. Twelve years ago, China was a net exporter of oil. Today, it is Saudi Arabia's largest oil customer and the number-two global importer after the U.S.

Although the U.S. economy is "mature," its energy consumption continues to increase. Despite China's gargantuan size, it is a *developing economy*—an "economic toddler" that is growing rapidly. If China's appetite for energy doubled in the past decade, how will it change in the next 10 years?

The projected 2015 Chinese middle class—600 million strong—will be twice the size of America's current population. To meet the country's skyrocketing demands, China's leaders have launched an astounding global outreach program. They have laid myriad inroads throughout Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, paying particular attention to nations with substantial reserves of oil and natural gas such as Nigeria, Venezuela and Kazakhstan. Beijing's preference for resource-rich nations includes third-tier countries the West typically ignores. These developing countries have voting rights in international organizations, so Beijing cultivates relations with them, forgiving billions in loans and lavishing them with infrastructure projects, asking only for their voting support in return.

Unlike Berlin or Washington, Beijing does not entwine its development assistance to conditions of "good governance." While Western powers sermonize and punish authoritarian actions by withholding aid or even effecting regime change, China constructs palaces for tyrants and builds summer villas for despots. It guarantees them territorial integrity regardless of any human rights violations they may be committing.

Decades ago, Chinese Marxist revolutionary Mao Tse Tung promised his people that "All that the West has, China will have." China's historically unprecedented growth—and the ethical low road it travels to sustain it—is evidence that Mao's words still resonate clearly in the Chinese mindset.

China's frenetic drive for resources is intensifying the global scramble for the planet's wealth. As Europe and other powers watch China devour a rapidly

increasing proportion of resources, they are provoked to tighten the grip on their own supply channels.

On June 15, the Inter Press Service reported on the 25th Africa-France summit held in Nice, writing that French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared it was time for Europe to fight to increase its influence in Africa before China devours the African pie. As China's global footprint grows, other nations, especially in Europe, will assume a more combative stance in securing resources for themselves. When more than one power aggressively pursues the world's wealth with such ferocity, intense competition results and eventually gives way to war.

War Between East and West

More than 2,500 years ago, the Prophet Daniel was inspired to write that in this modern age, "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble [German-led Europe]." The northern threat mentioned here is Russia, and the eastern power is China. (To understand the details of these astounding prophecies, request *Russia and China in Prophecy* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

While Russian power has been formidable for centuries, China, until it industrialized, presented no genuine threat to the West. Sure, it was belligerent, but it was a belligerent grasshopper. Now, in the early stages of fulfilling Daniel's prophecies, China is a belligerent dragon—a reality that has Europe on edge.

When the United States inevitably succumbs to its weaknesses and fades off the grid, Europe will be the world's only superpower—except for China. Absent America, Europe *would* stand alone as the world's sole superpower, if not for this *one* menacing threat that has become a juggernaut in a spectacularly short span of time. China is the one powerful civilization on the planet most opposed to European values and modes of thinking. And, very soon, China alone will threaten EU hegemony. If the U.S. had decomposed two decades ago, there would have been no nation to counter Europe. Now, there's an angry, menacing power to ally with Russia and fulfill that role.

As the "China Fantasy" collapses and disillusionment hits the West, more and more European voices are expressing concern about Beijing's growing assertiveness. Sino-German relations veered into difficult terrain in 2007 when German Chancellor Angela Merkel rebuked China's human rights record. In June 2010, Sarkozy admonished Europeans to fight to keep

pace with China's rapacious resource procurement in Africa. In a July 2010 meeting with Chinese President Wen Jiabao, two leading German industrialists attacked China's business environment, which they said was disadvantageous to non-Chinese firms. Also in July, the German *Der Spiegel* published a scathing report on the threat to the West posed by China's mushrooming soft power in Southeast Asia. An August 2010 Pentagon report warned that China is using its growing wealth to develop its military power.

Clearly, Western concern is amplifying and the rift between East and West is growing broader.

The Power of Prophecy

The geopolitical realities of the world have sharply shifted as a result of China's rise as much as because of America's decline. Because it is easier to discern than Europe's rise, China's ascendancy to juggernaut status is among the starkest prophetic

trends of the last two decades. And it is a powerful, ongoing reminder of the accuracy and inevitability of Bible prophecies.

While the "China Fantasy" duped many Western political and commercial elites, those following Bible prophecy would have never been taken in by the illusion. Long-time *Trumpet* readers would not have been taken in by the delusion that China's rise was good news for the world, even when the situation looked most promising. They would have known the true purpose of China's rise all along: to check Europe.

Right now, it's easy for the world to finally see what students of prophecy have long understood. When Herbert W. Armstrong identified China as one of the key pillars of the biblical "kings of the east," it took faith to believe it. China was weak, backward, and too mired in domestic turmoil to pose a formidable threat to world powers. Reality seemed to contradict Mr. Armstrong's prediction—for a time. But events have unfolded, time has marched

on, and the and the early phases of these predictions have come to pass to reveal that Mr. Armstrong was right!

Nations of the West are correct to be sober about China's mushrooming power. Bible prophecy reveals that the burgeoning hostility between China and Europe will culminate in the greatest military conflagration in mankind's strife-ridden history. But just beyond the perilous times on the horizon is some amazingly good news. Jesus Christ will return to put an end to the conflict between East and West, and between all other peoples of the Earth! He will usher in an era of divine rulership that will effect peace and prosperity for *all of mankind*.

To understand more about China's rise, and its prophetic connection to this most hope-filled future, request a free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



Thinking Long Term

The Middle Kingdom's view of itself and the outside world

THE mantra of Chinese educational institutes and media is that the nation's history makes it special, and that the people of China are heirs to a civilization more ancient and more noble than any other in the world. And the Chinese people believe it. The country's ancient heritage is a source of great pride to Chinese people, and a fundamental reason why they see their nation's place in the world as superior to all others.

In his book *Mao's China and the Cold War*, Cornell University Prof. Jian Chen discusses China's self-given nickname: "I believe that 'Central Kingdom' is a more accurate translation for 'Zhong Guo' (China) than 'Middle Kingdom.' The term 'Middle Kingdom' does not imply that China is superior to other peoples and nations around it—China just happens to be located in the middle geographically; the term 'Central Kingdom,' however, implies that China is superior to any other people and nation 'under the heaven' and that it thus occupies a 'central' position in the known universe."

Recent years have seen Beijing install more than 500 Confucius Institutes globally. The aim of these facilities is promoting what the "Central Kingdom" views as China's cultural superiority.

Some Western analysts have concluded that China no longer has ambitions of militarily conquering the world because it has not attacked any other country in three decades, since it launched an offensive against Vietnam in 1979. But what are three paltry decades to a 5,000-year-old empire?

This shortsighted Western thinking reflects a fundamental difference between the East and the West: Western civilizations seem to relegate the importance of history to a lower position each year. Staggeringly reckless national borrowing habits and naive foreign policies

provide evidence proving that American leaders in particular don't look even one generation into their future or past when making decisions.

The mentality of Eastern nations is different. They zoom out. They broaden their perspective to see a significantly longer stretch of the timeline, both past and future. Asia doesn't forget what has unfolded in past centuries as the West is apt to do, and an affront that occurred 100 years ago is still a fresh wound for grudge-harboring China.

China's move to liberalize its economy was fueled by long-term goals—and "long term" means something different to China and other Asian powers than to the five-year-plan nations of the Western world.

A growing number of Chinese intellectuals openly acknowledge that their nation is working to realize its ancient dreams of global hegemony. Mark Leonard, executive director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in his article "China's New Intelligentsia" about this trend: "Their long-term goal is to see China return to great-power status" (*Prospect*, March 28, 2008). He explained that one factor fueling the desire of China's "neocons" for their nation's dominance is the study of ancient Chinese philosophy. Leonard quoted Yan Xuetong, a member of Beijing's leading military think tank, as saying, "Recently I read all these books by ancient Chinese scholars and discovered that these guys are smart—their ideas are much more relevant than most modern international relations theory."

Leonard explained that China's decision to join the global economy and international bodies was fueled by its slow and steady goal of strengthening them, restraining the U.S., and creating an environment in which the Central Kingdom could grow strong. In the long term, Beijing aims to establish a new global order in the image of China. Beijing is laboring at present to create pockets of this new alternative reality (as in the 47 African nations with whom China currently has significant ties) in which Chinese ideologies, rather than Western ones, dominate.

China's long-term perspective in its foreign policy and goals of hegemony can be summarized by the words of the country's most famous philosopher, Confucius: "It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop."

JEREMIAH JACQUES





Clash of the Titans

The world's two greatest export nations join battle on German soil.

BY RON FRASER



each trades off the other in an effort to accelerate their individual efforts to dominate world trade. With the United States patently broke and unprepared to admit it, the realists in Berlin and Beijing are forging ahead to vie for global economic dominance.

Which nation will win in this grand clash of the titans?

The Answer

We can tell you who will be the winner in the short term. We can also tell you who the winner will be in the longer term—and who wins ultimately at the conclusion of this battle of the titans. These outcomes are clearly documented in the prophecies of your Bible that are presently racing toward fulfillment.

The answer lies in comparing the prophecies of Revelation 13-17 with those of Isaiah 21, Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 21, and simply allowing the Bible to interpret itself.

But there is a key you need to unlock these prophecies. It was revealed through Herbert Armstrong's writings in his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. If you read and comprehend that book (which we will provide upon request, gratis) and then read our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy* with an open mind, the outcome to this clash of the world's two greatest markets should become apparent.

Even as the events in Germany and China accelerate toward their current competitive trade war becoming hotter—and soon—other events involving the U.S., Britain and its dominions (Canada, Australia and New Zealand) are accelerating those countries toward subservience to one of these great powers. To find out the fascinating outcome to this whole dramatic scenario that will soon powerfully impact your life and that of your loved ones, add our booklet *He Was Right* to your list of requests for our literature.

You owe it to yourself to check more deeply into this. You may, indeed, find the answers you have been searching for as to what today's global disorder is all about and where it is leading! Isn't it worth at least a look? And it's all given to you gratis, with no follow-up, even as our Head has commanded (Matthew 10:8). The rest is up to you. ■

GERMANY AND CHINA ARE THIS world's two greatest export economies, by far. A few months ago, after years of heading the chart as the leading global exporter, Germany was suddenly eclipsed by its chief rival in international trade, China. Now China has taken its trade battle right on to German soil near the ancient city of Cologne.

There, within view of the venerable old Cologne Cathedral, China is building a pristine new factory to produce concrete pumps.

"Sany, one of China's flagship machinery groups, is set to become the first engineering company from the Middle Kingdom to launch production in Germany, a move that presages an attack by China's rapidly advancing industrial companies on Europe's engineering market" (*Financial Times*, August 11).

This is the latest in a concerted effort by China to challenge its major competitor on its home ground—and it is being helped by the powers-that-be in Berlin. This is the power of "the merchants" in action (Revelation 18).

Partners and Rivals

Germany and China have become increasingly interdependent economies. The recent presence of China in the Mediterranean and Europe, and increasingly in Europe's leading nation, Germany, is part of a tit-for-tat deal between the two. Even as Sany's Cologne facility reaches its commissioning date, German industrialists are working to establish a strong foothold on Chinese soil.

"Germany is China's biggest trading partner by far in Europe, and the trade is increasing by leaps and bounds, especially for high-value electrical and elec-

tronic goods," wrote the *New York Times*. "Germany's car industry, which suffered greatly during the global financial meltdown, has recovered thanks in large part to a surge in Chinese demand for the top range of German cars Even the big German retailing chains, like Metro, are setting up shop there" (July 13).

While the Federal Republic of Germany (then commonly known as West Germany to distinguish it from then Communist East Germany) and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations in 1972, essentially it has been largely over the last half decade that Germany has cemented close ties with China. Germany's federal government website declares that "China is Germany's most important economic partner in Asia and Germany is China's leading trading partner in Europe. In the face of the global economic and financial crisis, stable cooperation between the two countries' strongly export-oriented economies is of great importance."

The importance of that cooperation has risen dramatically in the wake of the impact of America's fiscal irresponsibility on the global economy. Germany and China see it as their unique responsibility as the two leading national economies of the world to fill the gap created by the demise of the U.S. global economic leadership that has prevailed since World War II.

Yet the Sany initiative is rather unique, as it pits Chinese enterprise at the beating heart of Germany's export economy—the engineering and machinery core of its industrial center. So what's going on here?

Well, it is a unique kind of trade war being played out to the temporary mutual benefit of both Germany and China—a relationship of mutual convenience as

Do you stare at a  for huge portions of your day?

Descend into panic when you misplace your  ?

Feel compelled to check your e-mail or IM incessantly?

When you pick up a book or pause with a deeper reflection, do you easily succumb to the glow of a screen, or the chirp of a newly arrived text?

If you do, then you are part of one of the most significant cultural phenomena in human history: screen addiction.

This infatuation with the screen is precipitating a transformation—much like the one unfolding within our libraries.

The library used to be an asylum for thought. Nestled amid the bustle of the campus or city center, it was once a place of refuge, a cocoon of tranquility, a haven for reflection. Sprawled on the floor, concealed

among the forest of shelves, a person could spend undistracted hours buried in a book, lost in thought. The library was a place where thinking citizens could go to escape the rat race, where time stood still and new worlds and intellectual frontiers opened, where nuggets of knowledge could be discovered, mined and then locked away like precious stones in the mental vault. For thinkers, the library was utopia.

Today the most popular service offered by most libraries is Internet access. Ninety-nine percent of public libraries in the U.S. provide computers that connect to the Internet; more than three quarters

offer Wi-Fi networks so patrons using personal laptops can surf the Web. These days the “predominant sound in the modern library is the tapping of keys,” writes author Nicholas Carr, “not the turning of pages.”

Take the Bronx Library Center in New York. “On the library’s four main floors,” noted an article in the journal *strategy+business*, “the stacks of books have been placed at each end, leaving ample space in the middle for tables that have computers on them, many with broadband access to the Internet. The people using the computers are young and aren’t necessarily using them for academic

The Perils of Screen Addiction (and How to Beat It)

By Brad Macdonald

purposes—here is one doing a Google search on Hannah Montana pictures, there is one updating his Facebook page, and over there a few children are playing video games ...” (Spring 2009).

Instead of shushing patrons, librarians check out DVDs and “organize gaming tournaments.” In Toronto, teens swing by the public library on Friday afternoons for online games and music. The Stanford University Library created an online identity in Second Life, the online “virtual world.” The modern library “is in the gaming business or the entertainment business or maybe the information connectivity business” (ibid.).

In libraries around the world, books are being pushed aside and screens erected.

Why should we care? *Because screens are also refashioning our minds.*

Like the public library, our minds are being overhauled by screens, and more specifically, the perpetually connected, superficial world they open to us. Mentally, moments of peace and solitude are few and far between. Our minds are devoid of quiet nooks. There’s nowhere to flee that is free of noise and distraction.

In many cases, this screen-induced overhaul of the mind is changing the way our brains work, the way we absorb and digest information, the quality of our *thinking*—and ultimately, the *nature* of our lives.

Screen Addiction

In January, the Kaiser Family Foundation published the results of a study that found that 8-to-18-year-olds log an average of 7½ hours a day with media, including television, computers, cell phones and music players. When you take into account that they spend much of this time media multitasking, the total daily exposure to electronic media rises to an almost unbelievable *10 hours per day*.

In 2000 there were roughly 500 million cell phones in the world. Ten years later that number is nearing 5 billion. And these phones aren’t merely devices for talking with friends; they take pictures, send e-mail, play movies and surf the Web.

They send texts too. Eighty percent of all 15-to-18-year-olds own a cell phone and their texting has skyrocketed *600 percent over the past three years*. The average teen sends 3,000 text messages a month; 42 percent of teens say they can text blindfolded.

Not shocked? Then consider how much *less* time these youths are spending in more productive and important activities. While the average teen is exposed to more than 70 hours of electronic media per week, he spends *less than 16 hours* with parents, *less*

than 10.5 hours in physical activity and just over *five hours* doing homework, *PER WEEK*.

But it’s not only the young who are addicted to their screens. At work, many of us stare at computer screens all day every day. Everyone carries a cell phone, or two. We instant message and e-mail. We chat and text. At home, screens in every room emit an enticing glow. The average American home has 2.9 televisions. Nearly all of us have at least one computer, most of which are connected to the Internet. We go online for nearly everything: to shop, pay bills, find work, check the weather, watch videos, play games, download music, join clubs, read, skim, vent, connect.

Then there’s the ubiquity of other gadgets—the iPhones, iPods, iPads, DVD players, GPS units, portable video games, laptops. Next time you’re driving, set down your cell phone and absorb your surroundings: the vehicles with built-in DVD players; the driver checking sports scores on his iPod; the people engrossed in phone calls or shooting off text messages while driving.

Americans send more than a billion text messages each day. Last year, the average American cell phone user was sending or receiving nearly 400 texts per month. Facebook has more than 500 million active users, 50 percent of whom log on every day. Nearly 10 percent of Facebook users update their profile every day.

Mentally, gadgets plus perpetual connectivity equal information overload. According to research performed at the University of California–San Diego, the average person today consumes nearly three times as much information as the average person in 1960. “At one time a screen meant maybe something in your living room,” says *New York Times* technology journalist Matt Richtel. “But now it’s something in your pocket, so it goes everywhere—it can be behind the wheel, it can be at the dinner table, it can be in the bathroom. We see it everywhere today” (NPR, August 24).

We sure do—and people are beginning to wonder if this screen addiction is not altering our minds and behavior in elemental ways. “A lot of people seem here but not here,” observed *Wall Street Journal* columnist Peggy Noonan. “They’re pecking away on a piece of plastic; they’ve withdrawn from the immediate reality around them and set up temporary camp in a reality that exists in their heads” (August 20).

Rewiring Our Brains

In his book *The Shallows*, Nicholas Carr explores the impact that our perpetual connection, specifically to the Internet, is hav-

ing on the way we think. Dozens of studies point to the same conclusion, he writes: “When we go online, *we enter an environment that promotes cursory reading, hurried and distracted thinking, and superficial learning*” (emphasis mine throughout).

We’ve grown quite adept at scanning and skimming, Carr says, but “*what we are losing is our capacity for concentration, contemplation and reflection.*”

Our children especially are being affected. In 2008, research firm nGenera conducted a study into the effects of the Internet on the brains of “Generation Net,” the generation that has grown up latched to the teat of the Internet. “Digital immersion,” concluded the lead researcher, “has even affected the way they absorb information. They don’t necessarily read a page from left to right and from top to bottom. They might instead skip around, scanning for pertinent information of interest.”

According to Carr, screen addiction is rewiring our brains.

Baroness Susan Greenfield, an Oxford University neuroscientist, agrees. Referring to the popularity of Twitter, Facebook, texting, video games, and to technology addiction in general, Greenfield told the *Daily Mail*, “My fear is that these technologies are infantilizing the brain into the state of small children who are attracted by buzzing noises and bright lights, who have a small attention span and who live for the moment” (Feb. 24, 2009).

Deep down, it appears many of us know and fear the effect screen addiction is having on our minds. In a nationwide *New York Times*/CBS poll in May, nearly 30 percent of those surveyed under 45 admitted they felt like their use of gadgets was making it harder for them to focus. By becoming addicted to the screen, Carr observes, we have “rejected the intellectual tradition of solidarity, single-minded concentration”—a state of mind often induced by reading a book, for example—and “cast our lot with the juggler” (op. cit.).

Increasingly, our minds are like the cursors on our computer screens. They dart here and there, up and down, rarely settling, constantly moving, clicking and dragging. Like the modern library, the modern mind is devoid of nooks, places to go for prolonged, single-focused, undistracted thought. Screen addicts are finding they lack the mental capacity for sustained concentration on a single task, be it at work, on a homework assignment or in productive conversation with friends and family.

The *nature* of our lives is being fundamentally altered. Our captivation with

gadgets is making life more “frantic and rushed,” writes William Powers in *Hamlet’s Blackberry*. This is causing us to lose “something of great value, a way of thinking and moving through time that can be summed up in a single word: DEPTH.”

Not only are we losing depth of thought and feeling, we’re losing “depth in our relationships, our work and everything we do,” writes Powers. And “since depth is what makes life fulfilling and meaningful, it’s astounding that we’re allowing this to happen.”

Screen addiction is refashioning the way we think—and we’re allowing it!

What is the way out of this maze? How can we reclaim control over our mental processes and salvage our capacity for depth? If you want answers, you are not alone. More and more discontented screen addicts are seeking them too.

Consider Your Ways

When was the last time you took stock of your connection to the screens in your life? When was the last time you evaluated your capacity for deep thinking? To beat screen addiction and reclaim your mind it is important to, as the Prophet Haggai put it, “consider your ways” (Haggai 1:7).

Count the number of screens in your life. Calculate how much time you spend with each. Then consider *how* that time is spent: What percentage is for important, engaging activities—perhaps reading serious news or researching for a term paper—versus being wasted on mindless or thought-destroying surfing?

How many texts do you send and receive per day? How many of those texts make a valuable contribution to your life? How much television do you watch? How many times do you check your e-mail? How many times do you *need* to check your e-mail? Do you visit a website 10 times a day when once or twice is enough?

Now, consider how much time you spend in activities that deepen the mind, that lend themselves to focused, undistracted thought. How much time do you spend reading each week? How much time in meditation? How much in conversing with your family?

Next, think about your ability to think. Would you call yourself a deep thinker?

In his bestselling book *The Art of Thinking*, Ernest Dimnet says that the thinking mind is like the eye: “It must be single.” Great thinkers—or as Dimnet calls them, “people possessed of a

mastering purpose leaving no room for inferior occupations”—stand apart for the “directness of their intellectual vision.”

How direct is your intellectual vision? When an original or creative thought comes to mind, are you able—do you in fact have an urge—to mull it over, to flesh it out, to tie it down, to lock it away in your mental vault? Do you love being alone in thought? Is your environment conducive to in-depth thought?

The mind of the weak thinker, Dimnet writes, has a “fatal capacity for letting in extraneous thoughts or mental parasites.” Used unwisely, gadgets and the Internet can easily become conduits through which our minds are filled with mental parasites.

Evaluate your mind against Dimnet’s criteria for a thinker: “If we are bored by a topic above those which give food to our small dislikes or even smaller likes, WE DO NOT THINK. If, the moment a book or newspaper raises a question demanding some supplementary information or reflection, we yawn, fidget or hurriedly do something else, WE ABHOR THINKING. If, when trying to reflect, we at once feel weariness, drowsiness or a tendency to repeat mere words, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THOUGHT IS. If we do know what it is, but as Montaigne says, are too lazy to tackle a problem with more than a ‘charge or two,’ WE ARE FEEBLE THINKERS.”

Stop! If you bounced through that paragraph without pausing to reflect on each point, *you might be a weak thinker*.

Perhaps you’re more addicted to the screen than you thought. Or maybe you lack the mental prowess you desire. What can you do? Everyone’s circumstances and minds are different. What follows are some principles that may stimulate your own thinking on how to balance your use of gadgets with becoming a better thinker.

Create Solitude

A study recently conducted at the University of Maryland asked 200 students to refrain from using electronic media for a day. After the exercise, one student commented: “Texting and IM-ing my friends gives me a constant feeling of comfort. When I did not have those two luxuries, I felt quite alone and secluded from my life.” For this student, not being able to communicate “via technology was almost unbearable.”

Screen addiction had groomed him to *fear solitude*. His mind had been conditioned to find comfort and solace in

friends. His existence was defined by his place in the crowd.

This is what screen addiction does: It causes people to fear being alone with their own thoughts!

Living in the crowd is not conducive to deep thinking. “The art of thinking,” writes Dimnet, “is the art of being one’s self and this *art can only be learned if one is by one’s self*.” Just as the reader loves quiet nooks in the library, the thinker cherishes quiet nooks in life. He creates solitude.

This is not easy. If we carry a cell phone or iPod, we are not alone. If we’re logged into Facebook or Googling, we are not alone. If we’re sitting in a silent room pecking away at the computer but have e-mail or instant messenger open, we are not alone. Chances are, if we have a screen and it is switched on, we are not alone.

Creating the solitude needed for thinking requires flicking the off switch on every screen in our lives!

Try it.

Consider also: Whether you’re using a gadget or creating space for serious thought, *budget your time*. Put a limit on your recreational Internet use. When you’re on the computer, set the timer so you don’t lose track of time. Limit the number of texts you (or your teenager) send each day. Force yourself to only check your e-mail once an hour, or once a night. Turn the television off after the specified maximum time each day or week. Carve out blocks during the evening when all cell phones, or all gadgets, are off.

In *Hamlet’s Blackberry*, Powers explains the value of what he terms the “Internet sabbath.” A few years ago he and his wife began turning off the modem on Friday night and not switching it on until Monday morning. For the entire weekend, the family was disconnected from the Internet and the digital crowd. It wasn’t easy at first. But as time passed, the impact of the Internet sabbath was noticeable and welcomed.

On the weekends, Powers writes, the house became a “kind of island away from the madness.” Instead of each family member retiring to a room with a gadget, they gathered for board games and conversation. Naturally, the family grew closer. During the day they spent more time outdoors and grew to love nature. They got to know their neighbors.

Consider instituting a rest day from the Internet, or even *all* gadgets in your household. If switching off gadgets for an entire day isn’t practical, then carve out time—perhaps during dinner and for an hour afterward—when all screens must be off.





“Texting and IM-ing my friends gives me a constant feeling of comfort. When I did not have those two luxuries, I felt quite alone and secluded from my life.”

—U. MARYLAND STUDENT

Here’s something else to consider: Create within your home nooks of solitude—areas where family members can go to be free of noise, distractions and screens. Teach the family to respect these as places where the stressed can unwind and read a book or poem, or simply reflect and contemplate.

Realize, though, that you can be isolated in a silent environment and *still* be plagued by thought-destroying noise and bustle *within*. The mind that is overloaded, filled with commotion and unorganized, unfiled information, is incapable of in-depth, concentrated thought.

To think and reflect, we also need *interior* solitude.

This means switching off any extraneous programs running in our minds. It means removing mental distractions, obstacles that will divert us from focused concentration. If you’re distracted because you haven’t paid a bill, go online and pay it. Forget about the TV show you might be missing. When you sit down to read a book, switch the computer off so it won’t entice you with its alluring glow. Switch off your cell phone too. Do whatever it takes to purge the distractions from your mind.

“To lead happy, productive lives in a connected world,” writes Powers, “we need to master the art of disconnecting.”

Feed Your Mind

Okay, the screens have been switched off, the children are asleep and your mind is clear and alert. You’ve managed to create conditions conducive to thinking deeply and singularly. Now what? What should you think about?

In Philippians 4:8, the Apostle Paul provides valuable instruction on this point. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **THINK ON THESE THINGS.**”

That’s awesome advice. Be determined and be active in feeding your mind a healthy diet of information and knowledge

what you’re consuming.

Start keeping a journal. Make time to write in it regularly. Record your goals and aspirations, for you personally, but also for your family. Take notes on a conversation you had with a friend. Flesh out a creative or original thought sparked earlier while you were reading or driving.

Take time to write a handwritten letter to a friend or distant relative.

All these activities will contribute to you developing the habit of thinking.

How much thinking should we strive to engage in? Ideally, the more the better. But strive for balance. Aim to devote at least the same amount of time (if not more) to serious, thought-provoking activities as you do to shallow, superficial activities like watching television, surfing the Internet or playing video games.

Remember: Thinking doesn’t mean only reading or writing, or sitting cross-legged in still silence on the living room floor. Abraham Lincoln took long walks on which he would meditate deeply. Nothing inspires original, creative thinking like an in-depth conversation with friends.

Embrace a hobby that lends itself to solitude and meditation, like gardening or painting. When you do these activities,



strive for interior solitude. Turn the cell phone off. Have your own mental conversations. Sometimes background music is nice, but don’t be afraid to switch off the iPod or radio. Create your own mental music.

For those interested in pursuing some of the deepest, most profound thoughts available to man, study the Bible. No other knowledge on Earth will stretch and strengthen your mind like that found in this book. Why? *Because the Bible is the mind of God in print.*

that is *true, honest, just and pure*. Develop a reading list of quality books that will uplift and inspire and educate your mind. As you read, stop and meditate on

It’s filled with what the Apostle Paul termed “the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:10).

In Romans 12, Paul wrote: “Be not conformed to this world, but be ye **TRANSFORMED** by *the renewing of your mind* . . .” Do you ever feel like your mind needs renewing? The more we study the Bible, the more we give God the opportunity to renew our minds, to wash our thoughts in His truth and His deep thinking.

For many, the Bible’s archaic language and seemingly illogical flow make it almost impossible to understand. (Scripture itself reveals that there is a profound reason for that.)

Let us help. We have a smorgasbord of literature explaining all of the deepest truths of the Bible. For those interested in understanding Bible prophecy better, there is our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. If you’d like to learn more about the Christian Sabbath, why it was created and how to keep it, request and study *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*

We live at a time when traditional marriage and family is under assault. Now would be an ideal time to investigate what the Bible says about marriage and family. Just request *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, or *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* If you want a more detailed understanding of the Bible, including all the major doctrines and prophecies, consider enrolling in the *Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course*. This course has been designed to guide you through a systematic study of your Bible—the Bible is the only textbook. And best of all, it’s free!

Lastly, if our cultural infatuation and addiction to screens—and the fundamental impact this is having on our brains—really concerns you, you need to study our free book *The Incredible Human Potential*.

The more you study this book, the better you will see how screen addiction and its effect on our brains are actually damaging a masterpiece of God’s creation: the human mind!

This book explains the magnificent difference between the human brain and the animal brain. It reveals the human mind for exactly what it is: an instrument that has the potential to receive God’s greatest gift to mankind—to be joined with the very mind of God! *The Incredible Human Potential* will teach you how to take care of your mind, how to build and strengthen it, and, *most importantly*, how to add a *spiritual dimension* to your life that will truly expand your mind so you can embrace your full, incredible human potential! ■

The Dino That Lea

Birds came from dinosaurs, evolutionists say. Really? If so, they certainly faced some long odds. BY ROBERT MORLEY

ACCORDING to evolutionists, millions of dinosaurs get eaten each day. In fact, if you have ever had dinner at Kentucky Fried Chicken or El Pollo Loco, you have probably dined on mutated dinosaur meat, they would say.

But before you turn your nose up at the humble chicken, let's investigate to see if this evolutionary theory is hard science—or bird-brained.

What does it take to make an alligator fly?

Odd as it may seem, this is an important question that troubles evolutionists. If the prevailing theory of evolution is true, birds are the direct descendants of theropod dinosaurs—two-legged, carnivorous reptiles like Tyrannosaurus Rex and Velociraptor, only much smaller. But is it logical, or even reasonable, to believe that?

Think of everything it entails to make an airplane fly: thousands of complex systems and backup systems. It requires aerodynamically designed wings, wing flaps and rudder; a sturdy fuselage; powerful

engines able to operate at high altitudes; combustible fuel; landing gear; complicated electrical circuitry and hydraulic systems; navigation systems, and an intricate array of instruments and gauges. And an airplane is a vastly simpler machine than a bird.

Plus, each of the above complicated systems must work together in unison to make the plane fly. Either they work in conjunction or the airplane doesn't function. Birds are the same way. They have specifically designed wings, respiratory systems, digestive systems, nervous systems and other features that uniquely work together to make seemingly effortless flight possible.

Nevertheless, not only do evolutionists teach that all this evolved, but that birds developed their flying parts piece by piece! Does this make sense? Could an airplane fly unless each piece were properly engineered so that the whole unit was airworthy? Until that happens, the airplane is—at best—a useless, tube-shaped wagon with a half-finished proto-wing,

three quarters of an engine and half a tail.

Baldy the Biped

Let's begin our evolutionary test flight with little Baldy the biped. Baldy is a wannabe birdie because he doesn't have any feathers yet. And he is a biped because he walks on his two powerful hind legs since his tiny arms are only a few inches long.

For some reason, Baldy has decided he wants to fly.

Scientists don't really know how the first theropods like Baldy supposedly began to evolve the ability to fly, but they are sure it happened. They have advanced two main theories describing *how*: the arboreal theory and the cursorial theory.

The arboreal theory is that birds owe their flying ability to tree-climbing ancestors. It gained in popularity in the early 1900s when Othenio Abel proposed that bird ancestors leaped back and forth in branched trees and gradually evolved wings and flapping flight through stages of parachuting and gliding until they became the eagles, ducks and doves we see soaring high above us today.

Poor Baldy. Just imagine the tragic scene. Up to this point, neither he nor any of his relatives has ever flown. Baldy

rned to Fly

equipped for their environment?

Does it make sense that a reptile-like creature could evolve feathers, or learn to fly just because it lived in trees? The answer is no. About half the scientific community agrees it is very unlikely. Unfortunately, these same scientists have their own equally unbelievable theory.

Scientists supporting the *cursorial* theory of flight are quick to heap scorn on those who believe that “pre-birds” were jumping tree-climbers that eventually evolved the ability to fly. Instead, these scientists say it is much more obvious that theropod-type dinosaurs evolved the flying ability by running on the ground, waving their forelimbs and jumping, in order to “oar along in the air,” perhaps to better catch flying insects, or other food. Others say the first wings evolved for balancing purposes, for scaring off predators, for shading, or for jumping across clefts. Incidentally, the scientists who believe flight developed by dinosaurs jumping out of trees generally discard such ridiculous proposals.

Consider the Feather

The one thing that both sets of scientists have in common is that neither group has been able to show how reptiles supposedly evolved feathers.

The feather is a marvel of construction—an engineering masterpiece. If you have ever looked at a feather under a microscope, you know that each parallel barb slanting diagonally from the shaft is not just a straight hair, but is actually a miniature replica of the feather itself—with many side branches, complete with barbules and hooks that overlap the neighboring side branches, creating specific patterns. The outcome is a wing far more versatile than the most advanced aircraft’s.

Yet feathers must have evolved, we are told. One theory goes like this: At some point, a pre-bird was born with frayed scales—longish, loosely attached, frayed scales. The frayed scales must have given the reptiles some kind of (undiscovered) competitive advantage, so over time, more and more of the pre-birds were covered in frayed scales. Millions of years later, these broken, defective scales eventually became the incredibly complex, perfect-for-flying feathers we see today. Mystery solved, right?

Not so quick. If all of a sudden these reptiles began developing a downy covering of feathers, how did they regulate their body temperature? Reptiles are cold-blooded and need to spend much of their day basking in the sun to warm up. Feathers would block the sun.

Can you picture poor Baldy? He is not so bald anymore; he has a nice layer of fuzz; but he is shivering in the cold, trying to warm up his core body temperature because his beautiful feathers keep shading him. He wants to go out and hunt for food, but he can’t because it takes all his energy just to find the warmest rock possible to sit on. He no longer has any energy to climb trees or run around jumping in the air to bite insects. Eventually, he starves.

That is part of the reason why most scientists now believe that proto-feathers developed as an entirely new structure, unrelated to scales. First, reptiles became warm-blooded, these scientists argue. Then the feathers developed to help keep the internally generated heat in. That certainly is good news for Baldy, and for the evolutionary cause, but again, it is all conjecture based upon the “birds are warm-blooded and evolution is fact so it must have happened” line of reasoning. The same reasoning is generally used to account for the magically appearing genetic code required to produce proto-feathers.

And remember: Evolution is hypothetically a slow process working over thousands and millions of years. So if the frayed-scale or proto-feather theory were really true, there should be thousands of imprints of frayed scales and proto-feathers within the geologic record. Alas, after more than 100 years of searching, not a single example has been found. When feathers appear in the record, they are completely “modern.”

Leaps of Faith

To get around this little problem, some scientists now promote the theory that evolution occurs in big jumps—leaving no transition fossils behind. But what these “big jumpers” are not able to explain is how these jumps could possibly occur genetically. For instance, how could the genetic code for fully functioning organs suddenly appear out of nowhere?

But let’s for a moment forget the lack of evidence and pretend that somehow Baldy has managed to evolve wings out of his scrawny forearms and that fully fledged feathers have magically appeared. Baldy is now ready for his first real flight. He climbs up his tree.

One, two, three—*hold on!*

Straighten Up and Fly Right

Because flying is a high-energy activity, birds require much more oxygen. An entirely new respiratory system is required. Birds have a much more efficient and

remembers his dear old uncle Stubby, and all his brothers, sisters, cousins and friends who had been leaping to their deaths from the tops of tree branches and towering cliff edges—all trying to get their evolutionary jobs done.

But Baldy is determined. In spite of his many bumps, bruises and broken claws, Baldy the dinosaur knows that it is his destiny to fly. He has never seen anyone fly before, and his arms are short, but who knows? Maybe if he flaps hard enough, he will be able to overcome his aerodynamically unsound body form, and his dense and heavy bone structure. But fly he must—or so evolutionists say.

So, using his beak and claws, he scrambles up to the highest limb he can find to take advantage of the strongest wind gusts. And then, with one great leap of faith, he lunges—or plunges—off into the sweet, blue yonder.

Flop, flutter, snap, crash! Stillness. Poor Baldy died of three broken ribs, a fractured “proto-wing,” a cracked skull, a twisted ankle and third-degree wind burns.

But don’t worry, Baldy didn’t actually exist in the first place! How could he exist if all his ancestors were continually leaping to their deaths because they were not

superior set of lungs than reptiles. Specifically, reptiles have a single large air sac divided by ingrowths for a lung. In contrast, birds have an intricate two-cycle breathing process that involves both lungs and eight or nine additional air sacs that temporarily store air and then contract to force air through the system. This allows the lungs to constantly have fresh air when birds are both inhaling and exhaling—the lungs are never empty!

But feathers and a respiratory system are only part of the problem.

In order to fly, birds also need a unique skeletal system. Flight demands a rigid airframe and light bones.

So now let's assume that somehow Baldy has evolved his own completely brand-new skeletal system. His bones have been transformed from large, dense, heavy reptile bones into the light hollow or honeycombed bones that birds generally have today. Some of the heavier bones have been completely discarded, while new structures designed for specially built muscle attachments have also appeared. Some respiratory air sacs form air pockets

within other bones. Baldy also has a new type of backbone, fused and rigid, which helps him breathe since he no longer has a diaphragm. Now his entire body cavity acts like bellows to move air through the lungs—contracting to push air out, and relaxing to let air in.

Baldy is very excited now. No longer will he pass out from oxygen deprivation when he tries to fly, especially since the air is so much thinner way up in the sky. But Baldy is still having trouble taking more than a couple of uncoordinated flaps. He just keeps tiring out.

If Baldy is to fly, he will need an entirely new digestive system too!

Hungry for the Facts

The dilemma for birds is that they need to balance increased fuel consumption and economy of weight. Reptiles on the other hand, in many cases, can go weeks, or months, without eating. This won't work for Baldy. Flying is much more energy intensive than sunning himself on trees or rocks. He needs to eat foods with a minimum of indigestible material, process them quickly

and eliminate the leftovers. Baldy had better tack on a divided stomach, and gizzard, a larger esophagus, and a cloaca for quick waste elimination. And while he is at it, he might as well get rid of his bladder—no need for hauling that extra water around.

After all that work (or tens of millions of years of random mutation combined with natural selection, according to evolutionists) our mythical friend must be getting close to flight, right? Alas, no. Baldy needs a rewiring job if he is going to fly—a new nervous system.

Are We There Yet?

The demands of flight require that the bird must be able to specifically move and position its body in an exact manner. The feathers and the wings must be manipulated. The “new,” bigger, redesigned muscles required for flying must be controlled. And don't forget the new navigational equipment. Move over biped-brain—make way for a new upgraded set of oculars. Proportionally, birds have massive eyes, practically filling up the cranium in some cases.

Last but not least, the bird needs a coordinating system to operate all these complex systems. You can have an entire airplane, but without the controls and instrument panel, it isn't going to fly. Similarly, you need the wings, the engine, the electrical and hydraulic systems, the landing gear. It is all or none. Everything or nothing. Black or white. Zero percent or 100 percent. Flight or no flight.

With the new nervous system in place, little Baldy the biped is very happy. He has his feathers and wings. He has his revamped, lightweight skeleton. And he has his souped-up respiratory and digestive systems.

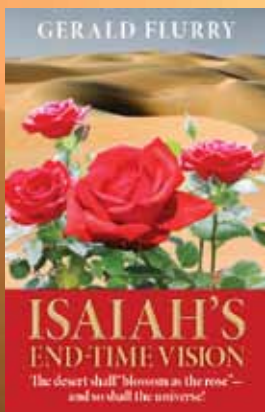
Taking a running start and a flying leap, Baldy soars up into the air. Looking down at the beautiful world below, he couldn't be more content—he can fly!

Returning home, Baldy is excited to tell all his friends about his newfound ability. But something strange has happened. Nobody recognizes him anymore. His mutations have caused him to be so different that the other bipeds don't know who he is. He is all alone.

And that brings us to one more problem evolutionists have difficulty explaining. If Baldy has gone through all these amazing evolutionary progressions and “big genetic jumps,” with whom is Baldy to mate?

Thus ends the story of Baldy the biped—the first and last of his kind. And so ends an evolutionary theory fit for the birds. ■

“And the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.”



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and behold—the Constitution *did* in fact guarantee Americans the right to commit homosexual sodomy.

The majority held that the *dissenting* opinion in *Bowers v. Hardwick*—which said that just because something is considered immoral doesn't make it illegal—was actually correct. Justice Anthony Kennedy, in writing the opinion, spoke of an “*emerging awareness* that *liberty* [that all-important word in the due process clause] gives substantial protection” to sexual decisions. He also brought out that the European Convention on Human Rights invalidated sodomy laws. Who needs the Constitution?

“This effectively decrees the *end of all morals legislation*,” lamented Justice Scalia in his dissent. “If, as the Court asserts, the promotion of majoritarian sexual morality is not even a legitimate state interest,” he wrote, and all laws are subject to “rational-basis review” alone, then *that undermines the foundation for “criminal laws against fornication, bigamy, adultery, adult incest, bestiality and obscenity.”*

He continued, “The Supreme Court is clearly in the business of vetoing state (and federal) legislation by inventing new and increasingly more absurd justifications. IT DOES NOT FEEL BOUND BY THE CONSTITUTION OR EVEN PRECEDENT. It is abandoning the constitutional framework that supports the moral foundation of our laws. ... State laws against bigamy, *same-sex marriage*, adult incest, prostitution, masturbation, adultery, fornication, bestiality and obscenity are likewise sustainable only in light of *Bowers’* validation of laws based on moral choices. Every single one of these laws is called into question by today’s decision.”

How right he was. Today, in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, we witnessed the inevitable next step in this trend.

Not Rational

Judge Walker roundly attacked the *moral* argument against same-sex marriage. He argued that since “*moral and religious views* form the **ONLY BASIS** for a belief that same-sex couples are different from opposite-sex couples,” then, from a legal standpoint, there is **NO BASIS** for making any distinction. Opposition to same-sex marriage is simply *not rational*, he said—hence constitutionally impermissible.

Walker held that Proposition 8 violated the Fourteenth Amendment’s “due process” clause. Marriage is a fundamental right of Americans, he said, and homosexuals are Americans. Forget the fact that, for example, states also prohibit siblings

from marrying, or parents from marrying their own children, or minors from marrying—all *moral* choices on the part of states. Forget that all three branches of the federal government as well as the state of California have already lawfully determined that for a state not to grant marriage to homosexuals *is* constitutional.

Walker also said Prop 8 violated the “equal protection” clause, which forbids sexual discrimination, by stretching the definition of sex to include *sexual orientation*. This is legally unprecedented, and, left unchallenged, opens the door for a great deal more litigation by homosexuals and other sexual deviants.

In Judge Walker’s mind, it is **BIBLE-BASED THEOLOGY**—not unnatural or unlawful sexual orientation—that poses



“This effectively decrees the end of all morals legislation.”
—JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA

a dangerous threat to homosexuals and lesbians.

Among his “findings of fact,” for example, Judge Walker ruled, “Religious beliefs that gay and lesbian relationships are sinful or inferior to heterosexual relationships harm gays and lesbians.” To support this finding, he cited 18 examples—most of them just doctrinal explanations from religious groups denouncing homosexual behavior as unbiblical and sinful.

“[T]he evidence shows beyond debate that allowing same-sex couples to marry has at least a neutral, if not a positive, effect on the institution of marriage,” he wrote.

Thus, this single district court judge cast aside current law, ignored precedent, and exalted his own secularist morality ahead of the moral judgment of a majority of voters in the most populous state in the union.

Beyond that, he attacked religion as the basis for forming moral judgment. He increased the growing supremacy of secularism. He advanced the cause of godless rationalism, and the ruinous campaign to make fallible human reasoning the only legitimate legal authority.

Wearing the cloak of constitutionality, he raised the banner of lawlessness. In ruling Proposition 8 unconstitutional, this judge tortured the Constitution. His 136-page ruling uses the highbrow language of law to dismantle the law.

Right in Our Own Eyes

The liberal judiciary’s grandiloquent assault on the Constitution is closely linked with a broader cultural trend toward casting off restraint. The contempt for law that this decision represents is one of the most grievous plagues of our times. It infects every level of society from the child’s nursery to the most exalted halls of power.

This opinion is part of a movement to disinfect the nation’s laws of their religious underpinnings and retain only what survives rational-basis review. This will supposedly increase justice, expand freedom and strengthen the nation. But that reasoning is already doing the opposite: increasing disorder and division, enslaving people to their own lusts, and shredding the nation’s social fabric.

It’s a far cry from the way our Founding Fathers viewed constitutional law. The way President John Adams viewed it, “Our Constitution was made *only* for a **MORAL** and **RELIGIOUS** people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

America’s first president, George Washington, said during his farewell address in 1796, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, *religion* and *morality* are indispensable supports.”

These God-fearing men understood well that without the moral restrictions of a higher spiritual law, the many liberties afforded Americans in the Constitution would lead to anarchy—and end in destruction.

It calls to mind the darkest period in the history of ancient Israel—the period of the judges. As the nation turned its back on God and His law, it suffered curse upon nightmarish curse. Scripture uses a simple description of the moral and intellectual climate at that time—one that rings sickeningly true today: “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

Quoting that verse in his 2001 article “Justice and Our ‘Evolving Constitution,’” the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief wrote, “This was the condition of our biblical forefathers—just before their nation collapsed and they went into slavery!”

Watch for history to repeat itself. ■

1 As America leaves ... 2 A match made in Rome

THE U.S. HAS OFFICIALLY ended combat operations in Iraq. Meanwhile, violence is rising and Iran stands ready.

In August, a prominent Shiite militant leader returned to Iraq from Iran under Iranian protection. Ismail al-Lami, who uses the name Abu Deraa, has been wanted by the U.S. since 2004 for his Iranian-sponsored attacks against Iraqi Sunnis as a leader in Muqtada al Sadr's Shiite Mahdi Army. He escaped to Iran in 2008. Abu Deraa's return to Iraq just as the U.S. cut its troops in Iraq down to 50,000 as its operations moved from combat to assist was likely carefully deliberated by Iran. It is a reminder to the U.S. that Iran still has powerful levers to influence events in Iraq. If Tehran perceives politics in Iraq are not going its way enough, it could ratchet up the violence in the country.

Iraq received a taste of such violence on August 25, the day after the U.S. announced it had shrunk its troop level. Thirty-four terrorist attacks took place in 16 cities across the country, killing more than 60 and wounding about 400. Most of the bombings targeted police and security forces, with markets and neighborhoods also being hit. These coordinated attacks hit more cities simultaneously than any previous round of attacks.

Clearly, U.S. troops

are leaving a country that is far from stable. In addition to rising violence, political parties have yet to form a government months after elections were held in March.

Iran is well placed to intervene in Iraq. "With the absence of an agreed-upon government and with political rivals threatening that the situation could deteriorate into renewed civil war, the political vacuum gives Iran space to interfere in Iraq's affairs," wrote Zvi Bar'el in Israel's *Haaretz* (August 3).

Iran has a lot of levers it can pull in Iraq, but it doesn't yet have full control of the country. But with the U.S. leaving the country, it is only a matter of time.



3 Another reason to love the EU

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS considering a new EU-wide tax, imposed on member states by Brussels. On August 9, EU Budget Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski said he would unveil plans for the tax in September.

The idea has been smacked down by most of the important countries in Europe. However, according to Mary Ellen Synon of the Mail Online, these nations already gave Brussels the power to impose new taxes when they

A match made in Rome

GERMANY HAS launched a new diplomatic initiative to improve relations with Latin America.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle presented a 60-page strategy paper to an audience at the Foreign Ministry, including ambassadors from Latin America, on August 4. "The whole South American continent is taking off," it read. "Despite many setbacks and difficulties, it is a singular success story, and we should be smart enough to take part."

Germany's last formal strategy for Latin America was formed in 1995. Westerwelle said the region now deserves more focused attention. He said he wants to bring a "new quality" to the German-Latin American relationship. He outlined a three-pronged approach:

increase trade, harness the diplomatic influence of key nations like Brazil, and take more collective responsibility on transnational issues.

Germany conducted €36.5 billion (US\$48.2 billion) worth of trade with Latin America in 2009, an increase of 16.3 percent since 2005.

Latin American diplomats welcomed the news. "We now have the opportunity to reestablish a historic bond," **Argentina's Ambassador Guillermo Nielsen** said. "At the start of the last

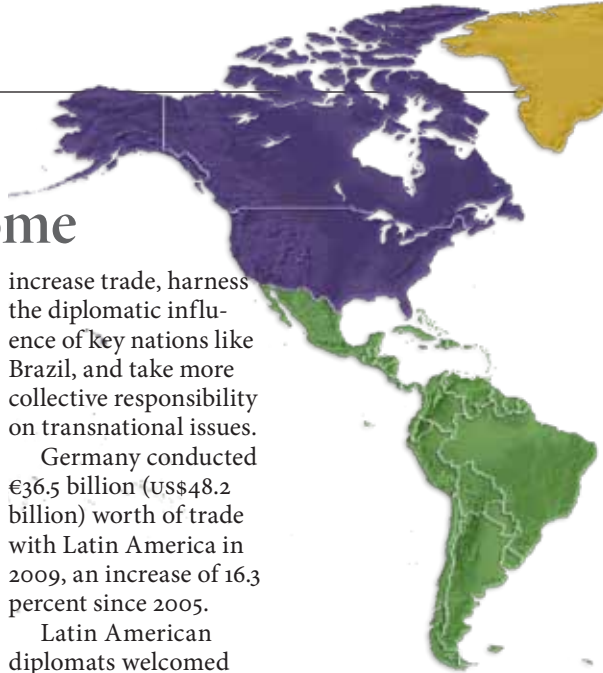
century, our most important market for exports was Germany, but in the postwar era, this relationship was lost. Now it's coming back."

Europe and Latin America have a shared Catholic heritage. Ex-



pect this to be exploited as the two continents draw closer together.

■ As the Church of England becomes embroiled in controversy over female bishops, 15 Anglo-Catholic bishops have said that some in their ranks would try to join the Catholic Church. Expect the Vatican to use Anglican liberalism to gather more members under the banner of Rome.





4 Swallowing the Pacific

CHINA'S SOFT-POWER BUILDUP IS paying dividends in the Pacific.

In recent months, China has become more aggressive in its claim on the entire South China Sea, which competes with claims by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

In July, the U.S. rejected China's claims and declared that Washington would get more involved in the disputes to guarantee free trade and



open navigation throughout the region. Several Southeast Asian nations, led by Vietnam, made clear they would welcome such a U.S. role to counter China's muscle.

But others did not support Washington's stance. In a stark deviation from historic allegiance, and in a sign of Asia's shifting tides, Manila said Washington should have no part in the territorial row. On August 9, **Filipino Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo** said the U.S. should stay out of disputes between China and Southeast Asian nations over territories in the South China Sea.

Then, on August 24, Beijing signed a contract with East Timor

detailing plans for China to build a new military headquarters for Dili's army. The deal was the latest of many signals that East Timor is shifting away from its traditional patron, Australia, and toward China.

In May 1968—seven years before the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam to communism—the *Trumpet's* forerunner, the *Plain Truth*, stated, "Bible prophecy reveals that not even America, with all of her nuclear muscle, can prevent Southeast Asia from eventually being overrun by communism"—or, more accurately, from being drawn into a Chinese-Russian-dominated geopolitical bloc.

We can expect Southeast Asian nations to increasingly fall under China's sway. As China's soft-power diplomacy and hard-power buildup continue to unify Asian nations, the influence of Australia and America in the region will wane all the more.

■ The annual report to Congress on China's military power was released on August 15, and describes a massive Chinese military buildup designed with the purpose of pushing America out of the Western Pacific. The report says China is developing technology designed specifically to destroy U.S. carrier battle groups. Beijing officials called the report exaggerated, but Washington is right to be concerned over China's military buildup. Concern alone, however, will not neutralize the threat.



5 The incredible shrinking military

BRITAIN'S ARMED forces are making drastic cuts to their operations, even sacrificing core capabilities, to fight government debt. In cutting up to 16,000 personnel and thousands of weapons, it appears the government has resigned itself to downgrading the nation from a "major military power" to a "medium-scale player."

The Royal Air Force may shrink to its smallest size since World War I under proposed cuts, losing 7,000 airmen (one in six) and 295 aircraft, leaving the branch with fewer than 200 fighter planes. The army could lose 40 percent of its 9,700 armored vehicles and an entire brigade of 5,000 troops.

Moreover, the *Telegraph* reported August 25 that the Royal Navy may be forced to borrow American warplanes for its two planned new aircraft carriers. The Treasury reportedly has not budgeted any money for actual planes to be carried by the two ships. To make ends

meet, the second carrier may not even make it to completion, may have to carry helicopters instead of jets, or might even have to be shared with France.

Finances are also dictating that in order to keep even these naval capabilities, Britain will likely have to give up its amphibious landing capability altogether, the heart of Britain's operations in the Falklands in 1982. Meanwhile, the Royal Navy is likely to lose two submarines, three amphibious ships, more than 100 senior officers and 2,000 sailors and marines.

The Ministry of Defense is also trying to fathom the "black hole" in its finances: £72 billion worth of orders that cannot be paid for.

Britain is but a shell of its former powerful self. For a comprehensive view on why this greatest empire in history has so quickly fallen, request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

● EUROPE

■ While many countries are facing financial ruin, Germany has experienced its best quarter of growth since reunification. During the second quarter of this year, the German economy grew by 2.2 percent, according to data released by Germany's statistics office August 13. These strong results will probably cement Germany's role as Europe's, and even the world's, economic leader. Germany wanted to deal with the financial crisis in a much more cautious and prudent way than the rest of the world. Now, the numbers seem to show that Germany got it right. Germany's economy is stronger, while most of the world is economically weak. More significantly, the Germans are growing more self-confident and assertive. Expect this attitude to spread beyond just economic policy.

■ France wants to make its taxation and spending policies more similar to Germany's, French Budget Minister Francois Baroin said on August 25 after visiting his German counterpart Wolfgang Schäuble. "Germany is a model which should be a source of inspiration for us," he said. In July, French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced that he wanted to coordinate France's

■ FRENCH BUDGET MINISTER FRANCOIS BAROIN

"Germany is a model which should be a source of inspiration for us."

tax system with Germany's. Already other nations are seeing Germany's success and following its lead.

■ Geert Wilders's anti-Islamic Freedom Party will play a key role in the new Dutch government as part of a coalition arrangement agreed upon on August 1. The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy

and the Christian Democrats announced they would form a minority coalition. Wilders's party will back these two parties on a case-by-case basis. This allows Wilders to play a role in government without having to stop speaking out about Islam in order to toe the government line. Wilders's powerful role in Dutch politics shows how concerned the people of Europe are becoming with Islamic immigration. For more, see "How to Be Popular in Europe" in our August edition.

● MIDEAST

■ Russia began loading uranium into Iran's first nuclear power plant on August 21. If all goes well, Iran will be producing fissile material by October. The activation is a milestone for Iran. On the global playing field, Bushehr's activation is a symbolic victory for Iran in its confrontation with the West over its quest for nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, Iran has stockpiled three tons of low-enriched uranium—enough for one or two nuclear weapons—according to former top UN nuclear official Olli Heinonen.

■ Israel and the Palestinian National Authority, under pressure from the U.S., agreed to begin direct peace talks September 2 in Washington. In practice, both sides are just going through the motions once again, with neither side hopeful of actual progress. The most significant outcome is likely to be internal political weakening of Israel and

further hurtful concessions by Israel. The *Trumpet* has long pointed out how the peace process is in fact a deadly "wound" for the Jewish state.

■ Pakistan has suffered its worst floods in 80 years, beginning in July and continuing through August. At least 17.2



RUINS
Pakistanis cope with flooding.

million people have lost their homes and livelihoods, and more than 1,500 people have been killed, according to the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The disaster is helping the Taliban make a comeback. Before the floods hit, the Pakistani government seemed to be finally making progress in the Swat Valley, one of the areas most affected by the flooding, with every bridge there being destroyed. The Taliban is taking full advantage of the opportunity, aiming for the hearts and minds of the people. Islamist groups were quick to respond, with a network of volunteers and donations from urban middle-class Pakistanis. "Given the circumstances, for [the government] to now act against groups who are seen to be doing a sterling job in terms of helping people will be absolutely suicidal," said Pakistan expert at London's Royal Institute of International Affairs, Farzana Shaikh. The government, on the other hand, is rapidly losing popularity.

● ASIA

■ Russia, China, India and Turkey have entered into trade deals that violate U.S.-led sanctions on Iran's oil and gas sector. Washington and the EU hoped to intensify existing UN sanctions against Tehran by adding restrictions on

companies that supply fuel to Iran, but their efforts are proving ineffective. Russia, China, India and Turkey are all rushing into the lucrative void left by Western nations that won't sell to Iran, and all four have opened talks regarding investments worth billions of dol-

lars in Iran's energy resources. As Eastern powers become more defiant, the rift between East and West will broaden.

■ Russia announced on August 11 that it had deployed an S-300 advanced missile defense system in Georgia's Moscow-backed rebel region of Abkhazia, saying it would provide anti-aircraft defense for Abkhazia and Georgia's other Russia-supported breakaway enclave, South Ossetia. The move signals that Russian forces are bolstering involvement in the disputed area which was at the heart of the brief 2008 Russia-Georgia war. Stratfor noted that Russia's defense buildup in Georgia's rebel regions "is one component of a multi-pronged Russian effort to consolidate its military control over the Caucasus" (August 11).

■ Kremlin experts say that Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's high-profile response to wildfires and ownership of a recent spy



TURF WAR A car bomb carcass lies in the streets of Ciudad Victoria.

scandal are designed to demonstrate to the Russian people that he, not President Dmitry Medvedev, is leading the country. More than two years ago, term limits forced Putin to surrender the presidential office and instead take the prime minister's title. With the presidential election only 18 months away, Putin is gearing up to make his leadership of Russia official once again.

mayor's own police confessed to helping in the murder. These are just some of many ongoing incidents in Mexico's drug war, which has killed 28,000 over the past four years.

wants access to. The two nations signed commercial agreements relating to finance, mining, nuclear energy and many other sectors. South Africa already has a large trade deficit

■ **NEWLY APPOINTED EU AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. JOAO VALE DE ALMEIDA**
"Where we [EU nations] have a common position, I am the one leading the show. ... I'm the first new type of ambassador for the European Union anywhere in the world. Our delegations now cover a wide spectrum of issues well beyond the economic dimension, trade dimension and regulatory dimension, to cover all policies in the Union, including foreign policy and security policy."

■ Even worse than Mexico is Venezuela, where over 16,000 people were murdered in 2009 alone. By comparison, in Iraq, which has a similar population to Venezuela, 4,644 civilians died violently in the same year. Since 1999, there have been more than 118,000 homicides. Since 2007, there have been over 43,000. Morgues receive more bodies from homicides than from car accidents. The government's response has been to crack down not on crime, but on a free press.

■ South Africa and China signed a "comprehensive strategic partnership" on August 24, as South African President Jacob Zuma visited Beijing. China has technical expertise and money that South Africa

with China, its top trading partner, so these deals aim to give China access to South Africa's resources. Expect China to continue to make inroads into Africa to get hold of them.

● ANGLO-AMERICA

■ The Pentagon is cutting spending on "big war" weapons, the *Washington Times* reported on August 3. Military planners are trying to save \$100 billion over five years. Defense Secretary Robert Gates is looking to axe systems made for fighting large-scale international conflicts, such as next-generation ballistic-missile submarines

and perhaps even one or two carrier strike groups. The Pentagon is looking to develop less-expensive systems for smaller conflicts comparable to Iraq and Afghanistan. Gates has already halted production of the F-22 Raptor stealth fighter and scaled back or shelved missile defense systems, long-range nuclear bombers and other warplanes. While these attempts to trim budgets may seem prudent to some, the *Trumpet* projects that the Pentagon will soon miss those "big war" weapons.

■ On July 27, Britain opted in to the EU's European Investigation Order. The decision means that Brussels can force British police to place British citizens under surveillance or hand over DNA records. Police from European nations can even request information about activities that aren't crimes in the United Kingdom.

■ The *Daily Mail* reported on August 3 that the number of pre-teenage girls on "the pill" has quintupled over the last decade. In 2009, doctors prescribed the contraceptive to more than 1,000 girls who were 11 or 12, usually without their parents' knowledge. According to the National Health Service, another 200 children ages 11 to 13 received long-term implanted or injectable contraceptives. At least 58,000 15-year-old children were on the pill, compared to 23,000 in 1999.

■ In August, Australian **Prime Minister Julia Gillard**

said that Australia should reject the Commonwealth and become a republic when Queen Elizabeth II dies or abdicates.



● LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

■ Mexico's drug war continues to escalate. On August 5, an improvised explosive device exploded inside a car near a police facility. On August 14 and 15, Los Zetas attacked the local affiliates of Televisa, a large media company. On August 24, Mexican marines found the bodies of 72 recently murdered people on a ranch a few miles south of the U.S. border; it was learned that the Zetas committed the deed. August 16, Edelmiro Cavazos, the mayor of Santiago, was kidnapped in a reasonably safe part of Mexico. Two days later, his dead body was discovered on a nearby road. Six of the

What to Do With GERMANY?



Berlin is surging in power! Finally some observers are asking hard questions about the direction it is going. BY RON FRASER

ONE OF THE GREAT CONSTANTS about biblical prophecy is that if you wait long enough, it will eventually become today's headline news. It's inevitable.

Skeptics, doubters, those blinded to the truth, may even then deny the reality that those headlines proclaim. But this is no surprise, for the Almighty Himself declared it would be so: "He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them" (John 12:40).

Humankind is about to learn a powerful lesson. The Creator that man has ignored, rejected and generally rebelled against from creation to this day is preparing for the inevitable: the fulfillment of Jesus Christ's Olivet prophecy, particularly that of His direct intervention in the affairs of this world to save man from blowing himself and all life off this planet: "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).

But before God intervenes to save mankind from this fate, there are a people on

this planet who are destined to feel the correction of their Creator in a very direct and personal way. They are the people of least excuse for their rejection of Almighty God—for they were once the direct recipients of His law, statutes and judgments designed to show man how to live according to the intention of his Maker. In fact, in recent history, they have been the most blessed people on Earth.

Anciently, these folk were labeled *Israelites*. They consisted of 12 individual tribes that developed into separate nations. They can be found today populating the United States, Britain, Israel, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Nordic countries, parts of the Baltic, France, Belgium and the Netherlands and include many of the whites of South Africa. For proof of this reality, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

But of all these peoples, *the Anglo-Saxon and the Jewish nations* are prophesied to suffer particularly drastic correction by God for their sins.

And there is one nation that God has reserved to deliver that correction. Biblically, it is identified as *Assyria*. Today, we call that nation *Germany*.

"The Wolf on the Fold"

Lord Byron aptly described the blitzkrieg nature of the Assyrian at war in one line in his poem "The Destruction of Sennacherib." Of the storming of Sennacherib, Byron declared, "The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold."

That lightning-strike approach to warfare has since been demonstrated by the descendants of those ancient Assyrians when motivated to war in more recent times.

The *Daily Reckoning* summed up that history this way: "The Teuton tribes are an aggressive lot. The Usipetes, Tenchteri, Batavi, Cherusci, Chatti, Vandals, Goths, Franks, Alans, Suebians—all jostled each other for centuries. ... And when Rome wheezed her last gasps they fell on her like French tax collectors on a widow's estate. The Vandals pushed all the way across Gaul and Iberia, crossed to North Africa, and from their new base in Carthage, continued to tickle the old empire until it rolled over on them" (August 20).

Thus was formed the Holy Roman Empire.

Well, one might say, more power to the Teutons. But the past is the past, and Germany has since proven itself a changed nation,

peace-loving and democratic, just like us!

Well, is that so?

The same source observed, “It has been 65 years since Europe’s last major war. Still, when Germany gets up off its knees, the Continent trembles.

“Last week, the Berlin government announced the best results since the Wall fell in ’89. From the first quarter to the second one the republic’s GDP rose 2.2 percent. At that rate—about 9 percent a year if it continues—Germany is running neck and neck with China. Compared to France and the U.S., Germany is flying nearly four times as fast.”

Teutonic approach to warfare, Teutonic approach to its economy. Same people, same attitude, same lightning achievements—be it in war or business.

What is really happening today in Germany, a nation that so powerfully impacted the 20th century? How is Germany already affecting the present century, and what will it do in the near future? Will Germany be content to “fly four times as fast” as the U.S. and France economically *alone*, or will it seek to transfer that powerful economic clout into offensive *military* power yet again? Will Germany revert to its ancient Assyrian, Teutonic type, yet again?

Serious foreign-policy minds with a view to history are now asking that question.

An Opportunity to Act

In the August-September issue of *European Affairs*, Dr. Jackson Janes asked, “During the last two decades the political and economic geometry of Europe has altered in favor of a more dominant position for Germany. ... The current economic crisis has reaffirmed German dominance in the European Central Bank (ECB) and in almost all key economic and financial policy choices of the eurozone and the EU overall. ... During the 20 years since German unification ... Germany [has] increasingly [taken] de facto command of Europe’s economic choices.”

Jackson Janes is executive director of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. He sums up Germany’s achievements as follows: “Right now, Germany has a Europe it likes. Unification was achieved along with a strong economic position, limited exchange-rate risks and a degree of discipline enacted in the Growth and Stability Pact. Also it has the largest weight in the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers under the rules set by the Lisbon Treaty. And the current arrangements suit a Berlin that has become

less ambitious about a more centralized European structure—especially after the decision last year by Germany’s Supreme Court to limit increased control by Brussels over German sovereignty” (ibid.).

Now that the wraps are off and Germany’s rapid rise to dominance in Europe has become undeniable, questions are again being raised as to its intentions *beyond* Europe.

A rash of recent headlines spotlighted

“During the last two decades the political and economic geometry of Europe has altered in favor of a more dominant position for Germany.” —DR. JACKSON JANES

Germany’s rapid gain of financial, industrial and economic power even as the U.S. continues to slide off its superpower perch. With America having substantially drawn down its presence in Europe over the past 20 years and now withdrawing from Iraq in addition to planning withdrawal from Afghanistan, will Germany—given its global industrial, financial and economic power—be able to resist converting that into military power? *Someone* has to fill the increasing security vacuum being left by a rapidly weakening America. Germany will not like either Russia or China getting the jump on the Fatherland in the wake of American weakness. For Germany to *not* react would be to risk its presence as a global power in all but military assertiveness and to be taken quick advantage of by these two competitive powers.

Germany will simply be forced to act, and to act soon, to raise its international profile as a military power on a par with its global economic weight. Otherwise it will not be taken seriously by a world that only recognizes might as right!

But there is more to this than would appear. For Germany’s elites have deliberately pursued a different strategy in their third try at global domination.

Consider the history.

Releasing the Genie

Though Germany ceased to exist as a global power when the nation surrendered to the Allies on May 8, 1945—its economy in ruins, its military power shattered and its society completely demoralized—the elite visionaries behind the Nazi dream of world conquest did not give up their goal at that point. In fact, as is well documented, they simply went underground to al-

low the dust of war to settle before quietly emerging to reconstruct the nation into the powerhouse economy it is today.

The German captains of industry rebuilt their shattered factories and industrial empires courtesy of American largesse via the Marshall Plan. Many operatives of the German secret service under Hitler simply transferred their allegiance—at least publicly—to the British, American and Russian secret services.

Much of the Nazi gold and other booty were spirited out of Germany via numerous avenues—not the least being Vatican and Swiss banks—to accounts that would later be drawn on by those seeking to finance a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

The result, with implicit support from Germany’s old Anglo-Saxon enemies, was what became known as the German *Wirtschaftswunder*—the economic miracle of the rapid German rebound from abject defeat in World War II to the most prosperous nation in Europe.

During the 1950s, with the Anglo-Saxons running scared of what they perceived as an aggressive eastward and southward push by imperialist Soviet-style communism, the U.S. and Britain believed their only hope of stemming the rising Communist tide from sweeping across Europe to the Atlantic was to create a bridgehead at the line that divided Soviet East Germany from the democratic West. This they did by rearming their former enemy barely a decade after having totally dismantled its military forces.

The new German armed forces, the Bundeswehr, were formed in 1955. The same year, Germany joined NATO.

From that point, Germany behaved like a typical democracy. It built a strong export base for its rapidly burgeoning industry and relied on NATO for its national security. It was deliberately constrained to building a strong national defense establishment for the sole purpose of securing its national borders from within its own territory.

This continued for 34 years as West Germany thrived economically while its counterpart in the east remained in economic stagnation under the Communist boot heel.

Then something happened on Nov. 9, 1989, that would change the whole face of German politics. The Berlin Wall, the symbolic division between the Communist East and the free West, came tumbling down.

The old genie was released.

What to Do With Germany?

The German reunification that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall resulted in a 20-year drive by German elites to place

a newly united Germany at the top of the pile in Europe.

By December 2009, Germany was the leading European economy by far: Europe's top export nation; its greatest financial power; its strongest political force; and its most aggressively expanding military power in terms of active involvement outside its borders.

These are all clearly demonstrable, inarguable facts of Germany's postwar his-

tory. And they raise a question. It's an old question that has periodically arisen ever since Aug. 6, 1806, when Franz II, the last emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, dissolved that empire and capitulated to Napoleon. It raised its head again in 1918 when the Allied nations met at Versailles to conclude an armistice with a Germany that had instigated the greatest war in history to that time. Yet again, it arose when the Allies met at Pots-

Leaner and Meaner

ON August 23, German Defense Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg presented to the Bundestag five alternative plans for potential reforms to the German military. Under Guttenberg's favored plan, military conscription would be suspended beginning next year, and the Bundeswehr reduced from 250,000 to about 160,000 troops. Given a passing glance, Germany's military power may appear to be diminishing.

But look again. There is an important reason military conscription is written into the German Constitution and why Germany has remained one of the last countries on Earth to practice compulsory military service.

In the first decade after World War II, as the shadow cast by the Soviet Union over Western Europe grew, it became apparent that West Germany would need to develop an independent military. For America and Britain, the creation of a West German military came with a fundamental stipulation: It must be a democratic institution rather than a professional army that might easily fall under the influence of German imperialists.

Instituted in 1956, a year after West Germany entered NATO, military conscription became a key bulwark preventing the formation of a professional military. It created an army of "citizens in uniform." It helped integrate the military with society and ensured the Bundeswehr remained transparent to the German public and the world. A mandatory draft would create an army comprised of German citizens with loyalties to sundry ideologies and political parties, making it difficult for the military to develop into a state-within-a-state, loyal only to itself or select German elites. By filling the military with conscripts from all walks of life, as the *New York Times* observed, it would remain "immune to the kind of elitist force that dominated state affairs during the years of the Weimar Republic and before" (August 30).

"Drafting young men instead of having professional soldiers was a *guarantee for a democratic army*," stated Rainer Arnold, the ranking member on the Defense Committee of the German parliament (ibid.).

Considered in the context of German history, the move to abolish the draft is revealing. The elimination of military conscription will mark the elimination of one of the bulwarks built into the German Constitution to prevent the Bundeswehr from becoming a *professional army*!

As journalist Christian Thiel stated on German television: "This is not a reform, but in reality a revolution, planned by the defense minister" (August 23; our translation).



THE MAN

Guttenberg has a plan for a German war machine.

Stratfor wrote that Guttenberg's proposed reforms "could greatly increase the Bundeswehr's deployability—its capacity to deploy and sustain troops in a foreign theater ... and begin to close the gap between Germany and other European militaries ..." (August 30). According to Thiel, Guttenberg is overhauling the German military because he wants "to make the homeland defense an army of intervention."

For those prepared to take more than a fleeting glance at Germany's military transformation, the ambitions of Germany's defense minister are obvious. When it comes to military reform, and specifically suspending conscription, Guttenberg is simply trimming the fat.

The fact is, conscription is holding the military back. "Analysts say that the conscription system is both expensive and of little use for a modern army that must be able to deploy abroad quickly" (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, August 23).

Conscripts serve for only six months, reduced from nine months in July. This means that by the time the army trains them, they move on. Thus, the army finds all kinds of excuses to reduce the number of conscripts it gets burdened with. It has been raising the standards of its medical exams higher and higher as a way to reduce the number of conscripts.

Under Guttenberg's plan, the government's power to draft conscripts would still be enshrined in its Basic Law (a sort of constitution), so the government could rapidly expand the army in the future if necessary. In the meantime, Germany would have "voluntary conscripts." Men and women could sign up for 12 to 23 months of voluntary service in the army, which would then be able to recruit professional soldiers from their ranks.

Look closely, and it's obvious that Guttenberg's ultimate goal is to forge the German military into a trimmer, more efficient—and more powerful—fighting machine!

BRAD MACDONALD

dam in August 1945 after Germany's defeat in the second of two world wars that Germany had initiated in the first half of the 20th century.

The question is, *what to do with Germany?* More importantly, what to do with a *united* Germany? For history has shown that is the real danger.

While Germany lay divided among the numerous competing local rulers of its various states, their own divisions and jealousies kept them warring among themselves and not against other nations. But when Germany unites, that spells trouble.

That was the problem facing the Allies in Potsdam seeking to conclude a rational peace after the war. Germany as a single *united* nation had twice shown itself discontented to constrain its power to within its national borders. So they partitioned Germany, with the east going to Soviet Russian control, and the west to Anglo-Saxon dominance.

Now, we view Germany 20 years on from reunification. It is again the most powerful nation in Europe. It vies with China alone for the crown as the globe's top export nation. It is to Germany that Europe and, indeed, the world looked when the Greek financial crisis erupted, threatening a domino effect around the globe.

It is Germany that forced the hand of unwilling national electorates to sign up to the Lisbon Treaty/European constitution. Amid continuing global financial crisis, it is Germany that has forced the implementation of a global financial controlling body on the world, the Financial Stability Board. It is a German-dominated EU that in turn dominates the body that now sets economic policy for the world, the G-20.

What to do with Germany today?

Well, it's really too late to ask the question. The horse has bolted. Germany is back strutting the world stage as a global power and gearing right now, believe it or not, to once again reinforce its military presence.

Conquest by Treaty

The German elites who are of the imperialist mindset that has prevailed over the centuries in the Teutonic quest for global dominance did not abandon their dream when their nation faced certain defeat in the closing stages of World War II.

In fact, as a whole battery of authors and analysts has published over the years—from Sigrid Schultz in her revealing first-hand account *Germany Will Try It Again*, to more recent publications such as those of Bernard Connolly, Martin Lee, Rodney Atkinson, and that venerable con-

fidante of Konrad Adenauer, Harry Beckhough—the imperialist vision of German elites was perpetuated and continued to be promulgated by those elites throughout the whole fabric and infrastructure of what we call today the European Union.

Yet, one thing those elites who backed the Kaiser and Hitler learned after the extent of their defeat in 1945 was that there had to be a better way to achieve their goal than by instigating outright war. Hence

Twenty years on from reunification, Germany is again the most powerful nation in Europe. It vies with China for the crown as the globe's top export nation. It is to Germany that Europe and the world looked when the Greek financial crisis erupted.

they chose treaties as their method, and the entity that has evolved from the establishment of the European Steel and Coal Community in 1951 into what is now in all but name a German-dominated European empire—the European Union—as the means.

Now, 60 years on from that first treaty, the Treaty of Paris, a whole array of 12 treaties, plus five acts of the European Parliament and one open-border agreement, have built an imperial European edifice of 27 nations into the greatest trading entity in the world. The latest treaty, the Lisbon Treaty, is but a European constitution cloaked in a deceptive title. This is the enabling document for the creation of a pan-European army!

Beyond Lisbon

Today, a united Germany sitting atop a united Europe lacks but two things to bring the elites' dream of a resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation to full reality: consolidated military power, and a binding ideology with which to control the minds of the masses.

Two individuals—the acts of each masked by a public facade of political and priestly contention and division—are working hard to achieve these objectives.

The one, Germany's defense minister, the Bavarian Baron Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, is gaining headlines weekly by overtly touting for the elimination of military conscription. Pacifists, liberals and their fellow travelers welcome this as a further endorsement of the fiction that Germany has no aspiration to become a military power. Don't believe it!

The facts are that Germany is on a drive to consolidate military industry continent-wide in Europe and build a strong military presence from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf, from Gibraltar to the Caucasus. It is already well advanced in doing so. Check theTrumpet.com archive for evidence. There's plenty of it, and there will be more to come!

On the ideological front, another Bavarian, Pope Benedict XVI, watches the masses

being distracted from reality by a liberal press lasciviously publicizing the pedophilia scandal within the Catholic Church. In the meantime, powerfully supported by an ultra-conservative curia built up by his predecessor, the pope quietly goes about building Rome's power within the ranks of the giants in commerce, industry, banking and diplomacy in the European Union. It is *they* who will support and enforce the power of Rome when the pope rules in the future: There is coming a time when, if the masses want bread, they must first bow their knee to Rome (Revelation 13).

It is such overwhelming ideological, "religious" influence that will bind fractious Europe together for its brief moment of global power before its inevitable and final collapse.

Yet, as we always indicate, with the absolute confidence that is backed by the "more sure word of prophecy," these current phenomena are building toward the greatest single event in the history of man—an event of which they are an iron-clad sign of its imminence: the very return of your Savior to this world!

Do you really believe the words of Jesus Christ, the Savior of humankind? Then read and prove your belief! Read and study His great prophecy in Matthew 24, Mark 12 and Luke 21. Then read and believe His unbreakable guarantee for our time: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28).

Now there's a message of *real hope* for our times! ■

The Remarkable Identity of the GERMAN PEOPLE

It underpins some of the strongest prophecies in the Bible! BY DAVID VEJIL

FROM ITS EARLIEST EDITIONS, THE *Trumpet* magazine has reported extensively on a particularly crucial geopolitical development. It is an event highlighted in many major biblical prophecies. Yet those who don't understand these prophecies overlook the trend and reject our analysis.

This event is the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire led by Germany.

Though the German nation's rise to world-dominating power is recorded in several major prophecies, its identity has remained largely unknown because the modern German name is not the one used in the prophecies. *Only when Germany's biblical identity is revealed* can one understand these prophecies and comprehend the role Germany will play on the international scene.

The key to understanding biblical prophecy is to know the prophetic identity of the world's great powers. And the identity of Germany is—after that of the American and British people—the *most important to recognize!*

A united, revived Germany as the powerhouse behind Europe is once again starting to dominate world affairs. It is a position Germany historically has enjoyed with few exceptions for the past 1,500 years.

Just who are the German peoples, and where did they come from?

The Bible, the foundation of all knowledge, records that mankind first settled just north of Mesopotamia after the Flood. From there, tribes of people migrated to their current locations, where they formed our modern nations.

As they migrated, various tribes often became identified by their locations of settlement rather than the name of their tribal patriarch, as they are in the Bible. Tracking the origins of the German people means identifying the ancestor from whom they sprang.

By traveling back in time through the

works of ancient scholars and archeological data, we can tell the full story of the German peoples' migration from Mesopotamia—home of their patriarch Asshur, the father of the Assyrians—to their location today!

Even the German people—before the 1900s when they rejected the history not only of the Bible but also of their own chronicles—demonstrate in their own records that they descend from Asshur!

The Origins of Germany's Oldest City

The oldest city in Germany is Trier, a city whose inhabitants say was founded around 2000 B.C. by the Assyrians.

Josef K.L. Bihl writes in his German textbook *In Deutschen Landen*, "Trier was founded by Trebeta, a son of the famous Assyrian King Ninus. In fact, one finds ... in Trier the inscription reading, 'Trier existed for 1,300 years before Rome was rebuilt.'" To this day, this story is used to attract tourists to Trier.

According to Greek historians, the ancient Assyrian capital of Nineveh was built by Ninus. The biblical account tells us that the builder of Nineveh was *Asshur*, the son of Shem, who became the progenitor of the Assyrians (Genesis 10:11). Ninus is simply the Greek name for the Asshur of the Bible.

While ancient German records—such as the *Bayerische Chronik*, the official history of Bavaria written by Johannes Turmair of Abensberg in the 1500s, but now relegated to pure myth—reveal that some of Asshur's descendants settled in Europe from Mesopotamia soon after the Flood, the *great majority* of the German people didn't begin their migration until a much later time, when their Assyrian Empire declined and collapsed in the seventh century B.C.

Let's now track the migratory route of these remaining Germanic peoples and see how and when they joined their Assyrian kinsmen in the land of modern Germany.

The Assyrian Empire

Anciently, the Assyrian Empire and its allies were originally located in Mesopotamia on the Upper Tigris River. The Assyrians were renowned warriors whose empire was built on perpetual warfare. Their empire stretched north from Mesopotamia all the way to Asia Minor to reach the shores of the Black Sea.

The Assyrians were a white race whose fair features made them stand out from the other people in the Middle East. Strabo, a first-century Greek geographer, noted their fair complexion, calling the Assyrians "White Syrians" (*Geography*).

Their empire's power rapidly declined just before Nineveh fell in 612 B.C. During their decline, the Assyrians were *forced* to settle the southern shores of the Black Sea by a group of invading warriors from Central Asia. Diodorus Siculus, a Greek historian who lived in the first century B.C., wrote in his work *The Library of History* that by these raiders, "many of the conquered peoples were removed to other homes, and two of these became very great colonies: The one was composed of Assyrians and was removed to the land between Paphlagonia and Pontus."

Paphlagonia and Pontus both border the southern shores of the Black Sea. The land between was called Cappadocia by Herodotus, a Greek historian of the fifth century B.C., who also confirmed the existence of its Assyrian occupants in his work titled *The Histories*: "The Cappadocians are known to the Greeks by the name Syrians This people, whom the Greeks call Syrians, are called Assyrians by the barbarians."

By the fifth century B.C., the Assyrians were so dominant in the Black Sea area that Greek geographers actually called the region *Assyria*: "The coast of the Euxine [the Black Sea] ... was called Assyria by S[c]ylax, the author of *Periplus*" (*History of Art in Sardinia, Judaea, Syria, and Asia*



Migration of the Germans

Minor, Volume II). *The Periplus of Scylax* is considered by most scholars to have been compiled in the fourth century B.C., but it was based on source material from the fifth and sixth centuries B.C., when the Assyrians began migrating into the Black Sea area (*Itineraria Phoenicia*).

Years later, the Assyrians were still off the shores of the Black Sea when Herodotus recorded them fighting for the Persian King Xerxes I against the Greeks in a campaign in 480 B.C. (op. cit.).

Archaeological data reveals that shortly after Xerxes's disastrous campaign, a great migration of the Assyrian people from the Black Sea region occurred. With the Persian Empire weakening, the Assyrians moved from Asia Minor and the southern shores of the Black Sea to the sea's northern shores—to a land called Scythia. Here they began to be called Scythians, and their identity was eventually obscured. But these people didn't just disappear into thin air. They migrated west and underwent a name change!

Scythia

To Greek and Roman authors, Scythia was the land beyond the civilized world.

The land, consisting of mainly steppes, stretched eastward from Eastern Europe all the way past the Urals and from the Baltic Sea south to the Black Sea. All the many different people who lived in the territory were labeled Scythians.

Predominant in Scythian territory were numerous tribes from two races in particular. “[T]wo major currently recognized racial types, *Caucasoids* and *Mongoloids*, are considered to have existed historically in geographical proximity on the steppe,” observes *The Cambridge Ancient History* (Volume III, Part 2).

Archaeology gives further insight into the area. “Archaeologically, it is clear that the eighth- and seventh-century B.C. ‘Scythians’ were not the same as the fifth-century ‘Scythians.’ Both were mounted elite war-bands originating in the more easterly regions of the steppe, and the Greeks, quite naturally, called both groups by the same name” (ibid.).

The composition of Scythia’s population was open to much change over time as new tribes moved in and out of the area. Central Asia, with its vast steppes, has served as a gigantic crossroads for different nomadic people, some of whom, such

as the Huns and Mongols, once established large empires stretching far into the east and west. Anciently, Scythia was the same way, a land where different tribes and races of nomadic warrior bands traveled.

Archaeology shows five major phases in the area between 750 and 250 B.C., “with a fresh nomadic component arriving in three of them: 750-650 B.C. (‘Cimmerians’ and ‘Scythians’); 475-430 B.C. (‘Scythians’); and 300-250 B.C. (‘Sarmatians’)” (ibid.). These great migrations were the effects of great population displacement in the Middle and Near East resulting from the collapse of various empires and kingdoms. (They even included the movement of the Israelites following their overthrow by Assyria.)

When Herodotus wrote his *Histories*, he would have had knowledge of the first two of those new settlements. The first phase would have been recent history for him—like the settlement of the Americas by the Europeans is today. The second phase was current—like the breakup of Yugoslavia is today, though it was right after his death that this second phase really began to flourish in Scythia, with most of the spectacular archaeology material dat-

GERMANY

THIRD PHASE: TO GERMANY
100s B.C.-400s A.D. Facing population pressures from other peoples migrating through Scythia, the Assyrians gradually moved northwest to modern-day Germany.
KNOWN AS Germani, various tribal names

QUICK FACT
 Roman scholar Jerome referred to invading German tribes as “Assur.”

QUICK FACT
 At the time of the Assyrian migration, the shores of the Black Sea were called “Assyria” by Greek geographers.

QUICK FACT
 Roman geographer Pliny wrote of a tribe called “Assyrani” living north of the Black Sea.

SECOND PHASE: TO SCYTHIA
400s B.C. Following the weakening of the Persian Empire, archeology shows an Assyrian migration into Scythia.
KNOWN AS Scythians

FIRST PHASE: TO ASIA MINOR
600s B.C. Assyrians start to migrate from the Assyrian Empire to the southern shores of the Black Sea.
KNOWN AS Assyrians, White Syrians

Early German Art

THE fact that the Assyrians, certain Scythians and Germans are one and the same people is further illustrated by some remarkable similarities in the artwork of these three groups.

Assyria and its allied territories in Asia Minor, such as the Hittite kingdom, were known for their depictions of winged beasts and mythological creatures. (For more information on the Hittite kingdom's relationship with the Assyrian Empire, request our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.) The double-headed eagle, which was a prominent symbol in Germany and the Holy Roman Empire as well as modern-day nations through which the Germans migrated, was invented by the Assyrian-dominated Hittite Empire. The earliest depiction is thought to have been found in Cappadocia, or modern-day Turkey (*The Hittites: The Story of a Forgotten Empire*).

Assyrian-winged animals feature prominently in Scythian art. "Scythian animals ... are peripheral Assyrian, perhaps even provincial Assyrian, as close—in any case—to Assyrian art as the metalwork of Urartu" (Henri Frankfort, *The Art and Architecture of the Ancient Orient*).

The kingdom of Urartu was located just north of Assyria and eventually came under its dominion. The fact that Scythian artwork found in central Europe is as similar to Assyrian art as the artwork found in Urartu exposes the extraordinary cultural link between these geographically far-flung peoples.

These distorted animal depictions were also common in the Germanic tribes during the Middle Ages. "[T]he Scythic style is interesting as being one element in the art of the barbarians who conquered the Roman Empire and the zoomorphic decoration of the early Middle Ages," according to *Encyclopedia Britannica* (11th edition, 1911, "Scythia").

This makes complete sense considering that the Assyrians migrated through that same area, leaving behind some of their culture as they traveled. This Scythian culture reached all the way to Germany, where the Assyrians finally stopped migrating!



ORIGINS This eagle, found in Turkey near the Black Sea, bears a striking resemblance to the German symbol of the double-headed eagle.

ing to the later fifth century B.C.

Herodotus confirms this fresh phase of nomadic settlement: "The Scythians say their nation is the youngest of all the nations."

It is clear that the Germanic people comprised, at least in part, this second phase of Scythian migration. We can know this because Roman records show the Germanic people first began invading central and western Europe in the late second century B.C., soon after their northern move.

Archaeology confirms these Scythians migrating all the way into Germany proper. "Nomads and fierce warriors, they lived in Central Asia ... and their culture spread westward to southern Russia and Ukraine, and even into Germany ..." wrote Mike Edwards in *National Geographic* (June 2003). This German migration would have been a result of the pressure that the newest migrants into Scythia, such as the Sarmatians, were placing on the Germanic people who occupied the territory. After the Sarmatians began to move in during the third century B.C., the Germanic people were forced further west.

The dislocation of such a large population took time. Though the first tribes ap-

peared in Roman records during the late second century B.C., it would take another several hundred years for the bulk of the Germanic people to finally reach the end of their long migration.

Even in the first century A.D., with this migration still occurring, the Germans were feeling pressure from the Sarmatians. "All Germania is divided from Gaul, Raetia and Pannonia by the Rhine and Danube rivers; from the Sarmatians and the Dacians by shared fear and mountains," wrote Tacitus, a Roman historian of the first century, in his history of the Germans, *Germania*.

Thus, archaeology provides the evidence, chronology and the catalyst for the German migration out of the Black Sea region—and subsequent invasion of the Roman Empire!

A New Name

During this migration, the Assyrians were lumped in with the other Scythian occupants. Then, when they arrived on the Roman scene, they acquired a new name.

Roman historian Pliny the Elder, a contemporary of Strabo, explains what happened to the Assyrian people who mi-

grated through this crossroads: "The name 'Scythian' has extended, in every direction, even to the Sarmatæ and the Germans; but this ancient appellation is now only given to those who dwell beyond those nations, and live unknown to nearly all the rest of the world" (*The Natural History*).

Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, wrote this of a Germanic tribe called the Alans: "[T]here was a nation of the Alans, which we have formerly mentioned somewhere as being Scythians and inhabiting at the Lake Meotis" (*Josephus*, 7.4). The Alans lived off Lake Meotis, which is the ancient name for the Sea of Azov that is linked by a narrow strait to the north-east of the Black Sea.

As different Scythian people became known through warfare and trade, the Greeks and Romans gave them new names. This happened to the Germanic tribes during the second and first centuries B.C., when the Roman generals called these fierce tribes they battled *Germani*, meaning "war man" or "warrior."

The same tribes that Greek historian Herodotus of the fifth century B.C. called Scythians, Pliny, Tacitus and Strabo of the first century A.D. called *Germans*. (Inter-



estingly, however, even in Pliny's time, the first century A.D., there were still remnants of the Assyrians on the north side of the Black Sea who had not yet invaded the Roman Empire and evidently kept their Assyrian name: "At the river Carcinites, Scythia Taurica [modern-day Crimea] begins ... being inhabited by the ... Assyriani." [Note: Some manuscripts replace *Assyriani* with *Lagryani*, giving more evidence of names changing.]

More Proof

Before German rationalism was introduced into academia and the biblical record was rejected, scholars knew exactly from where the Germanic people migrated. "[T]here can be no doubt that they ... migrated into Europe from the Caucasus and the countries around the Black and Caspian seas" (*A Classical Dictionary of Biography, Mythology and Geography*, "Germania").

It may seem strange today to think of German people dwelling on the Black Sea coast, but even during Roman times, Germanic tribes occupied territory that extended far beyond the borders of modern-day Germany.

Tacitus wrote of one such tribe, the

Quadi, dwelling along the Danube River.

Strabo described German people living farther southeast, with one Germanic tribe, the Bastarnians, as far east as the Dnieper River, a major river that drains into the Black Sea.

From the Danube and the Black Sea, Germanic tribes once occupied land all the way north to the Baltic Sea and west to the Rhine River. So when the Germanic people were invading the Roman Empire, they were attacking not just from the north but from the east as well!

Jerome, the writer who gave us the Vulgate translation of the Bible, was an eyewitness to these invasions in the mid-fourth century A.D. He writes: "Savage tribes in countless numbers have overrun all parts of Gaul. The whole country between the Alps and the Pyrenees, between the Rhine and the ocean,

has been laid waste by hordes of Quadi, Vandals, Sarmatians, Alans, Gepids, Herules, Saxons, Burgundians, Allemanni and ... even Pannonians" (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, Jerome Letter 123, Section 16).

Remarkably, in this same letter, Jerome wrote, "*Assur also is joined with them.*" Some say Jerome was using poetic license by quoting Psalm 83:8, but based on all the similarities of the people and the histories quoted that were available to scholars at

the time, it becomes clear that Jerome was calling them actual Assyrians. *Assur* is another biblical name for *Asshur*, as any concordance will show.

According to modern and ancient historians, these tribes listed—most of which were Germanic—came from the Black Sea region. *The Cambridge Ancient History* lists all of these tribes as attacking from the east, mainly from the Danube region.

Thus, the history of the German people is made plain through the Roman and Greek writers.

The Clincher

Without a doubt, the Germans are modern-day Assyrians! The Germans themselves say so in their ancient history. A Roman scholar wrote that the Germans were Assyrians. The Black Sea shores—the same area where the historians and scholars from before the 1900s said the German people migrated from—are shown to have had Assyrians dwelling on both sides by Roman and Greek historians.

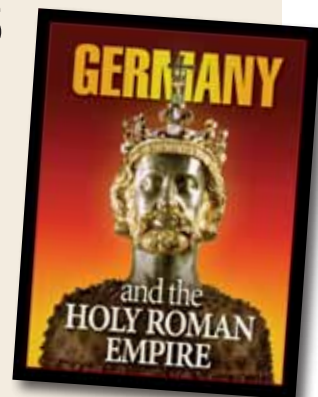
The Germans and Assyrians share the same physical features, the same warlike tendencies and even certain characteristics in art.

On top of all that, there is the overwhelmingly strong proof of prophecy! Only one nation today could fulfill the prophecies of the Bible that pertain to the Assyrians, and that is Germany! For more information, request our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. It will give you the eye-opening details of this final and most important proof.

Understanding the identity of the German people in prophecy opens up the grave meaning of whole swaths of inspired Scripture. Those prophecies were recorded *in order to be understood* in our day—as a powerful warning from the great Creator God! ■

More Where This Came From ...

Understanding the origin of the German people unlocks many of the Bible's most powerful prophecies! For more explanation of their identity, and to see what the Bible says about their future, order a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.



Why Did Christ Build His Church?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

“JESUS CHRIST CAME TO DIE for the sins of mankind!” cries the preacher on Sunday morning. And he’s right. But why so little understanding about the many OTHER reasons Christ came to this Earth 2,000 years ago?

In Matthew 16:18, for example, Jesus said, “I will *build* my church.” Why, after 4,000 years of human history, was it necessary to build something new like the Church? And why did Jesus select just 12 disciples for special training and preparation in laying the “foundation” for the Church? And why, since that time, have nearly 2,000 years passed without any sign of Christ returning to this Earth as He promised He would?

What, exactly, is God working out here on Earth?

A Parable Reveals the Answer

Throughout much of Christ’s ministry, the disciples thought He was going to establish His Kingdom during *their* lifetimes. Realizing this, Christ uttered a prophetic parable in Luke 19 concerning the *timing* of when that Kingdom would be set up. “He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return” (verse 12). The nobleman in this verse refers to Christ. He went away into a far country, or heaven, to receive for Himself a Kingdom. He is to return when He receives the Kingdom. And since He hasn’t returned yet, He hasn’t yet received the Kingdom! But why?

“And he called his ten *servants*, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, *Occupy* till I come” (verse 13). Understand what the pounds represent. These are a *gift* the nobleman gives the *servants*. We become a *servant* of Christ at baptism (see Romans 6:4). And in Acts 2:38, Peter said that at baptism we receive “the *gift* of the Holy Spirit.” So the pounds in this parable represent a small portion of God’s Spirit.

Before returning to set up His Kingdom, Christ has called out servants to whom He

has given a small portion of the Holy Spirit. With this Spirit, Christ said, “*occupy* till I come.” *Occupy* means “to *carry on* a business.” So these servants were to continue, or carry on, something Christ started.

The parable continues, “But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us” (Luke 19:14). Here Christ introduces another group of people. First, He says His *servants* are to *occupy*. Then He mentions the *citizens*—or the overwhelming majority that hate Him and simply will not have Christ REIGN IN THEIR LIVES!

Millions of people today claim to be followers of Christ, but how many actually *do* what He taught? How many PUT GOD FIRST IN EVERYTHING THEY DO IN LIFE and actually allow Christ to REIGN OVER THEM? Nations in this world today are suffering because they will not have Christ reign over them. This is a message about GOVERNMENT.

The small handful of Christ’s *servants*, however, are learning how to be ruled. Christ said *occupy*, or KEEP GROWING AND LEARNING HOW TO BE RULED so that YOU might eventually RULE OTHERS!

Verse 15: “And it came to pass, that WHEN HE WAS RETURNED, having received the kingdom, then he COMMANDED these *servants* to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had GAINED by trading.” This is when Christ comes back—this time to RULE. And notice, He commands *only His servants* to come before Him! Why not the *citizens*? He calls only the servants because they are the ones being judged NOW in this age (1 Peter 4:17). The servants are being called out of this world and trained *now* for future responsibilities when that world-ruling government will be set up. Once that government is set up, THEN the *citizens* will have an opportunity to be called by God.

After Christ qualified to be King and after He finished His work (John 4:34), He ascended to heaven and received “all

power” from the Father (Matthew 28:18). Christ is under God the Father in God’s government. Then, when Christ returns to Earth, those servants who have been called out of this world (John 6:44) will be commanded to come before Christ (Luke 19:15). Christ went to the Father to receive His authority—and true Christians will go to Christ to receive their authority! That is how God’s government works.

In order for the problems of this world to finally end, there must be a completely new government established by Christ as the supreme ruler—with many other servants serving under Him, fulfilling other governmental responsibilities. Christ is coming as the King of *kings* and the Lord of *lords* (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). There are to be MANY OTHER KINGS AND LORDS SERVING UNDER CHRIST.

The reason Christ did not set up His Kingdom when He first walked this Earth is that God’s ruling family government was not yet ready. God is *preparing* servants for government positions today within the Church!

That is why Christ said, “I will build my church.”

Christ Prepared the Early Apostles

Christ, as King of that future government, came first to establish His Church. But before the Church could begin, the Holy Spirit had to come—and that couldn’t happen until Christ ascended to heaven (John 16:7). So during His earthly ministry, Christ called out and prepared 12 disciples who would be taught and trained in that government, even prior to receiving the Holy Spirit. Christ did this in advance because the Church needed a foundation; and even though the disciples couldn’t understand much of what Christ taught, He knew that once the Holy Spirit came, it would guide them in the truth and help them remember much of what He told them (John 16:4, 13).

When the Holy Spirit finally did arrive, the Apostle Peter gave an inspired sermon of deep understanding (notice Acts 2:14-40).

After that, the early Church grew rapidly. New converts were taught and trained to “OCCUPY” the Spirit, or carry on the work of Christ, within the government of God being administered in the Church.

But it wasn’t long before persecution came. Many became deceived. Paul rebuked those in Galatia for already having turned to “another gospel” (Galatians 1:6). The saints during this first era of God’s Church grew complacent. John wrote about this era in Revelation 2:1-7. In verse 4, it was criticized for losing its “first love.” True Christians became lukewarm and eventually lost their understanding of God’s purpose and plan for man. And so, Scripture reveals, God removed the lampstand that guided the Church. He raised a new era to carry on with the work of God.

But from the first century forward, God’s Church remained very small and scattered and was virtually powerless. The Church *did continue* just as Christ said it would (Matthew 16:18), but it was made up of very few converts. There never was a WORLDWIDE WORK—that is, not *until the 20th century*.

Government Restored Within the Church

Jesus Christ prophesied that, prior to His return to Earth, a man would come on the scene in the spirit and power of Elijah the prophet, and prepare the way for His Second Coming (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6).

Notice this exchange, recorded in Matthew 17:10-11: “And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly *SHALL* first come, and RESTORE ALL THINGS.” This wasn’t referring to John the Baptist. He had already come. This was referring to an *end-time* “Elijah” who would RESTORE ALL THINGS! John the Baptist didn’t restore anything. But to whom would this end-time Elijah restore all things? The world? That won’t happen until Christ returns (Acts 3:19-21). The end-time “Elijah” was to restore all things to THE CHURCH!

Much of what Christ had revealed and taught to the apostles was lost after the first century. For the government to be ultimately restored to the world, God had to restore it to the Church in this end time in order to prepare the way for Christ’s return.

We believe the individual who fulfilled the prophetic role to which Christ referred was Herbert W. Armstrong.

In a sermon on Oct. 2, 1982, Herbert Armstrong said this: “God raised *me* up

to restore the government of God. But it is only restored so far in the Church. I have no authority from God; no ability to restore the government of God any further than just over you brethren in the Church. But that has been done.”

The problems and evils of this world stem from the fact that nations simply do not want Christ to REIGN over them (Luke 19:14). God will soon send His Son back to establish His government. But that will not happen until other government positions are filled by those who have been thoroughly prepared for and taught under that government. That is why Mr. Armstrong said it was only restored *within the Church* and not the world—not yet.

Mr. Armstrong knew who was behind him in his work. An example of this spiritual reality appears in John 4:1-2: “When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that JESUS MADE AND BAPTIZED MORE DISCIPLES THAN JOHN, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples).” Notice that! Christ baptized more than John and yet it says He didn’t actually baptize any! His disciples did. Yet it was as if JESUS CHRIST DID IT HIMSELF!

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. He raised up Mr. Armstrong to establish God’s government *within the Church* and restore all things *to the Church*. God did not raise up anyone else for this purpose.

Restoring God’s Government

God’s master plan is to reproduce Himself (Genesis 1:26). Right now, that reproduction is happening in the Church first. But God’s plan of salvation will soon be offered to all who have ever lived! Those in God’s Church right now, who have been called out of this present evil world, are being trained to administer the government over all the Earth.

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER” (Revelation 11:15). Remember in the parable of the pounds where the citizens wouldn’t have Christ reign over them? When Christ is finally crowned as King over the Earth, people will then *have to* submit to His reign. At first, Christ will literally have to force man to be happy.

The saints, or servants, who have been called out in advance of the others, will have been trained in that government before Christ’s return. They will be rewarded with government positions at His

return. Read Isaiah 40:10, Luke 19:15-27, and Revelation 11:18 and 22:12.

Also notice Revelation 20:4: “And I saw *thrones*, and they sat upon them, and *judgment* was given unto them” How different this plain biblical teaching is from the popular belief today! These verses are not talking about a life of ease in heaven. Those who have been called out today are preparing for a time when we will RULE THE NATIONS FROM THRONES! Christ will be our King!

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the FIRST resurrection: on such THE SECOND DEATH HATH NO POWER, but they shall be PRIESTS of God and of Christ, and shall REIGN WITH HIM A THOUSAND YEARS” (verse 6). Death will have no more power over those resurrected to immortal spirit life.

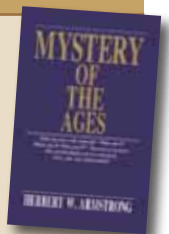
God’s plan ultimately gets down to either submitting to His reign, or submitting to the power of death. God’s servants have been called out of this world now to learn His way of life so that we might teach all others during the wonderful world of tomorrow!

What, then, is God doing? He is reproducing Himself in man. In doing so, He has allowed this world to go according to the way of Satan for 6,000 years to prove beyond doubt that Satan’s way of SELFISHNESS and GET only results in misery and death. In reproducing Himself, God’s plan allowed for His Son to come in the flesh to not only die for mankind, but to establish the Church. The main function of the Church is to prepare people for positions of rulership. When Christ finally does return as King of kings and Lord of lords, the Church will have been made ready and will rule with Christ. Satan will then be put away and God will proceed to reproduce Himself in every human being who has ever lived—provided they sincerely want God’s government to reign over them.

Beyond that, as the Prophet Isaiah wrote (Isaiah 9:6-7), the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and PEACE will continue to grow forever. ■

Why the Church?

This vital question is answered in far more detail in Herbert Armstrong’s masterful book *Mystery of the Ages*. Request your free copy.



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!

The Crisis at the Close of This Age

NON-CHRISTIANS—AND TODAY even many professing Christians—scoff at the idea of the prophesied intervention of Jesus Christ. “There have always been prophets of doom,” the skeptics say. “People *thought* the world was coming to an end in the Middle Ages when the Black Death struck Europe.”

These skeptics do not understand God’s *timetable* of prophecy. The end of man’s rule must, and will, come as God has scheduled it. Though some had ignorantly thought otherwise, the end of man’s rule was not due in the Middle Ages.

Every prophecy has a definite time setting—usually *not* in the prophet’s own day. Most prophecies of the Bible are for *our time!*

Jesus taught that there is a timetable of prophecy—that certain specific events must occur in the months and years before He returns to rescue humanity from annihilation. Let’s begin to understand these prophecies. Let’s learn exactly what the world’s greatest newscaster foretold for this end-time generation!

The Beginning of Sorrows

1. While sitting on the Mount of Olives, Christ’s disciples questioned Him about His Second Coming (Matthew 24:3). Did Jesus foretell that many deceivers would arise to deceive many people before His return? Verses 4-5, 11, 24.

2. What are these so-called ministers of Christ called elsewhere? Are they the ministers of the archdeceiver himself? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Are they themselves deceived—and is the whole world deceived as a result of their activities? Revelation 12:9.

3. What else did Christ say

would occur in the end time besides the coming of many false prophets? Matthew 24:6-7.

COMMENT: The 20th century was the bloodiest in human history. World War I began in 1914 and claimed 8.5 million lives. Then World War II resulted in 55 million deaths. Moreover, according to author and professor of political science R.J. Rummel, totalitarian governments slaughtered 170 million people for ethnic, racial, tribal, religious or political reasons. Nation has continued to rise against nation, and kingdom

against kingdom. Just since World War II alone, there have been over 225 armed conflicts in 148 countries! We are now fast approaching the third and *final* world war!

4. But are these events Jesus fore-



told only the *beginning* of sorrows? Matthew 24:7-8.

COMMENT: In addition to wars and false prophets, Jesus also foretold an increase in earthquakes, famines, and disease pandemics. This “beginning of sorrows” is also pictured by the first four “seals” of Revelation 6:1-8.

These four seals—what are commonly referred to as the four horsemen of the apocalypse—represent the four major world conditions Jesus said would exist at the end of this age—all increasing in severity and overlapping in their effects on the entire world!

The white horse represents the increasing number of false ministers preaching a false Christ and false ways to “salvation.” The red horse pictures the increasing tempo of the ravages of wars. The black horse—increasing famine. And the pale horse—rampaging diseases. For a more detailed description of these sorrows, request our free booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.

But let’s not forget that man is bringing this horrible suffering and death *upon himself!* Jesus knew that man, left to his own devices, would severely afflict himself and ultimately destroy all life—unless something totally unforeseen occurred to stop it. That is why He has promised to intervene in world affairs. Jesus Christ is coming soon to rescue the world from itself because man has reached the *end* of his rope!

The Great Tribulation

1. How is the fifth seal described? Revelation 6:9-11. What else did Jesus say about this time of religious persecution? Luke 21:12-17. What will happen to Judah and Jerusalem at this time? Verses 20-24.

At this point we need to understand the principle of prophetic *duality*. Many prophecies have a former, typical fulfillment, and then a final fulfillment in the end time. Some thought that Jerusalem’s destruction by the Gentile Roman armies in A.D. 70 was the fulfillment of this prophecy. But A.D. 70 was not “the END”! The presence of Roman armies in Jerusalem in A.D. 70 was only a *type* of what is to occur in the near future. The Roman legions that conquered Jerusalem then were only a type of MODERN legions that soon will again surge through the Middle East.

2. Will this future military action in the Middle East threaten to engulf the

Jesus knew that man, left to his own devices, would severely afflict himself and ultimately destroy all life—unless something totally unforeseen occurred to stop it.

whole world? Matthew 24:15-21 (compare Luke 21:20).

3. Will this time that ensues—a time of unequalled strife and bloodshed involving weapons of modern warfare, called the Great Tribulation—threaten to utterly extinguish all life on Earth? Verse 22.

4. Who is responsible for inspiring this nightmarish time of tribulation on the whole world? Revelation 12:12. Why will the devil be extremely angry at this time? Same verse, last part.

COMMENT: This period of great tribulation is the time of SATAN’S WRATH. It will be unleashed not only on the Church of God, but also on the modern descendants of ancient Israel (request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to learn who those people are today) and on the whole world.

5. Does God promise to *protect* those who faithfully keep His Word and do His work? Revelation 3:7-8, 10.

6. A “woman” is sometimes used as a symbol for a church (see 2 Corinthians 11:1-2; Ephesians 5:23-32). Will God provide a place of safety for the end-time true Church where it will be protected from the devil? (the “dragon”—Revelation 12:9). Revelation 12:13-14.

COMMENT: This end-time prophecy shows that God’s faithful people will be

taken to a place on Earth untouchable by Satan, protected from the devastation of the world around them. Regardless of *where* this place may be, God’s promise to take His obedient people there is sure!

However, some of God’s people will not receive this protection, and will have to experience this period of Satan’s wrath to *wake them up* spiritually (Revelation 3:14-19; 12:17). Request our free book *Malachi’s Message* for an in-depth scriptural explanation of this sobering truth.

Signs of God’s Intervention

1. How is the *sixth seal* described? Revelation 6:12-13. Where else are these events depicted? Matthew 24:29. How soon after the fifth seal is fulfilled does this occur? Same verse, first word.

COMMENT: The signs in heaven (the sixth seal) take place immediately after the fifth seal—the period known as the Great Tribulation.

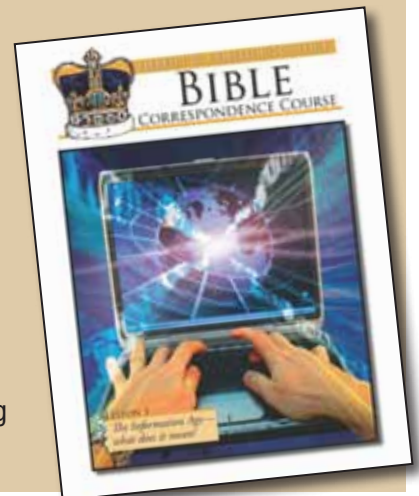
2. Are these signs a warning that the “day of the Lord,” or the seventh seal—the time of God’s *direct intervention* to stop the destructive ways of man—is about to begin? Joel 2:30-31; Zephaniah 1:14-15, 18.

3. What is the reason for these punishments from God? Is it really a manifestation of God’s *love* for humanity? Notice the principle in Hebrews 12:5-8. To what purpose will God’s punishments be directed? 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9.

COMMENT: This “day of the Lord” is mentioned in over 30 prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments. Although a time of divine chastisement, this period culminates in the return of Jesus Christ to finally bring *world peace!*

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Food, shelter, money: scarce necessities

FOOD AND SHELTER, AND money to provide for both, are basic necessities. Unfortunately, escalating numbers of Americans are having difficulty finding all of the above. ■ Over 5 million homeowners are now either in foreclosure or are seriously delinquent. Consequently, as overstretched homeowners are forced out the door, repossessions, short sales, and abandoned properties are clogging markets.

Thus it should be no surprise that sales of new homes plunged in July to the *slowest pace on record*—even though it once again fooled analyst consensus. Sales were down a sharp 12.4 percent from the previous month. It was the *worst turnout for buyers since 1963*—and in 1963 America's population was about 60 percent what it is today.

For anyone suggesting that the economy is recovering, they should note that May, June and July have been the *worst on record* for new home sales! And in July, new home sales were down in *every* region of the U.S.

Analyst David Rosenberg, who has accurately chronicled America's housing decline, said, "If the truth be told, if we are talking about reversing all the bubble appreciation that began a decade ago, then we are talking about *another 15 percent downside from here*. The excess inventory data

alone tell us that this has a realistic chance of occurring" (MSN Money, August 26; emphasis ours throughout).

According to Rosenberg, the high-end market is under particularly extreme pressure. "In fact, it is becoming nonexistent," he said. In July, not a single house priced above \$750,000 was sold across the U.S.—not a single one. Only 1,000 houses priced over \$500,000 were sold.

Falling home sales is an indication that economic problems are intensifying.

But perhaps the one factor underscoring how bad the economy really is is the fact that all home sales are plummeting despite record-low mortgage rates. A person with good credit could obtain a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for 4.5 percent in July.

■ But if most people are not buying houses, some people at least are trying to buy safety. For the first time since the Cold War, doomsday shelters are making a comeback, reported *USA Today*. As the economy collapses, builders of fortified bunkers are constructing underground facilities at the *fastest pace in 30 years*.

Why all the demand? In the words of the *Investor's Business Daily*, "Fear and uncertainty stalk the land" (July 30). There is a sense of helplessness—that events are spiraling out of con-

trol, and that there is nothing anyone can do about it.

And it is not just average people on the street who feel this way, either. At between \$400,000 to \$41 million a pop, it is the rich, powerful and influential who are buying their own personal escape plans—shelters that can hold anywhere from 10 to 2,000 people from one to five years with power, food, water and filtered air.

■ Shelter owners had better keep locations secret because, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the number of Americans on food stamps is skyrocketing—despite claims from government departments that the recession ended during the last quarter of 2009.

There are now a record 40.8 million people receiving food stamps in the country. That equates to roughly one in every eight Americans. There are now 19 percent more Americans receiving food subsidies than there were at this time last year. And participation has set new *records for 18 months in a row*.

Meanwhile, Congress has decided to cut food stamp funding and instead use the money to help pay teacher salaries.

In July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate continues to hover close to a

27-year high. That month the economy lost 131,000 more jobs. Approximately 150,000 new jobs per month need to be created just to accommodate the growing population.

That's potentially a lot of hungry people with time on their hands who might love to find a well-stocked survival bunker.

■ And if trends in China continue, Americans might need those survival shelters sooner rather than later. China cut its holdings of U.S. debt in June by the largest amount ever. Since July of last year, China had reduced its holdings of U.S. debt by \$100 billion—or 11 percent. This might normally have set off a stampede out of the dollar, but in this case, the faltering global economy has ironically created demand for U.S. securities from institutional investors and hedge funds.

The problem for America is that hedge funds are notoriously fickle. If they ever pull away from the dollar, it might leave the Federal Reserve as the only major buyer of U.S. government debt. If that were to happen, not only would the value of the dollar plunge (taking down the value of people's savings with it), but the credibility of the dollar itself could come under increasing scrutiny.

Food, shelter and money. People have a whole lot less of each these days. And going forward people should prepare to do with a lot less too.

The Lost Art of Slow Reading

Why the Information Age is making us shallower.

GOING PAPERLESS IS SIMPLER THAN EVER. LIKE MANY OF you, I go online to shop, make travel arrangements, manage bank accounts, pay utility bills and read the news. But when it comes to my bookshelves and file cabinets, it's difficult for me to imagine a paperless environment.

Along two of the walls in my office, I have five rows of bookshelves sitting atop 30 file cabinet drawers. I haven't read all the books on the shelves and I know there are files in those drawers I haven't opened in years. But it's a large collection of commentaries, encyclopedias, biographies, histories, periodicals, booklets, articles, clippings and notes I've accumulated over the past two decades.

Except for the news I skim online every day, I usually mark or highlight what I read and study. This is why I generally buy my own books and print out or photocopy important articles I run across in my research.

I still use the Internet a lot, particularly for my weekly columns. There is no substitute for the speed at which you can obtain information that used to take *hours* to find in a library. But at the same time, there is simply no online equivalent to the thoughts and ideas I have tucked away in the drawers and shelves of my personal library.

Besides that, studies are beginning to show that the way we read and study online is much more superficial than the way we used to study the printed word. When reading online, we tend to skim and bounce around the page. We're often distracted by the numerous links embedded into the text and the flashing advertisements designed to grab our attention.

Because of this, as Nicholas Carr writes in *The Shallows*, "Our attachment to any one text becomes more tenuous, more provisional. Searches also lead to the fragmentation of online works. A search engine often draws our attention to a particular snippet of text, a few words or sentences that have strong relevance to whatever we're searching for at the moment, while providing little incentive for taking in the work as a whole. We don't see the forest when we search the Web. We don't even see the trees. *We see twigs and leaves*" (emphasis mine throughout).

Carr believes Google's ambitious plan to digitize all the books ever printed will only make matters worse. "To make a book discoverable and searchable online is also to dismember it," he writes. The end result, he says, would not be a library of books—but one of snippets.

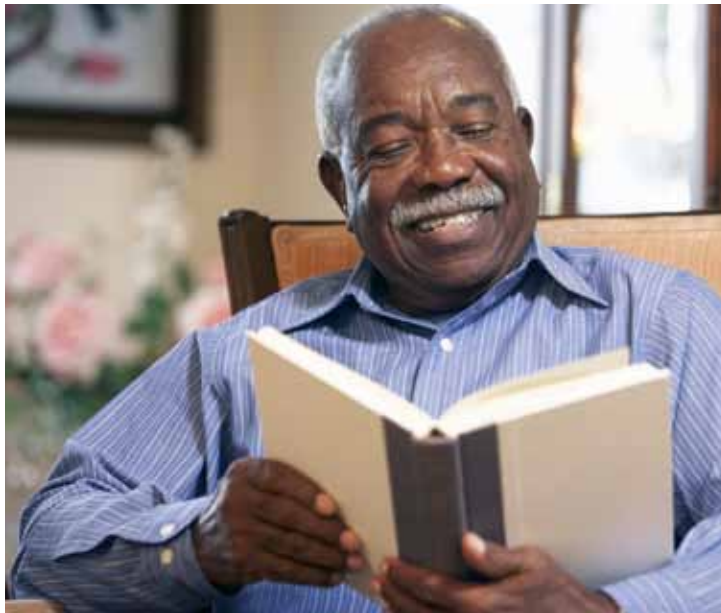
While reading the pages of Carr's book, I kept thinking of a wonderful little book, written in 1905—one that has been on my shelf for more than 15 years. In *The Art of Thinking*, French philosopher Ernest Dimnet said, "Do not read good books—life is too short for that—only read the best." He recommended a personal library of just 20 or 30 volumes—classic works that you return to over and over again for greater depth and understanding. What good is an extensive library that fills our shelves, Dimnet argued, if it doesn't fill our minds? Or, given the massive amounts of information available today, what good is a computer database containing every book known to man if all we do is skim the surface for snippets?



STEPHEN FLURRY

Even some educators are waking to the dangerous pitfalls of online multitasking and cursory reading. A few are even calling for us to return to the tried and tested method of *slowly* poring over the printed word.

According to the Associated Press, one teacher "is encouraging schools from elementary through college to return to old strategies such as reading aloud and memorization as a way to help students truly 'taste' the words. He uses those techniques in his own classroom, where students have told him that they've become



so accustomed to flitting from page to page online that they HAVE TROUBLE CONCENTRATING while reading printed books" (June 17).

Scanning a book for a salient quote certainly has its place. So does skimming text to get the gist of the author's intent. Even occasional Web surfing might help one get a feel for current events.

But none of this should be confused with *studying* the printed word. In the case of *God's Word*, the Apostle Paul wrote, "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a WORKMAN that needeth not to be ashamed, *rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). The Greek word for "workman" is referring to one who exerts strenuous effort to study the RIGHT way.

Online Bible helps can offer valuable assistance in this regard. But if you are really serious about plumbing the depths of God's inspired Word, crack open the Book alongside a companion article or booklet, grab a pen and highlighter and then start reading. Don't skim through the information as fast as possible. Slow down—make sure what you do read gets through to you. ■

How to Raise a Man

HAVING THREE SONS, TWO OF WHOM ARE in their teens, we do appreciate this article ("How to Raise a Man," September). Rearing future leaders is not an easy task in the midst of diminishing masculinity. We have to learn it God's way as you've written. Now we understand more. Love your other articles on family. *L.C.—PHILIPPINES*

I LOVED YOUR ARTICLE! I have a grandson and often have to take the lead in teaching him the lessons of life. I know I can't teach him these lessons the same as a man would, but if the lessons are designed with the objective of teaching him to become a strong leader, they are the same and should make an everlasting imprint in the mind and heart of the son. I see so many young boys who have to journey this life not only without the teaching that you have outlined, but without a strong male figure in their lives. Thank you for writing and sharing this article. I hope all who read it will be touched and inspired as I have. *Dorothy—GEORGIA*

Healthy, Vibrant Teens

I ENJOYED YOUR ARTICLE ("WANTED: Healthy, Vibrant Teens!" September). It is not a coincidence, but rather a natural response of the intelligently designed human body, that an uplifted spirit/mood/mind results from physical activity. God's physical and spiritual laws are all one. *Russ*

WHEN I WAS A KID, THERE WAS NOT much to do but stay active. There were few channels on TV to watch, no video games to play, and few if any fast food joints to get fat in. Even in school, we stayed active. There was punch ball, stick ball, tag—we hiked in neighborhood parks, and all this for little or nothing in expense. Even in the dead of winter our parents would kick us out to play in the snow, but for the most part they had a hard time getting us back in. Recently I went up to visit the house I grew up in 60 years ago. I was amazed

Correction

In our August issue, the article "A Heartfelt Request to the Leaders of Britain" said that King Josiah was crowned in the seventh century. It should have read "seventh century B.C."

to see, in the backyard, the same fence we used to hit home runs over. It brought back good memories. *R.R.—NEW YORK*



Sea Now Desert

I WATCHED A TELEVISION documentary on the Aral Sea a few years ago ("The Sea That Became a Desert," September). They pointed out that the edge of the sea receded 100 miles in about one generation. They showed dozens of babies in the local hospital, row after row, all with defects. The female doctor spent half a minute describing their various illnesses and deformities. Heartbreaking material. It's bad enough when people do an Esau in their own lives—selling their birthright for a bowl of soup. But to do it to others—in this case, babies—is beyond words. As the good book says, Thy kingdom come.

Ken Sack—VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Tell Your Children the Truth

THIS ARTICLE IS SO TRUE! ("TELL YOUR Children the Truth," September). It is baffling to witness the high number of students who parade across the stage to pick up an award at school for making the Honor Roll, when in fact most of them read or compute mathematically far below grade level. More than once I've been questioned by my students' parents regarding the low percentage of boys and girls in my class who are "given" this honor. They argue that my bar is too high. I say, "Not high enough!" *Suzanne—NORTH CAROLINA*

Coming Racial Explosion

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEARLESS ARTICLE ("The President, the Black Panthers, and the Coming Racial Explosion," September). It is so sad to see how rife racism is throughout the world and to see the awful results of racial hatred throughout history—no one ever wins. What a relief to know that God's soon coming government here on Earth will put an absolute end to it, once and for all! *J.—SOUTH AFRICA*

RACIAL DIVISION HAS BEEN A HALLMARK of the republic of America since Jamestown. You are talking about 400 years! We created the problem with our lust for cheap labor and our greed in many ways. We held blacks down in slavery and Jim Crow from 1604 to 1964. This created a divide in our country that seems unlikely to ever heal, sadly. Sad because the Lord

Jesus loves and died and rose for all mankind! The left plays the race card always. They want non-whites to stay held down so they will owe their votes to them. My family grew up near the West Side of Chicago where riots after King's murder destroyed large sections of the city in 1968. Many areas remain in near total poverty to this very day. If Obama is defeated in 2012, I fear blacks will lash out even more than in 1968! It will be a bloodbath. We need our Lord now more than ever!

Brandon—UNITED STATES

No Two Fathers

I STRONGLY AGREE WITH YOUR ARTICLE ("There Is No Such Thing as Two Fathers," September). ... I am only 21 but yet have already seen the breakdown of traditional family (to my disgust) in society. Such TV programs as *Modern Family* are a prime example of the media trying to normalize something that is completely against design—and we suffer the consequences. Why do those who object to traditional and natural relationships seek out the benefits of such a union—marriage and children? It is a complete assault on the loving family. As a man, you can have children with your wife, as a wife you can have children with your husband. As a homosexual woman or man, you are unable to have children naturally or "by design." Are not children a great incentive to have a fulfilled married normal life? And people deny the truth of God's Word and design, but now when society is pushing so far from God's plan for us, we are full of despair, depression and mental health issues, overmedicated, unfulfilled, hopeless and more lost than ever. Doesn't our sorry state reflect our poor decisions? ... Thank you *Trumpet*. I hear you. *Imogen—N.S.W., AUSTRALIA*

WOW, AFTER COUNTLESS FORMS, ORIGINAL certificate procurements, and applications for upcoming examinations in the "green card" process to prove exactly who I am so I can remain in the country, I find it incredible that citizens can choose to make this paperwork say whatever they want. I was born with a fantasy too: to be a billionaire. Can anyone legislate that into fruition? I just know I am a rich woman trapped in a poor woman's body! *H.M.*

Comments?

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Edmond, OK 73083

Sodom in Prophecy

Same-sex “marriage” shows a society without restraint. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

WHEN CALIFORNIANS VOTED TO BAN SAME-SEX “marriage” in 2008, some Republicans held up the referendum as proof that America was conservative to the core. But as we wrote at the time, California and two other states voting against homosexual “marriage” did not mean America was in the midst of a moral revival. That it was even on the ballot perfectly illustrated how steep our slide into deviant behavior has been over the past generation.

Proposition 8 passed by a narrow 52-to-48 percent margin. “But with obnoxious protests and numerous legal challenges now set to inundate courtrooms,” we asked at the time, “how long will marriage remain defined in California as between a man and woman?”

Answer: *Less than two years.* In August, federal judge Vaughn Walker overturned California’s ban on same-sex unions.

Defenders of same-sex “marriage” often argue that whether homosexuals marry or not has absolutely no impact on traditional families—that is, the rest of society. But they miss the point—as do most *opponents* of same-sex “marriage”: The homosexual cause has *already* impacted our society. A debate over homosexual “marriage” would only be possible in a society that has already cast off moral restraint.

Our slide into deviance has been steep, and it’s only getting worse. Ten years ago, 62 percent of Californians were against same-sex “marriage.” Two years ago, with the passage of Proposition 8, it was 52 percent. Where will we be 10 years from now?

And remember—whether homosexuality is or is not morally right is not up for debate. That matter has already been mostly settled, with a host of laws prohibiting anything that might be construed as discrimination against homosexuals.

Fact is, while “conservative” media pour scorn on Judge Walker for overturning California’s ban on same-sex unions—for being anti-democratic, anti-intellectual, anti-law, anti-tradition—they are often quick to defend the rights of homosexuals in general. The horse has long bolted.

When society turns into Sodom and Gomorrah, ultimately, it does impact everyone. A biblical example is instructive in this area.

The word *sodomy* is derived from a Latin phrase meaning the “sin of Sodom,” vividly discussed in the biblical book of Genesis. Ancient Sodom, like its neighboring city Gomorrah, was well known for homosexuality. Jude 7 says that besides going after “strange flesh,” the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were “giving themselves over to fornication.” Ezekiel tells us that Sodom was a prosperous area, with an abundance of idleness. But it was also full of pride and abominations (Ezekiel 16:49-50).

In the Genesis 19 account, the men of Sodom wanted to sodomize two visitors, actually angels, who had come to see if the city should be spared God’s wrath. While these angels remained inside Lot’s home, an angry mob outside cried out for the new

flesh. The angels gave Lot and his family clear, precise instructions: “Have you any one else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or any one you have in the city, bring them out of the place; for we are about to destroy this place, because the outcry against its people has become great before the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it” (verses 12-13, Revised Standard Version).

Lot relayed this sobering message to the two young men who were to marry his daughters. These were decent men—heterosexuals who had not taken advantage of Lot’s daughters. They had probably even decried the evils and perversions of society with their future father-in-law. Yet without realizing it, much of that evil had rubbed off on them! They had unknowingly grown accustomed to living there—and actually enjoyed much of it.

How strong society’s pull must have been for these two men, at this most critical hour, to *mock God’s warning*.

Their ridicule even caused doubt to sprout in Lot’s mind. The next morning, even after the constant prodding from the two angels, Lot lingered, delaying his departure so long that the angels seized him and his wife and two daughters by the hands and forcibly led them out of the sinful city! The angels then shouted, *Run for your lives! Don’t even stop to look back, lest you be consumed as well!*

“Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground” (verses 24-25, RSV).

This is the road we are on. This is why, even as conservative commentators assure Americans that a moral revival is right around the corner, **WE TELL YOU THE TRUTH.**

The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah compares our peoples to those of Sodom and Gomorrah, describing us as being “sick” from head to toe. He prophesied of our eventual ruin and desolation as a result of our universal sin and rebellion against God’s laws. The Apostle Peter gave us grave warnings about Sodom and Gomorrah, saying that God turned those cities into ashes, “making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6). Jude speaks of them as suffering the “vengeance of eternal fire” and wrote that God set them forth as an *example* for our day.

Jesus Christ described our latter-day society as being exactly like Sodom and Gomorrah: abundantly prosperous, yet exceedingly wicked (Luke 17:28). They were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building—right up to the day God destroyed their cities (verse 29). “Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (verse 30).

Even thus shall it be. History, in other words, is repeating itself. This is why Jesus warned, “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36). ■



WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT HOMOSEXUALITY IS A ROTTEN FRUIT FROM A FATALLY DISEASED FAMILY TREE! How abominable does it have to get before Americans truly repent of their ungodly marriages and families?

Those sins have deeply infected the entire Western world.

Many professing Christians in this world talk about loving God, but they ignore what He says and they excuse homosexuals. In some cases they *are* homosexuals. The Italian press claims that a huge percentage of priests themselves are homosexuals. Meanwhile some of these people who are supposed to represent God perform “marriages” for two homosexuals. The media is always there to take a lot of pictures, and America broadcasts it around the world. EVERYONE can view our families falling apart, our nation falling apart, our churches falling apart. Everything falls apart when God-plane family falls apart. Satan knows that.

These people know *nothing* about God and His plan for man. They think they can live however they want. But that is OPPOSITE from the good news that Christ came and died to deliver to us!

Right here in the New Testament, God says, *I will not spare you!*

Israel, anciently, was the only nation that has ever known God, and God wanted it to set an example that other nations could follow. But what if the nations follow the modern nations of Israel—America and Britain—today? They follow them right into EXALTING SODOMY—and reaping destruction!

Repentant homosexuals are going to be forgiven, like everybody else. But we should be deeply alarmed by these dysfunctional, upside-down families producing dysfunctional, upside-down people, and twisting family and sex. We should be very troubled by them trampling so many of God’s laws, and trying to destroy the beautiful vision of the Family of God.

Homosexuals call themselves *gays*. That is only a pitiful attempt to cover their profound misery. Homosexual lifestyles can never produce happiness! That is because they are trampling all over God’s law of happiness (Proverbs 29:18; John 13:17).

Developing close relationships between parents and children may be the most important job we have yet to do before Christ comes. It is a beautiful thing for parents and children to have a close relationship. What an inspiring, sacred institution! And it leads to something really special: the Family of God! ■



UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

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

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

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

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

Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00 am, Fri

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

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

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

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

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

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

California, Los Angeles KPXX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

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

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

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

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

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

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

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

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

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

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

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

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

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

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

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

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

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

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPP 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

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

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

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

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

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

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

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun



Michigan, Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTUV-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun

Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun

New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am, Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun

Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun

Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun; KMID 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KVO5 8:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

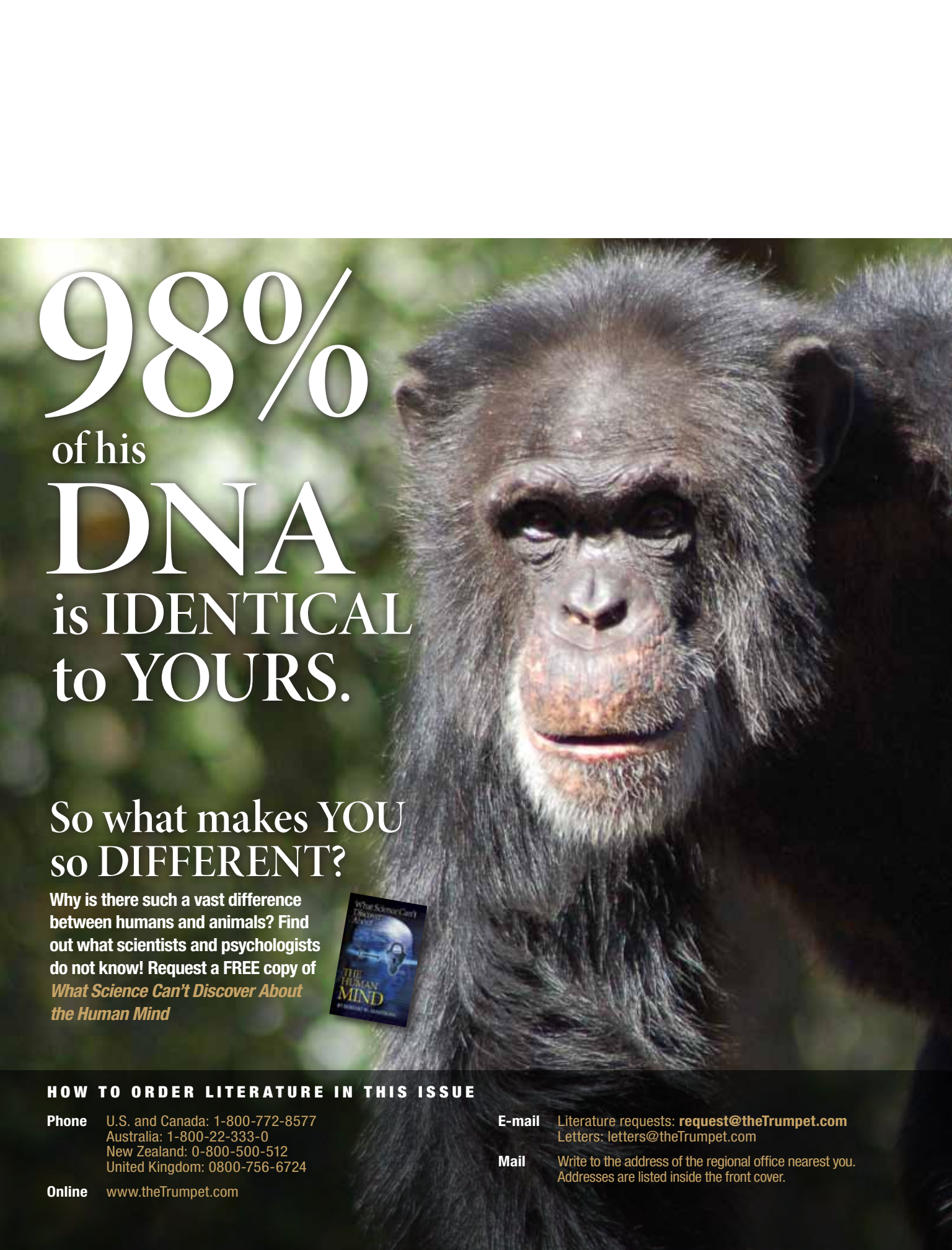
Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; Grace Television Network 11:00 am ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
British Columbia, Victoria CHNU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

LATIN AMERICA

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

CARIBBEAN

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



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