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America's agriculture industry is in trouble.

## INTELLIGENCE FAILURE

No, not over Iraq. Damning evidence is mounting to prove the *real* unjustified war was actually waged in the Balkans!

## IMPROVE WITH AGE!

Growing old can be a joy

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2004

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**THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET** (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March-April and September-October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2004 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The *Trumpet* has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

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The West depends on petroleum for more than just fuel. What will happen if our lifelines freeze up?  
 Aubrey Mercado/  
 Joel Hilliker for  
 the Trumpet



Gerald Flury



# The Scary Truth Behind the Milosevic Trial

**T**HE GREATEST INTELLIGENCE FAILURE OF THE PAST FIVE years was not about Iraq. It was intelligence about Slobodan Milosevic and events leading up to the Balkans war. But strangely, we hear very little about this subject.

The media and our educational institutions are becoming more and more like Hollywood—they too often live in a fantasy world.

We have said from the beginning of the Balkans war that Germany, aided by the Vatican, led NATO into that war. And it did it with blatantly deceptive intelligence.

Germany and the Vatican are the heart of the rising Holy Roman Empire. This is the seventh resurrection of that bloody empire. (Write for our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* to fully understand this subject.) This empire received its fame by wading through rivers of blood and conquering other nations. And it is going to start World War III. In a sense, the Balkans are the first victim of World War III. There will be many more victims.

Germany and the Vatican recognized Catholic Croatia (a Nazi puppet state under Hitler) as a breakaway republic from Yugoslavia. Most nations disagreed with that decision. But Germany prevailed, and it led to a civil war in the Balkans.

German leaders started and sustained the intelligence reports about genocide being committed by Slobodan Milosevic in the Balkans. We have proven that in our booklet *The Rising Beast*. (All of our books and booklets are free.)

**Where Is the Proof?** Here is what Neil Clark, a Balkans specialist, wrote in the *Guardian* newspaper of London, February 12: “It is two years today that the trial of Slobodan Milosevic opened at The Hague. The chief prosecutor, Carla del Ponte, was triumphant as she announced the 66 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity and genocide that the former Yugoslavian president was charged with. CNN was among those who called it ‘the most important trial since Nuremberg’ as the prosecution outlined the ‘crimes of medieval savagery’ allegedly committed by the ‘butcher of Belgrade.’

“But since those heady days, things have gone horribly wrong for Ms. Del Ponte. The charges relating to the war in Kosovo were expected to be the strongest part of her case. But not only has the prosecution signally failed to prove Milosevic’s personal responsibility for atrocities committed on the

ground, the nature and extent of the atrocities themselves has also been called into question.

“Numerous prosecution witnesses have been exposed as liars—such as Bilal Avdiu, who claimed to have seen ‘around half a dozen mutilated bodies’ at Racak, scene of the disputed killings that triggered the U.S.-led Kosovo war. Forensic evidence later confirmed that none of the bodies had been mutilated. Insiders who we were told would finally spill the beans on Milosevic turned out to be nothing of the kind. Rade Markovic, the former head of the Yugoslavian secret service, ended up testifying in favor of his old boss, saying that he had been subjected to a year and a half of ‘pressure and torture’ to sign a statement prepared by the court. Ratimir Tanic, another ‘insider,’ was shown to have been in the pay of British intelligence.

“When it came to the indictments involving the wars in Bosnia and Croatia, the prosecution fared little better. In the case of the worst massacre with which Milosevic has

been accused of complicity—of between 2,000 and 4,000 men and boys in Srebrenica in 1995—Del Ponte’s team have produced nothing to challenge the verdict of the five-year inquiry commissioned by the Dutch government—that there was ‘no proof that orders for the slaughter came from Serb political leaders in Belgrade.’”

These are shocking facts about trumped-up intelligence against Milosevic. Germany virtually pulled the whole world into this massive crime!

But what does it mean? It is the strongest sign in recent years that Germany has not repented of its Nazi past. It is the best indicator of where Germany and the European Union are headed.

And now Germany has shown in the Iraqi war that it is not the friend of America and Britain. This bitter ingratitude came after Britain and America, at first strongly against Germany’s recognizing Croatia, caved in to Germany’s war—causing beligerence. And America provided 80 percent of the power to beat Milosevic into submission.

It was also America that rebuilt Germany after World War II. Still, German ingratitude is overwhelming. Something has gone seriously wrong in Germany—again! How long will it take America and Britain to awaken?

America and Britain had no reason to fear Milosevic. But we have every reason to fear a militant Germany, leading the



ON THE DOCK

Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic enters a courtroom at his war crimes trial in The Hague.

EU—a coming superpower soon to rival America.

Have we forgotten that Germany started World War I and World War II? Now it is bullying Europe. And its aggressive tactics will spread around the world. The German Reich (or empire) is back. And the Germans will be expanding their empire, as they have done throughout history.

The media won't stop screaming about faulty intelligence on Iraq. I'm still not convinced there were no weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Can anyone imagine Saddam Hussein destroying his WMD? Also, there is no *evidence* he did so. Still the media cling to the Iraqi intelligence failure (and there were obviously some mistakes). At the same time, they avoid the painful truth about the Milosevic trial. And he was a mild dictator compared to Saddam Hussein.

Superpowers have been destroyed in history for refusing to face the hard truths. America and Britain are going to pay a heavy price for deceiving themselves about Germany and the Balkans war. But for the time being, they refuse to face their hideous crime.

**Lies to Justify the War** John Laughland is European director of the European Foundation, the leading London-based Eurorealist think tank. He is also the author of *The Tainted Source—The Undemocratic Origins of the European Idea*—a very ominous title! It is a subject very consistent with what we have been writing about the EU for over 50 years.

Here is what he wrote in the *Spectator* magazine of Britain, July 10: “For a few hours on Monday, the world’s human rights establishment was seized by terror. Slobodan Milosevic had been due to begin his defense at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, but instead discussion focused on the former president’s fragile health, which has been made worse by the rigors of the trial. When the presiding judge, Patrick Robinson, said that a ‘radical review’ of the proceedings would now be necessary, many do-gooders feared that their worst nightmare was about to be realized—that the international community’s main trophy in its crusade for morality might, if only on medical grounds, be allowed to walk free.”

“Do-gooders” are some of the most dangerous people on this planet! They often have strong views based on little understanding. And this is a dangerous age to have strong influence combined with distorted reasoning.

Mr. Laughland also wrote that “the two-year prosecution case has been a nearly unmitigated disaster. Since the trial

## Not a single person has testified that Milosevic ordered war crimes.

started in February 2002, the prosecution has wheeled out more than 100 witnesses, and it has produced 600,000 pages of evidence. NOT A SINGLE PERSON HAS TESTIFIED THAT MILOSEVIC ORDERED WAR CRIMES. Whole swaths of the indictment on Kosovo have been left unsubstantiated, even though Milosevic’s command responsibility here is clearest. And when the prosecution did try to substantiate its charges, the result was often farce” (ibid.; emphasis mine throughout).

Can that be true? “*Not a single person has testified that Milosevic ordered war crimes.*” He is a saint compared to Saddam Hussein!

But today the do-gooders are out defending Saddam and prosecuting Milosevic! It’s a very dangerous way to reason in the age of WMD.

Here is another statement by Mr. Laughland: “Serious doubt has also been cast on some of the most famous atrocity stories. Remember the refrigerator truck whose discovery in the Danube in 1999, full of bodies, was gleefully reported as Milosevic was transferred to The Hague in June 2001? The truck had allegedly been retrieved from the river and then driven to the outskirts of Belgrade, where its contents were interred in a mass grave. But cross-examination showed that there is no proof that the bodies exhumed were the ones in the truck, nor that any of them came from Kosovo. Instead, it is quite possible that the Batajnica mass grave dated from the Second World War, while the refrigerator truck may have contained Kurds being smuggled to Western Europe, the victims of a grisly traffic accident. THE REALIZATION IS NOW DAWNING THAT LIES WERE PEDDLED TO JUSTIFY THE KOSOVO WAR . . .

“In February, the chief prosecutor herself, Carla del Ponte, admitted that she did not have enough evidence to convict Milosevic on the most serious charges” (ibid.).

That is quite an admission from the chief prosecutor. But where are the “truth seeking” media? Most of them are silent on this issue.

ALL KINDS OF LIES WERE TOLD TO JUSTIFY THE BALKANS WAR! That has now been abundantly proven. Slobodan’s sin is simply that he was an enemy of Germany and the Vatican—the Holy Roman Empire.

Now many critics are saying that lies were told to justify the Iraqi war. But that charge has never been backed by evidence. Iraq, under Saddam, was a terrorist-sponsoring nation. And the only way to win the war against terrorism is to stop terrorist-sponsoring nations. That is the big picture that escapes most of our people.

Such is the world in which we live. But there is more.

“The supposedly impartial judges have been deeply complicit in this prosecution bungling,” Laughland continued. “The ICTY has long been characterized by an unhealthy community of interests between the judges and the prosecutors; I have myself heard the first president of the ICTY, Judge Antonio Cassese, boast that he encouraged the prosecutor to issue indictments against the Bosnian Serb leaders, a statement which should disqualify him from serving as a judge ever again. In the Milosevic trial, the judges have admitted a tawdry parade of ‘expert witnesses’ who are not, in fact, witnesses to anything. In Britain, the role of experts is rightly under the spotlight after the convictions of some 250 parents found guilty of killing their babies have been thrown into doubt precisely because they relied on this kind of testimony; but in the ICTY you can be a ‘witness’ without ever having set foot in Yugoslavia.

“Numerous other judicial abuses have been legitimized by the ICTY. The use of *hearsay evidence is now so out of control* that people are often allowed to testify that they heard someone say something about someone else. It is common for the ICTY to offer reduced sentences (five years in one case) to men convicted of hideous crimes, mass murder for instance, if they agree to testify against Milosevic” (ibid.).

So much for justice coming out of the International Criminal Court in The Hague!

There is a vital lesson here. This gives us a good insight into the justice system of the coming EU superpower. Let the world beware!

But don’t despair. Worldwide justice is coming in this generation, and that is not a fantasy. Request our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.

This whole Balkans affair is a classic example of how human nature rarely seeks the truth. It is very human to seek only the truth that fits into one's distorted view of the world. Such reasoning is why our number-one problem today is that of human survival! So don't expect the media and politicians to change their perspective on the Balkans.

The Milosevic history gets even more twisted. Who is really being cleansed ethnically?

**Ethnic Cleansing and Genocide** Here is a statement from Stratfor Systems, Oct. 17, 1999: "On March 22 [1999], British Prime Minister Tony Blair told the House of Commons, 'We must act to save thousands of innocent men, women and children from humanitarian catastrophe, from death, barbarism and ethnic cleansing by a brutal dictatorship.' The next day, as the air war began, President Clinton stated, 'What we are trying to do is to limit his [Milosevic's] ability to win a military victory and engage in ethnic cleansing and slaughter innocent people and to do everything we can to induce him to take this peace agreement.'

"As NATO's first intervention in a sovereign nation, the war in Kosovo required considerable justification. Throughout the year, NATO officials built their case, first calling the situation in Kosovo 'ethnic cleansing,' and then 'genocide.' In March, State Department spokesman James Rubin told reporters that NATO did not need to prove that the Serbs were carrying out a policy of genocide because it was clear that crimes against humanity were being committed. But just after the war in June, President Bill Clinton again invoked the term, saying, 'NATO stopped deliberate, systematic efforts at ethnic cleansing and genocide.'"

But did that ethnic cleansing and genocide really happen? There is no proof. But THERE IS PROOF THAT THE SERBS ARE SUFFERING FROM ETHNIC CLEANSING!

Here is what George Jonas wrote in Canada's *National Post*, March 22: "The Western powers that went into Kosovo to prevent ethnic cleansing have ended up presiding over it. Last week, nearly 1,000 Serbs fled their homes after Albanian Muslims attacked Serb Christians in their churches and villages. They were the latest of about 200,000 Serbs driven from the province since NATO bombed Serbia into submission in 1999. Last Friday, news agencies quoted Admiral Gregory Johnson, U.S. commander of NATO forces for southern Europe, as saying that 'this kind of activity almost amounts to ethnic cleansing.'

"Admiral Johnson added a wistful comment: 'That's why we came here in the first place.' The remark indicates that after 200,000 refugees, the coin may be dropping even for NATO's brass. ...

"As justification for NATO's intervention, MR. CLINTON OFTEN INVOKED COMPARISONS WITH THE HOLOCAUST. In a May 1999 speech, for instance, the U.S. president declared the allies were bombing Yugoslavia to put an end to regimes that persecute people on the basis of 'how they worship or who their parents were.' It was a good sound bite—except Yugoslavia's ethnic Albanians weren't being expelled because of their ancestry or their choice of worship. If the thuggish regime of Slobodan Milosevic was trying to drive them out of Kosovo, it was because they'd been fighting the Serbs for the mastery of the region. Comparisons with the Holocaust were bogus."

**Germany's Strategy** State by state, the country of Yugoslavia has been conquered. Even the name *Yugoslavia* is being discarded.

MOST OF THIS CONQUERING WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH U.S. MILITARY POWER. But it is Germany and the European Union

that are taking control of the former Yugoslavia. And Germany is giving the U.S. no credit, though it does often *blame* America for many of the problems that have developed.

Former Yugoslavia is a part of the Balkans, or Balkan Peninsula, along with Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece and European Turkey. The Balkan Peninsula is an extremely important *strategic* area.

The Adriatic Sea is an arm of the Mediterranean Sea. The German-led EU is also working hard to get control of the Mediterranean Sea—of even greater strategic importance.

Look at any map and you can see the strategic value. However, it seems only *Germany* fully realizes the significance of these areas. The Germans are willing to challenge the whole

## This major turnaround in the Balkans has caused Europe to look to Germany once again. The Balkans war was a watershed event in the new direction of Europe.

world to gain control of them. IT SEEMS NOBODY HAS ASKED WHY THESE AREAS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO GERMANY!

Where is this leading?

The same spirit that caused Germany to start two world wars still prevails in that land! Soon the whole world will understand. Shocking as it may be, your Bible prophesies that people by the multiple millions will once again suffer from Germany's violent attacks, as the Germans lead Europe.

THIS MAJOR TURNAROUND IN THE BALKANS HAS CAUSED EUROPE TO LOOK TO GERMANY ONCE AGAIN. THE BALKANS WAR WAS A WATERSHED EVENT IN THE NEW DIRECTION OF EUROPE. Germany is about to shock the world as it has never done before! And it has a rich history of shocking the world.

Notice what Sir Winston Churchill said, May 31, 1935: "Everywhere these countries are being made to look to Germany in a special way."

AND TODAY ALL OF EUROPE IS LOOKING TO GERMANY IN A SPECIAL WAY. The outcome will be frighteningly similar to World War II—except it will be about 10,000 times more destructive!

It seems we have learned *nothing* from Germany's history. Even terrifying events like World War II taught us *nothing*—just as WINSTON CHURCHILL WARNED THE WORLD IN THE 1930S THAT IT HAD LEARNED NOTHING FROM GERMANY'S HISTORY AND WORLD WAR I.

Here is what Churchill said Feb. 7, 1934: "NOT ONE OF THE LESSONS OF THE PAST HAS BEEN LEARNED, NOT ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN APPLIED, AND THE SITUATION IS INCOMPARABLY MORE DANGEROUS."

And the situation today "is incomparably more dangerous," with our weapons of mass destruction, than it was in World War II!

When Germany starts World War III, we will finally learn some lessons—but only *after* America, Britain and the little nation called Israel today have become victims.

The booklets we offer you will explain how our nations could be saved from this coming catastrophe. If the nations refuse to respond, you can still avoid this calamity. But there isn't much time, so we hope you act before it is too late! ■

Request a free copy of *The Rising Beast* for more history and prophecy about Europe's conquest of the Balkans.





## SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Demand for gasoline is steadily rising, but production is static. For example, it has been 20 years since an oil refinery like this one has been built in the U.S.



# BLACK GOLD

It's true: Oil does make the world go round. Worldwide petroleum demand is growing. Trouble is, supplies are maxed out, and disruptions to the supply are likelier than ever. BY FRED DATTOLO

**T**HE MUSIC BLARES. You stare bleary-eyed at the bright red numbers on your *clock radio*. You rise, trudge to the bathroom and swing open the *shower curtains*. As you work the *shampoo* into your hair, you begin to wake up.

After showering, you get half-dressed, slip into your *slippers* and put a rousing *CD* into the *CD player*. As you dry your hair, the loud whine of the *hair dryer* briefly drowns out the music.

Some *toothpaste* refreshes your mouth. After smoothing on some *deodorant*, you put in your *soft contact lenses*, dab on a bit of *perfume* behind the ears and apply some *lipstick*. Just in time. Little Timmy wakes up and is crying. You hurriedly put on the rest of your *clothes*, pop an *aspirin* into your mouth for your headache and rush out to take care of Timmy.

After breakfast you prepare to go shopping. When you buckle Timmy into his *car seat*, you remember that the forecast calls for rain so you dash back into the house for your *raincoat* and *umbrella*. For now though, the sun is bright so you don your *sunglasses*. Timmy listens to his favorite *audiocassette* playing. First stop is the home-supply store. Out comes the *baby stroller*. As you push Timmy along, you notice some *balloons* highlighting a special sale.

Inside the store you pick up some *fertilizer* for the garden, *insecticide* for those nasty bugs, some *paint* to decorate Timmy's room with and a *tent* you need for the camping trip next week.

Next stop is the all-purpose superstore. You find some *plastic containers* you've been looking for and some *crayons* and *diapers* for Timmy. As you peruse the food section you carefully screen the ingredients for *food preservatives*. Now it's time to check out. One swipe of the *credit card* and you're on your way home.

Before Timmy's afternoon nap you feed him some nutritious home-made baby food, which you mix in your *blender*. What he doesn't eat will be stored in those convenient *food storage bags* for another day. At nap time Timmy strikes an unusual pose. You grab some *film* to put in the *camera* and take some precious *photographs*. You take advantage of Timmy's nap time to clean up his *toys* and send some e-mails on the *computer*. After a couple hours Timmy wakes up.

As he plays near the *patio screen door*, he cuts his finger on a broken piece of screen mesh. You apply a *bandage* and comfort him. The *telephone* rings and your husband relays that he's on his way home. You make supper and prepare a special table setting, including *candles*. After supper and clean-up you cinch the *garbage bag*, take it outside and breathe a sigh of relief. As you put your feet up on the *recliner* and watch a *DVD* movie, you can finally relax!

THE PURPOSE OF THE STORY ON THE preceding page is to help illustrate how dependent modern society is on OIL! Most of us know that gasoline, or petrol, is derived from crude oil. But *less than half* of each barrel of oil is used for this purpose. In the form of petrochemicals, oil is a key ingredient in *thousands* of other products. There are 44 items mentioned in that story and each one of them (in italics) has petrochemicals in it. The modern world in its work and leisure relies *very heavily* on oil. As the saying goes, oil makes the world go round! It's such a key commodity that it's sometimes called *black gold*. Lately, it has become even more valuable. Why?

**The Demand for Oil** The world currently extracts almost 81 million barrels of oil out of the ground every day. Since there are 42 gallons to a barrel, that's an average of 3,402,000,000 gallons per day—2,362,500 gallons per minute—39,375 gallons per second—each and every day, around the clock! It's barely enough, yet the demand keeps growing.

The United States is by far the world's biggest oil consumer, guzzling more than 20 million barrels a day—a full quarter of the world's output. And demand in the U.S. steadily climbs. For example, gasoline efficiency of American autos in terms of miles per gallon has been declining since 1988. Last year, for the first time in almost 30 years, the average weight of a new car or small truck was over 4,000 pounds. Meanwhile, U.S. oil *production* has been steadily falling. Current output is about 7.9 million barrels per day, a dramatic drop from its peak production of 10.6 million barrels per day in 1985. Obviously, the trend is that the U.S. is becoming increasingly reliant on other countries to supply its growing oil needs.

Japan has historically been the world's second-largest oil consumer. Thanks in large part to the booming Chinese economy, Japan's economy is now on the mend after years of recession and stagnation, which means it requires more oil. But the fastest-growing demand comes from China and then India. Indeed, China has now *overtaken* Japan as the world's second-largest oil consumer. Last year, China alone accounted for 41 percent of the *growth* in demand for world oil. And its oil *imports* rose 32 percent. The country's auto market grew by an astonishing 80 percent! According to the Institute for Analysis of Global Security, by 2030 China is expected to have more cars than

the U.S. and import as much oil as the U.S. does today! (*Wall Street Journal*, May 5).

India likewise is on the verge of significant economic growth. According to Aloulou Fawzi, an Energy Information Administration economist, almost 75 percent of the increase in oil consumption by China and India between 2001 and 2025 will be from cars and trucks (*ibid.*). The demand for oil seems endless as the world's two most populous nations, having tasted of industrialization, surge forward in their economic expansions. Other smaller Asian nations, some of which are net oil exporters now, are projected to soon become oil importers as their economies grow. Dr. Marc Faber, author and reputed Asia watcher, estimates that *Asian demand for oil will double in the next 6 to 12 years* (*Edge Singapore*, May 3). The *Wall Street Journal* article referred to above reported that *worldwide* demand is forecast to rise by more than 50 percent in just 20 years, to 121 million barrels a day!

Will the nations be able to supply such *massive* amounts of oil?

**Strain on Supply** Oil supplies are *barely* keeping pace with *today's* demand, which doesn't bode well for future needs. In recent months, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has steadily raised production, reaching more than 32 million barrels a day in August, which accounts for 40 percent of the world's oil output. Most of the increase though came from just one country—Saudi Arabia. The rest of OPEC is pretty much at full capacity already. (Iraq has the *potential* to produce more, but sabotage has made its current output less than prior to the war.)

With OPEC increasing its oil production, the world's *spare* production capac-

ity, which has averaged about 5 million barrels a day over the last 10 years, is down to ZERO. According to OPEC President Purnomo Yusgiantoro, “[T]here is no more supply” (Stratfor, August 3). The Saudis might be able to bring another million barrels a day online in the next few months from old wells that haven't been used in a while. But that's it! In a world that produces almost 81 million barrels a day, a margin of 1 million is rather tiny, especially in light of

surging demand with no end in sight and increasing threats of supply disruptions. Stratfor confirms that “Global supply is effectively maxed out. No non-OPEC state regularly keeps spare capacity on hand .... Any additional supplies that might trickle onto the market would come from ‘surge’ production, which is sustainable only for short periods” (June 11). To be fair, some strategists see a few potential bright spots that *could* increase oil supplies. Libya's oil fields for example, which have been closed to U.S. companies for two decades, are now available again. Libya produces about 1.5 million barrels a day. With billions of dollars of American investment, Libya's output over the next decade could double. With all the trouble in Iraq, that may be preferable to U.S. investors, especially since Libyan oil is low in sulfur and therefore easier and cheaper to refine. And the fact that Libya is located on the Mediterranean means that there is less of a security concern for transporting oil compared to the risks in the Gulf region via the Strait of Hormuz (see map, page 6).

Another example of potential oil development is in Central and West Africa. According to a report released in May by the Center for Strategic and International Studies titled “Rising U.S. Stakes in Africa,” this region could increase world output by 2.5 to 3 million barrels a day within 7 to 10 years. However, doing business in Africa comes with many risks, including corruption in government, internal instabilities caused by economically deprived citizens and deep religious divisions to name but a few. These are factors that can give rise to terrorist activities. Oil companies are increasingly hesitant to invest billions of dollars in unstable regions. They risk

**Oil companies are increasingly *hesitant* to invest billions of dollars in *unstable* regions. They risk *destruction* of facilities, as in Iraq, and *theft* of oil, as in Nigeria.**

destruction of facilities (as in Iraq) and theft of oil (as in Nigeria). If oil development were to go forward in these relatively small regions, it would be a case of too little, too late. The extra oil would not be nearly enough to satisfy the burgeoning demand in the next few years, and it wouldn't be possible to get it to market fast enough. The fact remains that for now, there's no spare production capacity except for maybe 1 million barrels a day the Saudis could revive from



mothballed production. In a world that's using close to 81 million barrels a day and rapidly increasing its intake, that's not very reassuring!

Even if ample supply were to somehow meet demand, bottlenecks in the supply chain would have to be remedied. For example, there aren't enough supertankers to transport an increase in oil production of any consequence. Also, refineries are getting old. In the U.S., no major new refineries have been built for over 20 years. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, demand for gasoline has increased 27 percent since 1977, but refining capacity has grown by just 2.4 percent. In California, 20 refineries have shut down since the mid-1980s! Only 13 remain, and

Shell recently announced plans to close another one. Most of the refineries in California have closed because they can't afford the costly upgrades required by state regulatory agencies, or they choose not to spend the money. The alternative is to build new ones, but they cost anywhere from \$2.5 to 4 billion each! And they take up to seven years to complete.

When surging demand clashes with limited supply for the most important commodity in the world, there are only a couple of alternatives: price adjustment or war. Just allowing for inflation, the peak prices experienced almost 25 years ago would translate to \$70 a barrel in today's dollars. In the U.S., that equates to about \$3.50 for a gallon of gas. Given the laws of supply and demand and the

bottlenecks in the supply chain, that is a reasonable expectation of what to expect in the foreseeable future. Granted, rising oil prices may contribute to regional recessions (which would cool demand) and temporary lowering of prices. In the longer term however, there is every reason to expect that oil prices will continue to rise.

But there is yet another factor that affects the price of oil.

**Terrorism and Instability** Terrorist activities that disrupt production and expectations of imminent disruptions contribute to the volatility of oil prices. The "terror premium" when the price of oil was fluctuating between \$35 and \$42 per barrel was about \$8, or roughly one fifth of the

## The Vital Sea Gates

Almost 33 million barrels of oil per day—more than 40 percent of the world's supply—pass through six relatively narrow shipping lanes known as chokepoints. Were any of these chokepoints to be blocked or closed off, it would impact oil prices significantly.

It is amazing to consider that all of these strategic sea gates were at one time controlled by Britain and the United States! The

Bible prophesied that they would be. Speaking to Abraham, God said "[Y]our race shall possess the gates of its enemies" (Genesis 22:17, Fenton translation). But God also forewarned that these gates, along with world dominance, would be stripped away from disobedient progeny (Deuteronomy 28:52). And they have been! To learn more, request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

**■ The Suez Canal/Sumed Pipeline** complex connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. It is a critical chokepoint for Europe. Its closure would mean that oil tankers from the Persian Gulf on their way to Europe would have to be diverted around the southern tip of Africa, greatly increasing transit time and cost, and effectively decreasing tanker capacity.

**■ The Turkish Straits** connect the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea. The straits are only a half-mile wide at the narrowest point and are one of the world's most difficult channels to navigate. Russia's oil is exported primarily through these straits. Turkey, concerned about navigational safety and potential environmental disasters, imposed new restrictions on oil traffic in 2002.

**■ The Strait of Hormuz** is by far the most important chokepoint. It is the outlet for at least 13 million barrels a day of Persian Gulf oil. Control of three strategic islands in the Strait of Hormuz is disputed between Iran and United Arab Emirates, although Iran has taken steps in recent years to strengthen its hold on the islands—and therefore the strait.

**■ The Panama Canal and Trans-Panama Pipeline** connect the Pacific Ocean to the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. While the canal is owned by Panama, the entrance ports are controlled by a Chinese firm. It is an important passageway for Alaskan oil on its way to the U.S. Gulf Coast. Without it, tankers would have to be rerouted all the way around the southern tip of South America.

**■ Bab el-Mandab** connects the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea. It is controlled by Yemen. Tankers from the Persian Gulf go through Bab el-Mandab on their way to the Suez Canal/Sumed Pipeline complex and the Mediterranean Sea. Without this access, Persian Gulf oil would have to be rerouted around the southern tip of Africa, a problem especially for Europe.

**■ The Strait of Malacca** connects the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean. It is controlled by Malaysia and is the key chokepoint in Asia. The strait is strategically most important for China because of China's growing need for oil from the Middle East and its developing oil investments in Africa.



cost, according to Stratfor (June 11). This is the *additional* charge (due to terrorist activities) on top of what would normally be expected under current supply-and-demand pressures. It rises and falls according to the intensity of supply *disruptions* and the perceived threat.

In Iraq, pre-war output was 2.5 million barrels per day. Continual attacks on vital oil pipelines have prevented Iraq from returning to pre-war production levels. For example, on June 16, Iraq's main export line was taken out of operation after three bombings in a 48-hour period. That act reduced Iraqi oil exports from 1.85 million barrels per day to just 200,000—almost a 90 percent drop! It took several weeks to repair the damage. These attacks were just a few miles from the Iranian border and in Shiite territory. According to Stratfor, attacks in Shiite territory began with *foreign* jihadists, and Iran is the suspected antagonist. If true, such attacks are “imminently repeatable” (June 16).

Some estimate that Iraq has the potential to produce 6 million barrels of oil a day. It would require about \$25 billion of investment, and the new oil would not be available until 2008 at the earliest. But who would be willing to risk investing in a war zone? In mid-July, interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said that saboteurs were responsible for 130 attacks in the preceding seven months, causing *hundreds of millions* of dollars in damage and lost oil income.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation and biggest oil producer with a total output of about 2.5 million barrels a day. It is the world's seventh-largest oil exporter and the fifth-biggest supplier to the U.S., which imports almost two thirds of all Nigerian production. The country is plagued with widespread corruption, civil unrest, tribal battles, oil-worker strikes, extensive oil theft and sabotage of oil-producing facilities. Rebels accuse the government of squandering the nation's oil income—some \$20 billion a year. Residents of oil-rich areas bitterly resent the lack of electricity, running water, paved roads, schools and hospitals.

Well-armed gangs routinely tap into pipelines to steal oil and sell it for as low as \$5 a barrel to tankers waiting offshore. The estimates of how much oil is stolen vary, but Royal Dutch/Shell, Nigeria's largest producer, figured in July that it was losing 55,000 barrels (worth about \$2 million on the open market) to theft each day!

Shell commissioned a study earlier this year that brought to light that about 1,000 people per year are killed in the violence of the Niger Delta—where most of Nigeria's oil is. That is on a par with the violence in Columbia and Chechnya and threatens not just the oil industry but Nigeria's *national security*, especially

**When surging demand clashes with limited supply for the most important commodity in the world, there are only a couple of alternatives: price adjustment or war.**

since the study predicts *increasing* violence in the years to come.

Venezuela, which can produce about 3 million barrels of oil a day, is the world's fifth-largest oil exporter and the fourth-biggest supplier to the U.S. The country has a history of political instability under unpopular President Hugo Chavez. In April 2002, a coup removed him from office for two days before military loyalists returned him to power. In January last year, he fired 700 workers from the state-owned oil company *Petróleos de Venezuela S.A.* after three fourths of the 40,000 workers had been on strike for 40 days. The strike reduced Venezuela's oil output from 3 million barrels a day to about 400,000 and shut down thousands of other businesses. In other actions he has taken, Chavez has proven that he will not give up power easily. Political instability in Venezuela could lead to *significant* disruptions of oil supply in the near future.

Then there's Russia. It's the second-biggest supplier of world oil after Saudi Arabia. Yukos, Russia's largest private company and top oil exporter, produces about 1.7 million barrels of oil a day—more than Libya. It exports 75 percent of that output. And it's in trouble. The chairman of Yukos and Russia's richest man, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, made the mistake of using his wealth to support political parties that were opposed to the re-election of President Vladimir Putin. He's now in prison. The government says Yukos owes almost \$7 *billion* in back taxes for 2000 and 2001. Estimates are that after 2002 and 2003 audits, the total tax bill will be \$10 *billion!* Apparently, the government's case is based on some murky tax procedures that almost *all* big Russian exporters abide by, not just Yukos.

As of this writing, the Russian government is moving to seize the company and sell off some of its assets in order to pay the tax debt. Potential buyers are state-owned firms or others close to the

Kremlin. Analysts have characterized the move as excessive since the Kremlin has ignored at least 11 offers to restructure the debt, including an offer by Khodorkovsky to settle the claim with his stake in the company. The move to dismantle Yukos is causing fears of supply disruptions. But that's not the biggest problem.

The attack has soured the investment climate in Russia and raised concerns about property rights. It highlights the risks of doing business in Russia at a time when the world is demanding more oil at a record-breaking pace. Here's how Stratfor summarized the problem: “For foreigners, this represents the worst Russia has to offer: backroom deals, rigged auctions, ignored property rights and heavy-handed courts with predetermined verdicts. As a result, direct investment of foreign money in Russian equipment, companies and infrastructure is stalled and will not return until the government re-creates a sense of stability for the foreign investment community. After the 1998 default, that process took about three years ...” (July 20).

In spite of the international backlash, it appears President Putin is determined to consolidate his hold over the Russian oil industry, just as this magazine's editor in chief said he would. “Mr. Putin is going to control that asset [oil], no matter how much Western powers thunder in protest. Oil profits will help to place Russia back on the world stage as a dominant world power” (Personal, *Trumpet*, January 2004). Notice this strikingly similar corroboration in the *Washington Post* seven months later: “Now that oil has replaced military might as the source of Russian power, Putin is using it to assert himself on the global stage ...” (August 11). This he will do, in spite of apprehensions by free-market enthusiasts and investors.

Yes, jitters about the future of oil are justified, and the instability of major oil markets around the world will only drive the price upward, especially as the U.S. finds itself incapable of winning the war on terror. This is doubly true as terrorists take the fight to the world's number-one oil producer and exporter, Saudi Arabia, which alone is pumping about 10 million barrels a day—about 12 percent of the entire world's supply!

**Threats to Saudi Arabia** With the recent bombings and kidnappings of foreigners in Saudi Arabia, it's clear that the kingdom is not going to be insulated from terrorist activities. Al Qaeda has long criticized the Saudi rulers for being too cozy with the West, and it aims to weaken the royal family any way it can. One strategy it has taken up is to drive out foreign oil workers (expatriates).

While Saudis operate most of the oil business, the highly skilled positions

The expatriates are not popular with the masses since they are exempt from the Wahhabi laws that govern the kingdom. In their secluded compounds, Westerners are allowed easy access to the Internet, cable TV and alcohol; and women have much more freedom. By targeting the expatriates, al Qaeda not only seeks to weaken the oil infrastructure but it is also evoking sympathy and support for its cause from a populace that is *already* unhappy with the ruling family. The ter-

matic drop from \$28,600 just 20 years before. The country, outside of Africa, has one of the highest birth rates in the world, and half the population is under 18 years old. Unemployment is estimated to be between 20 and 30 percent and expanding by about 100,000 men per year. Mix in the fact that Saudi Arabia is the world's premier welfare state that offers little incentive to work (free health care, free college education, interest-free loans, utilities and gasoline far below cost). Add in a barrel of disillusionment for the royal family that cooperates with the West, and we have a formula for turning idle young men into jihadists!

Yet the Saudi rulers are not at all keen to stifle their people's contempt for America. That would give even *more* cause for the masses to rebel against them. Therein lies the reason for the dichotomy of Saudi Arabia's position vis-à-vis the West.

On one hand, the Saudi leadership is often cooperative with the West. Really, it has no choice. About 80 percent of *all* state revenues derive from oil exports. Dr. Ibrahim al-Assaf, the Saudi minister of finance, claims that Saudi Arabia needs to sustain 8 percent growth in gross domestic product to cope with the growing social problems and mushrooming population (FromTheWilderness.com, June 2). It has not been able to do that even with

**Iraq is not the only prize Iran seeks. It is also taking advantage of the uneasiness in Saudi Arabia by aggressively provoking revolt within its borders too.**

are generally filled by a group of about 100,000 expatriates, two thirds of whom are from the U.S. and the UK. Some with more than 15 years' experience are fleeing the country. The immediate impact is minimal, but as more of them leave, operational efficiencies will suffer and there will be a gradual deterioration of recovery rates and new exploration. Perhaps the most significant blow would be to the kingdom's ability to quickly add new production in times of stress as it did during the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf War of 1990 and less than 24 hours after 9/11.

rorists want to capitalize on and harness the *internal* unrest in the country as it percolates with growing intensity.

Internal Muslim fundamentalist leaders have unabashedly called for the toppling of the house of Saud. The majority of Saudis are offended with their government's loyalty to the West (even though it's in their own interest) and with the eccentric behavior of their royal rulers, which they perceive to be contrary to Muslim values.

Moreover, in 2001 per capita income in Saudi Arabia was only \$6,800—a dra-

## The Strategic Petroleum Reserve

**T**HE STRATEGIC Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in the United States is the largest supply of oil set aside for emergencies in the world. The U.S. government stores this oil in four different sites located in deep underground salt caverns between 2,000 and 4,000 feet below the surface, along the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana.

The need for an emergency reserve was advocated in 1944 by Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes and by several others in subsequent years. However, no action was taken until the Arab oil embargo of 1973-74, when many Arab nations cut off the oil they were exporting to the U.S. The turmoil that resulted led to the establishment of the SPR, authorized by

President Gerald Ford on Dec. 22, 1975.

Today, the SPR contains more oil than ever: roughly 677 million barrels and



**LIFEBLOOD**  
Bryan Mound, Texas: one of four SPR facilities that could temporarily sustain the U.S. in the event of a petroleum drought.

growing. This represents roughly two months of "import protection"—how long the oil in the SPR would last, theoretically, if all imports were cut off. However, oil in the SPR can be withdrawn at a maximum rate of 4.3

million barrels per day for the first 90 days, and then the rate decreases as storage caverns are emptied.

With that limitation, the oil

would last much longer (at least five months), but, depending on the size of the emergency, may not be enough to allay supply shortages.

In addition to the government's emergency reserve, *private* company reserves in the U.S. are estimated to

equal approximately three months of import protection.

In an emergency, the president would give the order to withdraw oil from the SPR. The oil would be distributed (through competitive sale) to private com-

panies. It would be released into the marketplace within 13 days from the time of the president's decision. Only one *emergency* drawdown has ever occurred. On Jan. 16, 1991, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, President George H.W. Bush ordered it in order to help stabilize oil markets during the Persian Gulf War.

The effectiveness of the SPR in a *true* emergency, however, has never been tested. The limited nature of the reserves and the limited rate at which they can be utilized demonstrate the vulnerability of the United States should its oil supply be cut off through instability in key locations of the world or by hostile forces en route. Any such shortage of oil would have a profound impact on the U.S. economy.



oil income as large as it is. So the nation can't afford to lose *any* of it.

On the other hand, it's been well documented that the Saudi government supports and finances terror. This is done in order to *pacify* the growing hordes of frustrated Saudi citizens. By channeling their people's anger against the West, the Saudi royal family deflects that anger away from itself.

According to the *Atlantic Monthly*, the Defense Policy Board sponsored a report that showed how Saudi Arabia plays a central role in the Arab world's "outwardly directed aggression" (May 2003; emphasis mine). The report also stated that "The Saudis are active at every level of the terror chain, from planners to financiers, from cadre to foot-soldier, from ideologist to cheerleader" (ibid.). The *Atlantic Monthly* documented numerous and specific actions the Saudis have taken. Yet the Bush administration looks the other way. Why? Only Canada supplies more oil to the U.S. than does Saudi Arabia.

So we see why the house of Saud is sometimes pro-U.S. and anti-U.S. at the same time! It's a precarious *balancing act* in a bid to hang on to power and a lavish lifestyle as long as possible in a country with significant social problems. The U.S., meanwhile, walks a political tight-rope, because it knows what the Saudis are doing but also knows how the unencumbered flow of Saudi oil is vital to the stability of the U.S. economy. The terrorists know it too, and that's one reason they are seeking to destabilize Saudi Arabia! But there's more to it than that.

**The Final "Push"** For more than 10 years our editor in chief has identified Iran as the "king of the south" prophesied of in Daniel 11:40. (If you have not done so, request your free copy of *The King of the South*, which will open your eyes to Iran's role in end-time affairs.) This magazine has shown how Iran is causing turmoil in Iraq in order to consolidate its power in that region. But Iraq is not the only prize Iran seeks. It is also taking advantage of the uneasiness in Saudi Arabia by aggressively provoking revolt within its borders too!

Note this startling prognostication by Richard J. Maybury in his book *The Thousand-Year War in the Mideast*: "My guess is that Iran's secret agents will continue working to foment revolution [in Saudi Arabia], and they'll do it in a way designed to prevent U.S. interven-



## POWER STEERING

**U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell meets with Saudi Crown Prince Aziz in Riyadh to discuss regional developments including Iraq and the Middle East.**

tion. The rebels will claim to be fighting for a more democratic Arabia. Once they've succeeded and are in power, they will request assistance from Iran to 'stabilize' Arabia. This voluntary invitation to Iran by the new 'democratic' government will be an end run that will deprive the U.S. government of justification to intervene." With the debate and fallout over U.S. action in Iraq, this does not seem like a far-fetched scenario. What would be the consequences?

If Iran is allowed to manage Iraq and Saudi Arabia, it will control about 20 percent of the world's current production of oil and about half the world's oil reserves! That is not only a dangerous proposition for the United States, but *much* more so for the European Union! While the U.S. imports about 54 percent of its oil, the EU imports more than 80 percent—a figure projected to be 87 percent by 2010. Moreover, Germany has virtually *no* oil. It imports about 97 percent! The prophesied "king of the north" is *extremely* dependent on outside sources of oil. (For a history and analysis of the king of the north, request a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

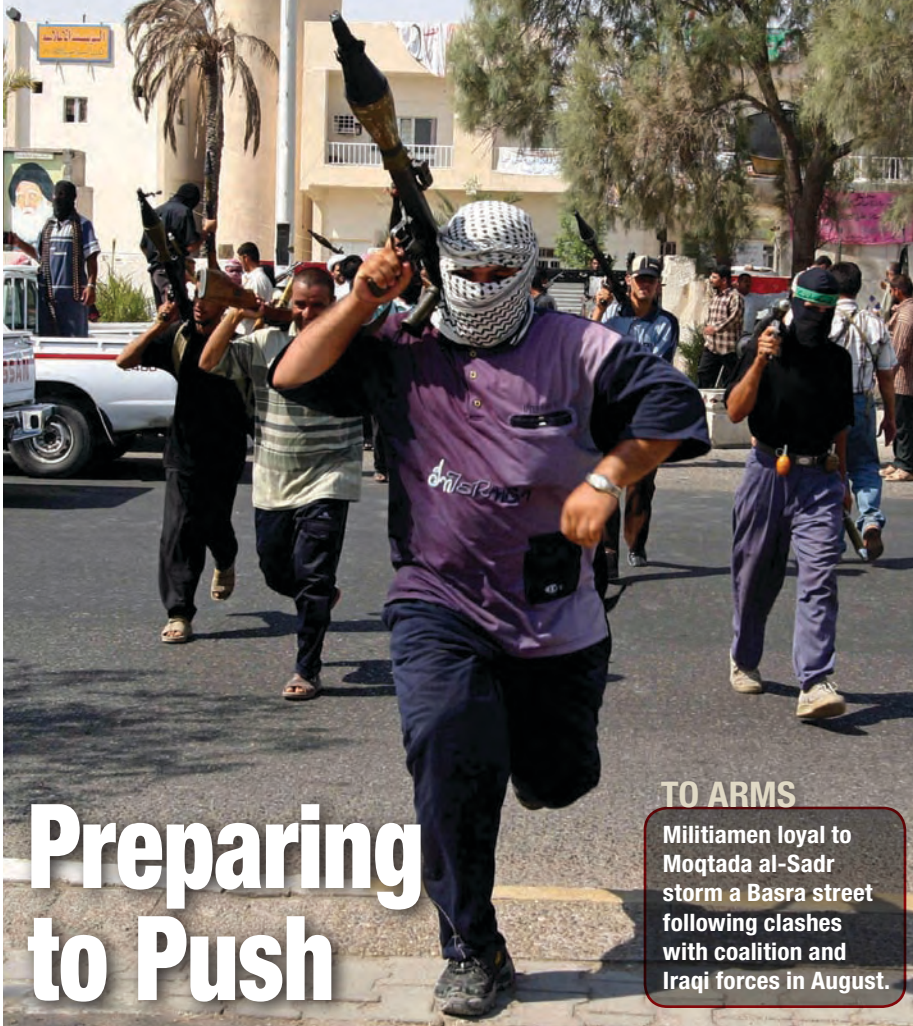
Now notice this pivotal END-TIME prophecy in Daniel 11:40: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south *push* at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind . . ." The word *push* means to push, thrust or gore. An Islamic group of nations led by Iran will thrust at the

European Union and cause it harm, at first. This *push* will probably revolve around Jerusalem, as in the time of the Crusades, and it will likely involve oil. Germany and the EU will respond like "a whirlwind"—with blitzkrieg warfare that will annihilate the king of the south! (request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* to understand).

It was earlier stated that when surging demand clashes with limited supply for the most important commodity in the world, there are only a couple of alternatives—price adjustment or *war*. The world demand for oil, at 81 million barrels per day, is *unprecedented*, and the projected need is for an average increase of 2 million barrels a day each year for the next 20 years! At the same time, supply is not only strained but threatened by terrorism and government instability in many of the major oil markets of the world. ANY significant disturbance in the supply chain will impact global prices. Expect prices for oil and gasoline to continue rising over the long haul.

But very soon, "in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). That's the *good news* we can all look forward to, and the fight over "black gold" shows that we are getting ever closer to that fateful day! ■





# Preparing to Push

## TO ARMS

Militiamen loyal to Moqtada al-Sadr storm a Basra street following clashes with coalition and Iraqi forces in August.

BY DONNA GRIEVES

**O**N AUGUST 11, TEHRAN announced that it had successfully carried out a field test of the latest version of its Shahab-3 medium-range ballistic missile. With an estimated range of 810 miles according to defense experts, it has the capability of reaching Israel (Reuters, August 11).

The Shahab-3 test was followed up by a statement by Yadollah Javani, head of the political bureau of Iran's influential Revolutionary Guards, confirming that Iran *would use* this missile (Stratfor, August 18). In a separate statement, the deputy chief of the Revolutionary Guards, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Baqer Zolqadr, threatened, "If Israel fires a missile into the Bushehr nuclear power plant, it has to say goodbye forever to its Dimona nuclear facility ..." (ibid.).

Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani followed up on this by stating on al Jazeera television the next day, "Some military commanders in Iran are convinced that preventative operations which the Americans talk about are not their monopoly" (ibid., August 19).

Just over two weeks prior to the missile test, while claiming that the devel-

opment of the missile was merely for deterrent purposes, a spokesman for the Revolutionary Guards warned that if Iran were attacked, "Tehran's reaction will be so harsh that Israel will be wiped off the face of the Earth ..." (Agence France Presse, July 26).

The same month, Iran's official news agency IRNA reported that the head of the Iranian army's ground forces, Brig. Gen. Naser Mohammadifar, said his troops were "combat ready" and possessed a "martyrdom-seeking spirit," which they must show to "the enemies"—a term Iranians use to refer to Israel and the U.S. (ibid., July 28).

Iran even refused to compete against Israel at the Athens Olympics, with a government spokesman stating, "Our policy is not to recognize the Zionist regime in any international event" (Reuters, August 16).

This latest round of inflammatory talk by Iranian officials against Israel comes at the same time Iran continues to push its weight around in other areas also. At the beginning of August, a secret conference reportedly was convened by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, to "underline a policy of nuclear brink-

manship" in response to international criticism of Iran's nuclear program (DEBKAFfile, August 8). High-ranking Iranian officials at this meeting, including former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, endorsed the decision to "tough it out" (ibid.).

This nuclear brinkmanship is clear to see. Iran has continued to blatantly flout the agreement brokered by Europe late last year to control its nuclear program. Deutsche Welle reported in July that Tehran had broken seals placed on uranium enrichment equipment by the International Atomic Energy Agency and threatened to resume its production of centrifuges (July 29). It was also reported that Iranian officials were caught negotiating with a Russian company to acquire a substance used to enhance nuclear explosions.

This provocative behavior is all a part of Iran's ongoing efforts toward regional supremacy. "... Iran is threatening to attack U.S. allies in order to secure its national interests" (Stratfor, August 20).

As previously reported in this magazine, it has been a long-time goal of Iran's to gain control over Iraq. With the United States removing Saddam Hussein from power, Iran saw its opportunity to get a Shiite-dominated, Iran-friendly government into Baghdad. Since that time, Iran has been involved in an increasingly hostile diplomatic struggle with the U.S. over the future of Iraq. Iran recently turned up the heat using its ally Moqtada al-Sadr—resulting in the August fighting in Najaf. Clearly, Iran is not about to let go of its chance to gain a controlling influence in Iraq—and it will go to great lengths for that purpose.

Both Iran's nuclear card and its efforts to provoke Israel are maneuvers toward this end. "Needling the Israelis is Tehran's attempt to bring international condemnation down on Washington by playing the 'Zionist' card. ... An Israeli counter-threat against the Iranians would play into Tehran's hands—distracting the United States, mitigating U.S. pressure upon Tehran and perhaps forcing a bit of movement out of Washington in ongoing negotiations over Iraq" (ibid., August 18).

At the same time, stronger alliance with al Qaeda, military action in Iraq and the manipulation of oil supply cannot be ruled out as means Iran could use to gain more leverage in the region (ibid., August 13).

Some may dismiss Iran's threats against Israel as having no substance or



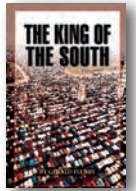
downplay its nuclear and other capabilities. But Iran's threats are not just rhetoric. In our November 2003 issue, editor in chief Gerald Flurry described Iran's plans as a "massive plot to control the Middle East." Mr. Flurry went on to say, "The most precious jewel of Iran's plan is to CONQUER JERUSALEM."

Israel certainly isn't taking the threats against it lightly—even if exercising restraint at the behest of the U.S. Israel *knows* Iran is deadly serious in its stated strategic goal to destroy it as a nation. According

to *DEBKAFfile*, Iran's nuclear program together with the development of the Shahab-3 missile is "seen by policymakers in Jerusalem as the greatest threat to Israel's existence since 1948" (op. cit.).

Sure, Iran's goals in the short-term are strategic—aimed at domination of Iraq and other Islamic countries. In the process, some of its actions are no doubt bluff as it plays political games with the U.S. But the fulfilment of Iran's regional strategic goals will lead to it taking its place as the prophesied king of

the south that will "push" at the king of the north—a European power (Daniel 11:40). In reality, Iran even now is preparing for this push. And, as Mr. Flurry has stated, "This *push* no doubt revolves around Jerusalem and biblical Judah (called Israel today)—just as the clashes in the time of the Crusades did" (op. cit.). The stage is being set. To find out more, please request our booklet *The King of the South*. ■



## Hezbollah-Palestinian Alliance Exposed

**I**T HAS BEEN NO SECRET that the Lebanon-based terrorist organization Hezbollah, which is financed, armed and ideologically motivated largely by Iran, supports Palestinian terrorists. Now, however, Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah has for the first time publicly admitted this fact (BBC News, July 26). Recent media reports have also provided insight into the extent of Iran's involvement.

Ghaleb Awali, a senior official of Hezbollah and reportedly a key link between that organization and Palestinian terrorist organizations, was killed in a bomb blast on July 19. In a eulogy for Awali at which he accused Israel of being responsible for the assassination, Nasrallah described how Awali had been assisting the Palestinians in their fight against the "Zionist enemy" (*Jerusalem Post*, July 20).

London's *Sunday Times* reported that Awali had belonged to a secret section of Hezbollah called Inside Operations, which works specifically with the Palestinians. "The importance of the section

and Awali's role in it were revealed at his funeral ..." (July 25).

Awali was responsible for financing and training Palestinian terrorists. *DEBKAFfile* reported that he had begun his job as "operations coordinator"



**ALL SMILES**  
Hezbollah's Nasrallah (right) is greeted in Tehran by the chief of staff of Iran's Supreme Leader.

between Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorist organizations in 1996—"in practice, this made him also contact man between Tehran and the Palestinian leadership headed by Yasser Arafat" (July 26). The *Times* reported that immediately prior to his death he had taken a trip to Iran where he received money and instructions to continue his job of liaising with the Palestinians (op. cit.).

The *Times* described Nasrallah's admission of Hezbollah's role in supporting the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza as

"bad news" for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (ibid.). "Awali's clandestine function exploded the myth that global Islamic terror and Palestinian terror are separate conflicts" (*DEBKAFfile*, op. cit.).

Despite Awali's death, a large network connecting Iran with Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorists remains. For example, the man who was Awali's boss, Imad Mughniyeh, connects Iranian security services not only with Hezbollah but also al Qaeda (Stratfor, April 2, 2002). Mughniyeh is still on the FBI's 22-most-wanted list

of terrorists, accused of the 1983 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut among other terrorist attacks. *DEBKAFfile* describes Mughniyeh as "the key link" between Iran, Hezbollah and al Qaeda, "maintaining regular, close ties with Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri [al Qaeda's deputy leader]" (op. cit.).

What's more, *DEBKAFfile* reports that Israel's intelligence sources have reason to believe that Hezbollah's "Iranian masters and Syrian backers" are now looking to the use of non-conventional weapons (ibid.). In a cabinet

meeting in July, Israeli military intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Aharon Zeevi-Farkash reported that Syria is testing chemical warheads for medium-range missiles such as those Hezbollah has along Lebanon's border with Israel (BBC News, op. cit.). These warheads are made in Syria with financing from Iran. "Fitting them on Hezbollah's missiles, which are guarded by Iranian Revolutionary Guards, would provide Iran with a menacing presence on the shores of the Mediterranean ..." (*DEBKAFfile*, op. cit.). *DEBKAFfile* said its Tehran sources revealed that Iran's Islamic regime "sees Hezbollah passing short-range missiles with Syrian chemical payloads to ... Palestinian terrorists, so that by the time Iran has its first nuclear bomb ready to go in about two years, unconventional weapons will be pointed at the Jewish state from two external directions, Tehran and Lebanon ..." (ibid.).

As editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote in our November 2003 edition, "The real power behind the Palestinians is Iran. No other nation would dare finance and blatantly encourage such terrorism in Israel." Once again, *Iran* is shown to be the head of the terrorist snake.



**CHIRAC** and his nation are getting crowded out by the real leadership of the EU.

# France: The Beginning of the End

BY BRAD MACDONALD

**F**OR 14 YEARS NOW, THE *TRUMPET* has foretold of the unification of Europe under German leadership.

For more than 50 years before us, our parent magazine, the *Plain Truth*, spread the same message. Even as the dead were buried and the wounded limped from World War II's battlefields, the *Plain Truth's* editor in chief, Herbert W. Armstrong, warned of the future resurrection of Germany.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the *Trumpet's* editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, as a geopolitical weatherman, has been monitoring this intensifying storm in Europe, documenting the rise of Germany and the unification of Europe. What's more, the *Trumpet* has shown the *future* of this European combine. The rise of a German-led Europe has been perhaps the most discussed subject in all of our writings.

There is, however, one aspect of this subject that some might believe the *Trumpet* has missed. Oddly enough, it is a seemingly obvious part of the puzzle, even to the mainstream news media. This would be FRANCE.

Read any newspaper discussing the *leadership* of the European Union, and France is virtually always mentioned. Terms such as *Franco-German axis*, *European triumvirate* (comprised of France, Britain and Germany) and *Old Europe* (France and Germany being the key nations) are commonplace in the news media. The clear implication is that France is and *will remain* a key component of European growth. In news media across the globe, France is seen as a *key* player in the unification and leadership of Europe.

Yet, in this magazine, which has focused greatly on the unification of Europe, France has received nowhere near as much attention as Germany. Most of the time, it has only been when France has come into contact with Germany that the nation has even been mentioned. We have never written one article indicating that France will lead the EU—despite the important leadership role in the EU that the nation has been playing. Is the *Trumpet* missing something here? Just

what is France's role in the EU?

The reason we have written little about France's role in the EU is the same as the reason we have written little about Holland's, Spain's or Portugal's role in the EU. Put simply, Bible prophecy tells us that these nations are more followers than leaders in this European combine—known in the Bible as the *king of the north* (Daniel 11:40). The *Trumpet* monitors Europe from the biblical perspective, and as we have clearly proved over the years, the nation MOST behind the unification and leadership of the king of the north is GERMANY. The Bible tells us *this* is the nation to watch.

With this in mind, there is a trend that involves France we can expect to see: *France will be sidelined from leadership of the EU*. While it is true that France and Germany have been the two primary nations behind the unification of Europe, France's influence in the EU will begin to wane, and it will become more of a follower of Germany than a leader with Germany. Bible prophecy reveals this fact.

**Beginning of the End** In August, EU Commission President-elect José Manuel Durao Barroso revealed who will be filling the 25 positions in the European Commission when he assumes his position in November. As the executive arm of the European Union, the European Commission is responsible for proposing legislation to the European Parliament and enforcing EU laws—and even levies and fines against member states for noncompliance (Stratfor, August 13).

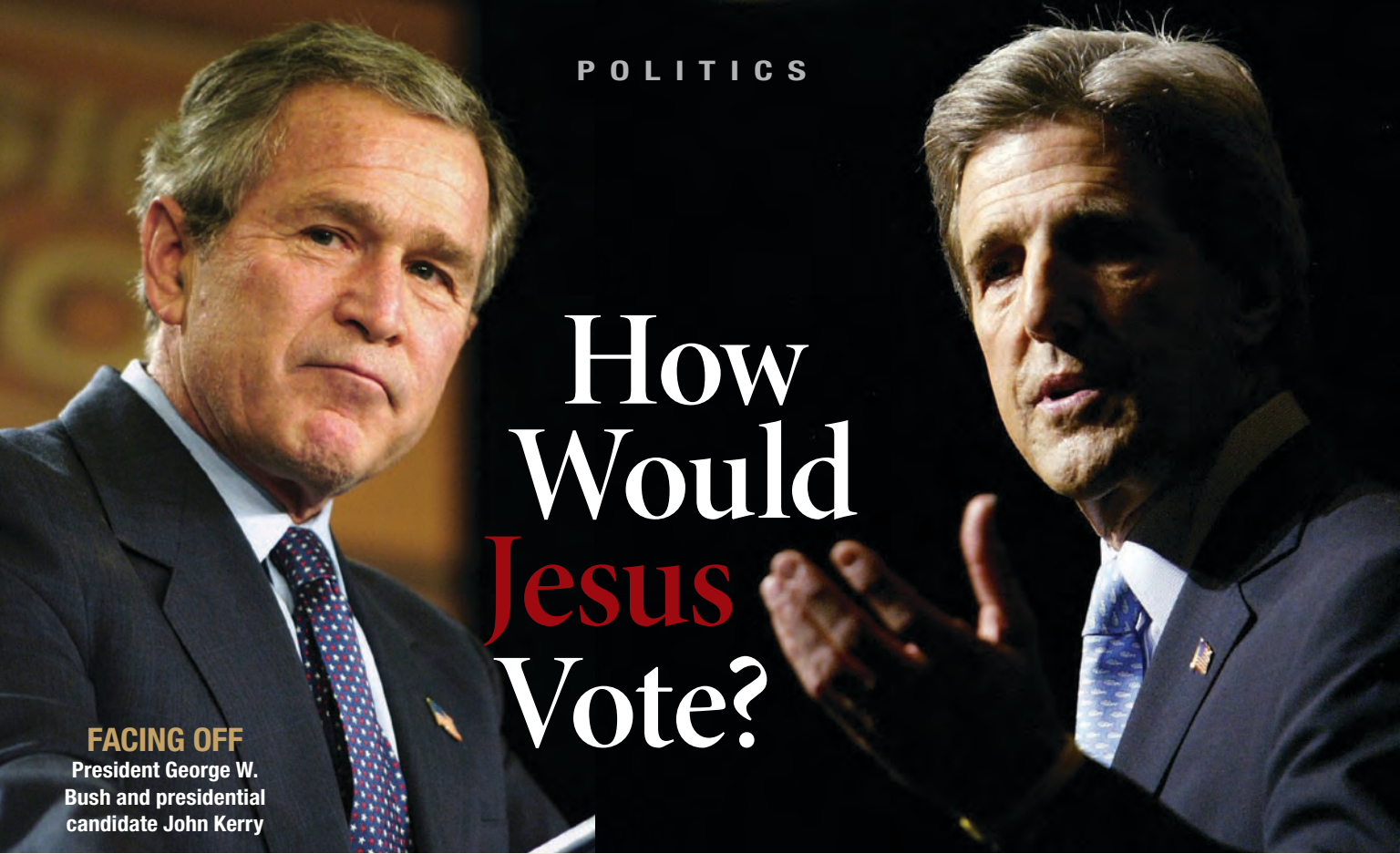
France was assigned the relatively unimportant portfolio of transport in the European Commission. For being a traditionally key player in the evolution of Europe, France was essentially shafted.

Within the Commission, some portfolios are more important than others. For example, the three separate portfolios of *competition*, *internal market* and *trade* essentially determine the direction of the entire EU economy. The three nations that hold these posts have significant influence over the EU's economic future.

One significant step toward marginalizing France from European leadership was taken when France was assigned the relatively unimportant portfolio of *transport* in the European Commission. "There are a half-dozen *critical posts* on the Commission, of which the one that France was left holding—transport—is *not counted*" (ibid.; emphasis mine

See **FRANCE** page 19 ▶





# How Would Jesus Vote?

## FACING OFF

President George W. Bush and presidential candidate John Kerry

BY MARK JENKINS

**W**HEN MOST PEOPLE FIRST read the question above, they probably came up with an answer right away. But religious figures have come out in support of both candidates for the United States presidency. Can they all be right? Whose side is God on?

How does Jesus Christ feel about George W. Bush? How does He feel about John Kerry? As U.S. election years go, this one is fairly interesting for the religious observer. Both candidates are trying to claim the religious vote. The Democratic convention was rife with talk about values, religion, military strength and other traditionally Republican claims. In accepting the Democratic nomination, Kerry said, "I don't want to claim that God is on our side. As Abraham Lincoln told us, I want to pray humbly that we are on God's side. And whatever our faith, one belief should bind us all: The measure of our character is our willingness to give of ourselves for others and for our country. These aren't Democratic values. These aren't Republican values. They're American values."

Naturally, Bush also talks about those things as he did in the 2000 election.

In *The Faith of George W. Bush*, the author claims then-Governor Bush told

a Texas preacher, "I feel like God wants me to run for president. I can't explain it, but I sense my country is going to need me. ... I know it won't be easy on me or my family, but God wants me to do it."

Both Senator Kerry and President Bush are portraying themselves as religious men. So should Christians simply try to identify the more devout man?

What about judging by specific issues? Should we go down a checklist of specific items and see which candidate agrees with us on abortion, the death penalty, homosexual marriage, or whatever other issues we might deem most important?

In 1992, Bill Clinton ran on the slogan, "It's the economy, stupid." Will economic indicators determine the voters' choice this time?

Many might cast their vote based on who they think will make the country safer. Who can keep us safest from terror?

But for a religious person, there could be no more relevant issue than *God's* stance on the election. Philippians 2:5 tells us: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." We have an obligation to act as He would act. So who would Jesus Christ support?

**Government History** For most people, elections tend to be built around modern issues. But how could present-day

concerns be relevant to Jesus Christ, who walked the Earth two millennia ago? After all, gun control wasn't much of an issue 2,000 years ago. Health care was not debated in the public square. There was certainly no fear that terrorists would blow up buildings. Jesus Christ, however, has a historical perspective that we often lack; the issues that are important to Him have not changed. If we are to understand who He supports in this election, we need to get His perspective. So let's go back to the beginning.

"In the beginning, God created the heaven[s] and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). That statement establishes God as the authority here on Earth from its inception. Ezekiel 28:12-15 tell us that He delegated the responsibility of ruling the Earth to an archangel who was perfect—until iniquity was found in him. The great archangel Lucifer became Satan the devil, deceiving one third of the angels and attempting to overthrow God Himself (Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:4). God cast Satan down to Earth in defeat, but note this: Satan is still ruler of the Earth, even today! 2 Corinthians 4:4 unequivocally calls Satan "the god of this world." God did not remove Satan from that position. Satan holds the office of ruler of Earth just as surely as George Bush holds the presidency of the

United States. When this next election finishes in November, Satan will still be in that position!

This is crucial information for deciding how to cast your vote. Why? Because Satan's rulership reveals the origins of our modern society. Let's move forward in the story.

When Adam was put on Earth, he had an opportunity that would shape the next 6,000 years. He could have taken of the tree of life. Instead, Adam disobeyed God, subjecting himself to the will of Satan the devil and failing to replace Satan as ruler of the Earth. Genesis 3:22-24 tell us Adam was driven from the garden so he would not partake of the tree of life and receive immortality.

By the time of Noah, mankind was so corrupt that all but eight people were wiped out by a worldwide flood sent by God Himself. The leaders of their day were still under the influence of Satan just like their parent Adam.

After the flood, it didn't take long for Satan to get a foothold. After he gained influence over a man named Nimrod, the first city, Babylon, was established. Soon more cities were established, all with kings who wanted to conquer. Eventually empires began to form. The basic principle of Babylonian government was competition and strife, based on greed and vanity. Modern governments are still based on this system founded in Babylon. Whether we call it democracy, oligarchy, monarchy or communism, government has always been driven by this same satanic spirit of vanity and greed.

The problem is that modern Christianity looks at the world and falsely assumes that it is God's world. But God's principles are almost nowhere in sight! History does not show us a godly, utopian world. While many understand that certain elements are wrong with the world, they miss the fundamental truth that this is Satan's world! Scripture labels it "this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4).

That is why, no matter who is in office, we always see appalling evils! Granted, some politicians may be less unrighteous than others. Some may embrace more biblical principles than others. None, however, try to run their governments by the law of God; if they did, they wouldn't be in office very long! Rather, an enormous effort is made to keep church and state separate.

Jesus Christ cares deeply about government. In fact, He came the first time to preach a message about government.

But He isn't returning to Earth to reform modern government. He won't descend from the clouds with the U.S. Constitution in His hand and a message about the Electoral College. His message was about the soon-coming Kingdom of God, a world-ruling government that will *replace* man's failed governments.

While Christ was on Earth, He did *qualify* to replace Satan the devil in what Herbert W. Armstrong called "the titanic battle of the ages." He hasn't assumed that throne yet though. He told the Roman governor Pilate that He was "born to be a king," but His servants did not fight because His Kingdom was not on Earth! (John 18:36-37). The Bible is replete with prophecies about the Second Coming of Christ, but until that happens, we still live in Satan's world.

**Do you want to be kept safe from terror?  
Neither George W. Bush nor John Kerry can promise you that.  
But God can and does protect His followers.**

**Ambassadors for Christ** 2 Corinthians 5:20 calls true Christians "ambassadors for Christ." Christians represent Him and His government. So ask yourself, as a citizen of your own home country: How would you vote in a Russian election? How would you vote in France? Simply put, you wouldn't! *Nor would Christ or His followers be active in the politics of this world's governments!*

But, you might ask, how can I expect things to get any better if I don't do my part? If I don't participate in the election—if, in fact, no religious-minded person participates in the election—how can we expect to ever have a godly leader? How can we expect this world today to get any better?

In the November 1960 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Most churchmen today, viewing everything from the perspective of THE WORLD TODAY, blindly assume this is God's world. They see certain forces of evil in it, and these they feel they must oppose. They see the Christian duty to be that of working to make this a better world.

*"That concept is a wrong viewpoint altogether.*

"This is *not* a world of God's making. *This is SATAN's world!* Satan is the invisible god of this world. He is the author of its organization, its basic philosophies, its systems of government, business, society—yes, AND RELIGIONS!"

A Christian's obligation is to follow Jesus Christ. He did not try to reform Julius Caesar. He "rendered unto Caesar that which was Caesar's"—as should we—but He did not play an active role in man's governments. No matter where you live, you should stand out as a model of how to live. Certainly you should pay your taxes, obey the laws of the land, and show proper respect to the authorities that are in place. But as ambassadors, Christians simply cannot play an active role in the government. Jesus Christ didn't try to make this a better world through political means. Rather, He laid the groundwork for the beautiful world to come. He called His followers out of this world, warning us not to be a part of the sins of those around us.

We are not to follow the same customs and traditions as those around us; rather, we are to live by every word of God (Luke 4:4).

Do you want to be kept safe from terror? Neither George W. Bush nor John Kerry can promise you that. But God can and does protect His followers.

Is the economy your concern? God unequivocally guarantees economic blessings to His followers.

If Jesus Christ were in Washington, D.C., He would warn, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4). He would preach the good news of the soon-coming Kingdom of God! Actually, He *does* do those things through His Church.

Christ would not, however, run for office. He would not vote for a candidate who is, after all, working in a system that will soon be completely removed and replaced by a perfect government with Him at the head.

When Christ returns, He will establish the government of His Father in heaven, one that will "break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44). In the wonderful World Tomorrow, there simply won't be any candidates to vote for!

While we can't make this a perfect world today, we can give its people desperately needed hope by showing them the future that is just ahead! That is what Jesus Christ would do. ■





# The Downfall of AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

**Agriculture is one of the most critical and traditionally stable sectors of the American economy.**

**Here is the sad condition of America's agriculture today. BY BRAD MACDONALD**

**A**N AMAZING SIGHT REMAINS embedded in my memory from flights I've taken over the United States. On these flights, typically I could be seen perched on the edge of my window seat, my eyes squinting to prevent the sun's rays from thwarting my view. My face pressed against the small, double-glassed window would cause it to fog. What I was looking at below was not a fleeting sight—it stretched on for hours. I remember thinking, *Does it ever end?*

In my home country of Australia, this sight has never been seen. You cannot see it in Africa or Europe. If you saw it in the Middle East, it would be a mirage. Nothing like it can be witnessed in Russia or Asia.

If you have ever flown the skies over America you have probably seen it. Viewed from 20,000 feet, it looked like the land below was tucked in with a massive, checked quilt. For miles in every direction, crops of all kinds were planted in great, square fields—thriving in the rich, brown soil. Many of the dams and creeks were brimming with cool, clear water. In some fields, countless bales of hay lay waiting to be picked up and stored for the winter. Massive

fields of crops grew everywhere—some a luscious green, others a rich yellow. Herds of beef and other animals grazed on the green grass. Where there were no fields with animals or crops, leafy trees and forests usually adorned the ground.

Scattered among these hundreds of thousands of acres of crops, grazing land and forests were quaint little farmhouses and barns—connected by a maze of thin gravel roads. Every 40 to 50 miles, the monotony of the farmland would end and a small town would appear. Most of the time these towns were dissected by railway lines on which lengthy freight trains transport produce between towns and cities—like blood vessels transporting oxygen to the body's organs.

The sheer *richness* of the land was an amazing sight. This was not what struck me, however—I could see rich land like this in Australia.

What really impacted me was the utter *enormity* of the blessed land below. It seemed like it would never end. Other than some comparatively small sections of desert, the land from one side of the nation to the other was decked with forests, lakes, grasslands and crops. *This was agricultural wealth on a scale far surpassing that of any other nation!*

The United States leads the world in agricultural production. Agricultural exports are forecast to reach a record \$61.5 billion in 2004 (U.S. Department of Agriculture press release, May 26). Every day, thousands of tons of fruits, vegetables and meats grown in America are loaded on container ships en route to the hungry bellies of people living in the four corners of the globe.

America blazes the path in agricultural research and development. Working in tandem, American scientists and farmers have developed some of the most advanced insecticides, herbicides, fertilizers and farming practices.

America's domination of global agriculture is seen as one of the few stable sectors of the U.S. economy. "About two thirds of the land in the 48 contiguous states is tied up in agriculture. Farming and related businesses account for about 12 percent of U.S. gross domestic product and about 17 percent of American jobs according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]" (*Wall Street Journal*, June 18). The U.S. economy is dependent upon its traditionally strong agricultural sector.

Due to this tradition of stability, the last thing many Americans would ex-



pect is for their country's agricultural supremacy to begin to wane. As a result of this naivety, too many analysts are failing to see America's coming agricultural downfall.

The seeds of this downfall have been sown. In fact, *this foretold demise of America's God-given, booming agricultural industry is currently underway.* America's agricultural dominion is being threatened. Problems such as increasing competition, rising production costs, unpredictable weather, catastrophic natural disasters, declining soil quality and rising global anti-American sentiment are steadily destroying this critically important sector.

And as strange as it might seem, the above problems are NOT the *root cause* of America's agricultural demise.

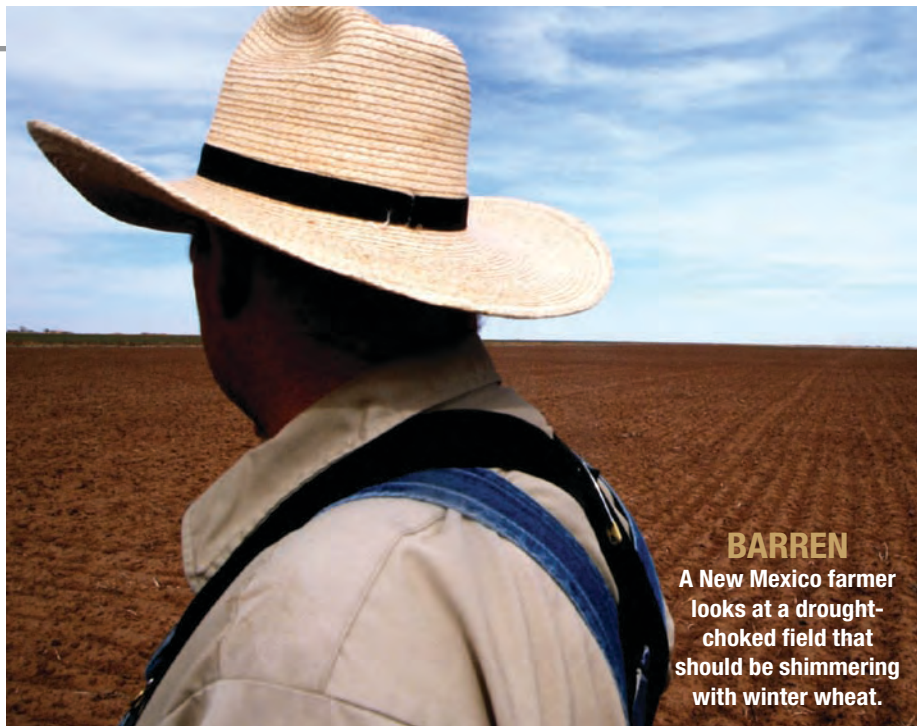
**International Rivals** Notice this analysis from the *Wall Street Journal*: "America's run as a wheat powerhouse, and the *dominant player in global agriculture*, is under attack from a crop of newly emboldened, low-cost international rivals who are striking at one of the *main pillars of American economic might*: food exports" (ibid.; emphasis mine throughout). Ponder that statement. This is not talking about a simple dip in America's wheat production. Rather, IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE DOWNFALL OF THE WORLD'S AGRICULTURAL POWERHOUSE. The end result, for Americans especially, will be devastating!

Because of the removal of trade barriers, open access to technology, development of stronger, more resilient crops and cheap labor, many of the less agriculturally advanced nations are now producing increasingly larger volumes of fruits and vegetables.

While the U.S. still leads this global "farms race," other nations are on its heels, poised, ready to snatch the pole position. Wine from Chile, tomatoes from Mexico, soybeans from Brazil, flowers from Europe, apples from China. These are just a few sectors where U.S. farmers are being threatened. In some cases, free-trade markets are making it cheaper for American food chains to import some fruits and vegetables from Latin America as opposed to buying the same produce from American farmers.

Let's review the wheat industry as an example of America's declining agricultural influence.

In the 1980s, the U.S. controlled *over half* the wheat on the world market. Am-



**BARREN**  
A New Mexico farmer looks at a drought-choked field that should be shimmering with winter wheat.

ber waves of grain rolled across virtually the entire central U.S. Wheat farmers earned enough money from the land to live comfortably. American wheat was central to the global food chain.

Today, America supplies little more than *one fifth* of the world's wheat exports. Waves of grain have become patches growing in the soil between the shining seas. And in many cases, government subsidies are what hold farmers back from bankruptcy.

China is now the world's leading wheat producer, with more than 90 other nations also producing wheat. Adding insult to injury, many of these nations are producing wheat less expensively than U.S. farmers and with seeds and technology designed and produced in America.

Russia, in one of the greatest agricultural comebacks in history, has re-established itself as a major producer of grain. During the 20th century, famine, political instability and economic hardship devastated Russia's once-booming wheat industry. In the late 1980s, 18 percent of Russia's wheat was imported from America. Nowadays, "wheat is once again pouring out of Russia in volumes rarely seen since the days of the czars" (ibid.). Ironically, the resurrection of Russia's wheat industry has largely been fueled by America's preparedness to remove trade barriers and American farming technology. The USDA reports that over the next year, Russia, together with neighboring Ukraine and Kazakhstan, will supply 11 percent of global

wheat exports. "Using mostly American equipment, a farm in Ukraine set the record last year for the most acres of grain planted in a day (1,413)" (ibid.).

There has been a stark turnaround in global wheat production, and the U.S. is worse off for it. While wheat production in Russia, China and India is skyrocketing, the total acreage devoted to wheat in America has fallen to its lowest in 30 years. Some economists are even predicting that within 20 years America will no longer be a net exporter of wheat.

Perhaps you are wondering why a decline in America's wheat production is a bad thing. Is there anything wrong with importing wheat, or any other fruits or vegetables for that matter? Before we answer these questions, let's review further proof of America's agricultural demise.

**Rising Costs** American agriculture is being attacked from every direction. While staunch competition from other nations is an external pressure facing American farmers, internal problems such as rising farming costs, restrictive legislation, unpredictable and catastrophic weather and declining soil quality are further compounding the concerns of America's farmers. In America, farming is becoming an increasingly stressful business.

In many cases, American farmers are faced with far more political, legal and economic restrictions than farmers in most other nations. These restrictions are driving the cost of American farming higher and higher. Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau Fed-

eration, identified this concern for U.S. farmers several years ago: “The concern over wage rates and other labor costs like workers’ compensation, unemployment insurance and housing requirements would be immaterial if our *global competitors* also had to comply with a similar set of labor standards,” he said. “The top five U.S. importers of fruit—Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala—have no corresponding set of labor requirements or costs” (Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Sept. 29, 2000).

The result of higher production costs is an increase in the price of the produce itself. Many Americans have probably noticed this at their grocery store. But while it is possible for American grocers to pass the increased cost on to the public, the consumers of American agricultural products abroad oftentimes cannot afford the higher price. In this predicament, the importing nation has two main options. It can either shop around for a cheaper supplier of produce, or it can put pressure on American farmers to reduce the price of their produce. Since this last option is not economically viable for the farmer, the American government will oftentimes step in and make up the difference to the farmer. Many American crops are sold to less-developed nations at a price cheaper than what it cost for the farmer to produce the product. This monetary assistance from the government is called an agricultural subsidy, and in the case of many American farmers, this is what is keeping them in the farming business.

In 2002, the U.S. government paid American farmers over \$15 billion in agricultural subsidies, and more than \$18 billion in 2003. Recent economic studies indicate that the average American farmer subsidy is \$16,000 per year. At the end of the day, it is the American taxpayer who is paying these subsidies.

Why then does America even bother selling agricultural commodities to other nations at such a low price, forcing the government to intervene? It is simply because agriculture, which is one of the largest sectors of the American economy, relies PRIMARILY on the export market. Farmers must produce more than the amount needed just for U.S. consumers in order to justify their investment—otherwise they would go out of business. U.S. farmers MUST export their food for the American agriculture industry to remain alive. If American agribusiness were to die, it would drastically impact the U.S. economy as a whole.

But that process is already underway. “In perhaps the sharpest sign that American agriculture is stagnating, the combined acreage dedicated to the nation’s major crops slipped this spring *despite the broadest rally of farm commodity prices in decades*” (*Wall Street Journal*, op. cit.). Something is drastically wrong here!

American farmers receive more money now for their crops than they have in decades, yet this is not encouraging more crop production. Despite the higher income being received for their produce, farmers still can’t cover their rising costs. For the most part, agriculture is simply not a profitable business to be in anymore. This sector of the American economy will soon face a crisis!

**Environmental Factors** Americans who have watched television lately know that the nation has suffered through a number of severe weather crises. There is no end in sight to the drought that has dried up western states over the past five years. This past spring and summer, almost the entire eastern seaboard of the U.S. experienced cooler and wetter conditions. Floods have slammed southern states such as Texas and even southern Oklahoma. Unusually fierce thunderstorms have hit central and Midwest states. Weird weather has impacted almost the entire nation—from one coast to the other.

Uncharacteristic weather causes serious problems for American farmers. The results of flooding and droughts to crops and farmland are fairly obvious. Without water, plants don’t grow. With too much water, plants don’t grow. But what might not be so obvious is the impact that UNTIMELY weather can have on agriculture. For instance, heavy rain on a recently sowed field can wash seeds away. Unseasonably cool and wet weather in summer can hinder the growth of crops. Early frosts can destroy newly budding fruit. Shorter and warmer winter weather can disturb insect growth patterns, even allowing them to remain alive, increasing the potential for higher insect numbers in the growing season.

Although serious weather problems like the West’s drought are severely impacting the nation’s agriculture, *unpredictable* weather patterns are also mak-

ing it more difficult for farmers to consistently produce crops. Because of wobbly market prices and weather patterns, farmers constantly face the stressful decision of what crop to plant and when to plant it. Where U.S. farmers were once able to rely on fairly consistent weather patterns in their efforts to farm, the plague of unpredictable weather is just another factor working against them.

Also of serious concern is the declining soil quality of much of America’s farmland. The entire population of the world (over 6 billion people) relies on the top 7-10 inches of soil covering the Earth. The grass our animals eat, the vegetables we eat, the fruit we eat—all of it is grown in those top few inches of soil. The soil you walk on is absolutely critical to your health and wellbeing. It should be alarming to learn that this critical topsoil is steadily being destroyed and washed away. In 2001, 1.8 billion tons of topsoil was eroded from America’s cropland. The erosion process is made easier by farming practices such as intensive plowing, monoculture and overgrazing of livestock.

After World War II, the use of chemicals in farming dramatically increased. Since then, fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides have made farming easier, enabling farmers to more easily control weeds and insects, as well as produce more. But what price have we paid for this efficiency? Healthy soil has a fragile balance between minerals, organic matter and biological matter. Conceived by German chemist Justus von Liebig in the mid-1800s, chemical fertilizers were originally designed to supplement and MAINTAIN a healthy soil. During the mid-20th century, America’s population boomed. Americans got richer, and society changed. To meet the rising demands of the people, farmers were forced to expedite the growth of crops, and chemical fertilizers became popular. Since that time, consistent use of chemicals, combined with other factors such as soil erosion, has harmed the natural balance of the soil, and overall soil quality in the U.S. has declined.

In most cases in America, it would be impossible to grow produce in mass quantity now WITHOUT giving the crop

**In the 1980s, the U.S. controlled over half the wheat on the world market. Today, America supplies less than one quarter of the world’s wheat exports.**





## GREENERY

A farm panorama evokes the agricultural abundance and economic strength the United States has enjoyed for decades.

a dose of chemical fertilizer, insecticide and herbicide. The use of chemicals has become a critical practice in American agriculture. An invention that was designed to supplement the soil has literally destroyed it—and had a detrimental impact on the quality of the produce grown and thus on consumers' health.

**Why Is Agriculture Important?** By this point you might be thinking, *Why is this so important? What would be wrong with simply importing our produce from other nations?* Well, ask yourself this question: What if you were to consistently rely on an acquaintance, not even a friend, to purchase your food for you? If you were to do this, one argument, one disagreement or one bad day for your acquaintance and your food supply would be in jeopardy. It would be ludicrous of you to rely on someone you cannot trust to supply your food. This same principle applies to U.S. agriculture.

America simply cannot afford to rely on other nations to feed it. No nation on Earth will put another nation before itself. Relying on agricultural imports from other nations puts America at the mercy of the rest of world. And with anti-American sentiment increasing globally, relying on a consistent supply of food from other nations would be a high risk.

This trend was recognized in an article in the *Christian Science Monitor*. "In subtle and not-so-subtle ways, *America's troubled world standing* is beginning to color its business relationships abroad. ... In what many view as an era of bold political unilateralism by the United States, negotiators working cross-border deals for U.S. firms in Latin America, Europe and Asia now find themselves facing a precipitous shift in their homeland's image abroad" (June 28). Slowly but steadily, America is being marginalized. Although the U.S. presently holds top position in

global agriculture, other nations are providing competition, and soon you will see this marginalization of U.S. interests impact the agricultural sector.

The *Wall Street Journal* made the same point: "This 'farms race' has implications beyond agriculture. America's influence on issues such as international trade owes much to its *domination of food*. ... *The shift is shaking a foundation of America's economic might*" (op. cit.). The critical importance of the agricultural industry to America's economy is another reason why the nation cannot afford to rely on other nations for food. As stated earlier, 12 percent of the U.S. GDP is from agriculture. U.S. agriculture and related businesses provide more than 17 percent of American jobs. Destruction of America's agriculture could easily lead to the destruction of the American economy.

A downfall in American agriculture has the potential to thrust the nation at the mercy of other countries for food—at the same time as it precipitates a nationwide economic crisis. The consequences of such a downfall would impact the life of every American, not just farmers.

**The Real Cause** The previously mentioned reasons for America's agricultural downfall are easy to understand. There is tangible evidence proving their veracity. But do you understand the **CAUSE** of these problems? America has more farmland than any other nation on Earth, yet its farmers face stiff competition from the farmers of smaller, less advanced nations. What is behind America's unpredictable weather patterns? What is behind the global anti-American trend that will impact American agriculture? The answer to these questions is at the heart and core of the impending downfall of American agriculture.

In his 1863 address advocating a national fast day, Abraham Lincoln

summed up **WHY** America has such vast wealth, and also **WHY** America could lose this wealth. Lincoln stated, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God ... and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. ... *We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven*. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. *We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation ever has grown; BUT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD*. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

President Lincoln knew that America's agricultural wealth was a gift from God. You too can learn about God's great gift of wealth to America by requesting your free copy of *The United States and Britain In Prophecy*. In this book, Herbert W. Armstrong clearly and definitively shows that the peoples of America and Britain are descendants of the biblical patriarch Joseph, great-grandson to Abraham.

In this book, Mr. Armstrong comments on President Lincoln's words: "Abraham Lincoln *knew* these great material blessings had not been earned, but had been *given* to our people by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel.

"And we should face the facts today and *know* that we were given all this vast unprecedented material wealth because God *promised* it, unconditionally, to Abraham. And He promised it to Abraham because Abraham obeyed God, kept God's laws and commandments."

America's unprecedented agricultural wealth is a result of our patriarch



Abraham's obedience, while our present decline and future downfall is a result of OUR disobedience and rejection of God and His laws. THE ROOT CAUSE BEHIND AMERICA'S AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS IS THE NATION'S FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THAT ITS WEALTH WAS GIVEN TO IT BY GOD, WHICH HAS LED TO ITS PEOPLES VAINLY REJECTING THE LAWS OF GOD. For this reason, God has cursed this nation.

The curse of international competition was prophesied in Deuteronomy 28:33: "The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed away."

Unpredictable weather patterns were prophesied in verse 24: "The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed."

Poor soil quality resulting in fewer crops was prophesied in verse 18: "Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep."

Insects that would destroy our crops were prophesied in verse 39: "Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them."

Even the global anti-American sentiment soon to impact our agricultural trade was prophesied in verse 25: "The Lord shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth."

Practically every reason behind the failure of American agriculture today was prophesied over 3,000 years ago—and the fruits prove these prophecies accurate. Surely this is proof that the Bible is God's Word.

But throughout the Bible, scriptures also paint a picture of the world beyond today's agricultural problems. Termed the World Tomorrow by Mr. Armstrong, this will be a time of agricultural wealth not experienced by mankind today (write for your free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*).

**Tomorrow's Agriculture** What I saw flying in the skies over America was truly an amazing sight—although it is disappearing fast. But what you will see if flying through the skies in the World Tomorrow will be far grander. At that time, the ENTIRE WORLD will have agricultural wealth that far surpasses the remnant

blessings that America has today. Here's a picture of what you might see on a flight in the coming World Tomorrow.

As you look down from your window seat, it appears as if the entire globe is tucked in with a multicolored quilt. The oceans are a rich dark blue. Every shade of green covers the land. A variety of rich, bright flowers and crops bloom on the dark brown soil. Immediately you notice the absence of massive, concrete cities covered with a thin haze of pollution. Smaller cities and towns dot the countryside. From coast to coast, every nation's land is speckled with houses and barns. Plowshares and pruninghooks lean up against barn walls. What seems like millions of people are out working on the land. Some are harvesting grapes, others are planting crops. None of them are using any sort of chemical. The perfectly balanced soil grows healthy crops and pasture.

Meandering through every nation are blue rivers that provide water for vegetation, animals and humans. Thousands of small tributaries flow into the rivers.

The land is like nothing you have ever witnessed. Cattle graze on lush grass growing on land you once knew to be the great Sahara Desert of Africa. Just a few hundred miles north in the Middle East, the vegetation changes and great forests are the norm. Stately trees pepper the once parched and dry land. Streams of water flow through the countryside. There are no dust storms. No erosion.

Over all the land, the topsoil is tens of feet deep. It is rich and nutritious. Herds of cattle, sheep, buffalo and bison graze the pastures.

In tomorrow's world, delegates from nations trade with each other. It's evident that the spirit of cooperation has replaced the spirit of competition. All the nations have something to offer. Each country is content with its own land.

As a result of this global agricultural wealth, there are no starving people. No one goes hungry. There is no disease or malnutrition. Men that you knew to be soldiers are now farmers. Everywhere you look there is happiness and excitement, abundance and wealth.

God's plan for mankind is playing out precisely as He intended. This new world of agricultural bliss is rapidly approaching! ■

If you want to learn more about God's master plan, don't hesitate to request your free copy of *Mystery of the Ages*.



throughout). For being a traditionally key player in the evolution of Europe, France was essentially shafted. And France's bad fortune didn't end there.

"Barroso put the Netherlands, Ireland and the United Kingdom—the three most economically liberal members of the old EU 15, *who often find themselves at odds with France's Eurosocijalism*—in charge of competition policy, internal markets and trade policy, arguably the three most critical positions for determining the broad direction of the Union's economic evolution" (ibid.). Even the smaller nations of Latvia and Hungary were given greater portfolios than France—taxation and customs, and energy, respectively.

To offset France's disappointing assignment, it, along with Germany, Estonia, Italy and Sweden, was given the position of vice president of the European Commission.

Although Germany did not receive the position of "super-commissioner" as it had hoped—a position yet to be created which would combine several economic posts into one—it still received the important portfolio of enterprise and industry, as well as vice president. Germany continues to wield significant influence in the European Commission.

There is no mistaking that France's role in the EU is being reduced. "Figure in that trade, a portfolio that the French held in the last Commission, is now in British hands and that the new 'foreign minister of the EU' position created by the new constitution operates only with unanimous consent of EU members, *and it is clear that France has lost all of its levers over the European Union's external affairs*" (ibid.).

Remember, France's diminishing role in the EU is only significant as it relates to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. And while prophecy does not specifically discuss France's waning influence, it DOES discuss Germany's *increasing* influence. France's diminution of leadership will allow Germany's influence over Europe to grow.

The time of France riding Germany's coattails in the leadership of Europe is about to end. As time goes on, you will see Germany share the leadership of Europe less and less with other European nations. France's failure to receive a significantly influential position in the European Commission is one of the first signs of this key trend in European affairs to watch. ■



AP/WIDEWORLD

**STRIKING OIL** Resource-dry Germany is eager to help Sudan tap its vast reserves.

## GERMANY

### Exploiting Africa

**A** PROPHECY IS UNFOLDING in Africa, one that was proclaimed over 2,500 years ago. This prophecy revolves around a need that is common to every nation: natural resources.

The quest for natural resources has always been at the heart of nation and empire building. Great Britain was great largely because of the vast natural wealth at its disposal at the height of its empire. The United States has incredible agricultural and mineral wealth. The Arab nations that are wealthy are so because they have oil supplies that are globally desired.

Right now, oil is particularly important in Europe, where high and rising oil prices—nearly \$49 a barrel as of this writing—have the potential to significantly

hamper economic growth throughout the region. The chief European economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland Financial Markets said, “Europe is looking pretty fragile anyway, so this oil price shock comes at a bad time as far as growth is concerned” (Associated Press, August 19). With oil having averaged \$29 a barrel from early 2000 to August 2004, the 68 percent increase truly

is a shock! Germany, which imports 97.2 percent of its oil, is particularly vulnerable.

As a nation, Germany is resource poor, a fact that hurt it in both world wars. Therefore, it should be no surprise when Germany tries to overcome that resource deficiency today. The German nation has already, literally, begun to lay the groundwork. To overcome this problem, it *must* look outside its own borders.

An opportunity has specifically arisen in Sudan, best known right now for the genocide occurring in Darfur. Many may not realize that this fighting is taking place on top of some of the most valuable real estate on planet Earth. “[I]n the region of the South Sudanese civil war, immense oil resources were discovered during the past five years along with extensive minerals (gold, diamonds) which, because of the fight-

ing, could not be developed. According to most recent estimates it could be the second-largest deposit in the world” ([www.german-foreign-policy.com](http://www.german-foreign-policy.com), July 27). Right now, no commodity is more badly needed than oil. That puts Sudan squarely in the sights of any nation needing that resource. Enter Germany.

The autonomous South Sudanese government has awarded a German company, Thormaehlen Schweisstechnik-Welding Engineering, a contract to build a 2,500-mile railroad line that is “considered a nucleus of a future East African free-trade zone. ... The representative of the company confirms that the recently awarded railroad line Juba-Mombasa shall establish the ‘connection with the Western-oriented world.’ The German company states that in addition ‘there will surely be the continuation of a pipeline into the south” (ibid.). This will provide Germany with exactly the sort of access to natural resources it has sought throughout the last century. The fantastic wealth lying dormant in the Sudanese earth will be tapped and

GETTY IMAGES



**IN TUNISIA** Africa was a key part of Nazi strategy in World War II.

available to Germany.

The *Trumpet* has always predicted that Germany will enter Africa for resources. In July 2000, for example, the article “Europe’s African

Pillage” invited readers to “learn the advance news of Europe’s long-planned domination of the resource-rich continent of Africa.”

Long before that, in September 1966, the *Plain Truth* wrote about Europe’s desire for African resources as outlined in a Nazi document: “A captured document circulated from the Nazi geopolitical center in Madrid in 1951 outlined the new plan. ... This startling document lays bare plans for a powerful united German-led Europe with Africa as its raw materials storehouse.”

What’s more, your Bible predicted this development before the birth of Jesus Christ! Long ago, the Prophet Daniel prophesied that a united Europe, described as a “little horn,” would push south into the Mediterranean and Africa, then east into the glorious land, or Jerusalem (Daniel 8:9). He also revealed that Europe would possess the key to the African treasure chest: “But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps” (Daniel 11:43).

Yesterday’s prophecies are today’s news!

Today we see Germany preparing itself to more fully exploit the region. By carefully studying the Bible, we can predict the end result. We can know how Europe will act, how Africa will be exploited—and how the situation ultimately will be resolved by Jesus Christ Himself, who will return with all power

to establish a perfect government that will not exploit the African nations—a loving government with “judgment and with justice” that will never end (Isaiah 9:7).



## New World Ethic: Same Old Roman Empire

A GERMAN POLITICAL party talking of a “superior culture” spreading around the world is merely a relic of Nazi Germany and the past, right? Sadly, no.

Germany’s largest opposition party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), recently called for the establishment of a new “World Ethic.” A theme paper, issued by the Values Commission of the largely Catholic CDU, states the new ethic would be created by the “positive forces” of globalization, which it defines as the “propagation of international valid standards.” It trumpets the “International

Social Market Economy ... as the foundation of a world-embracing moral canon, such as existed in the Roman Empire” ([www.german-foreign-policy.com](http://www.german-foreign-policy.com), July 17).

By spreading legal order and its “superior culture,” Rome secured the “unity of its empire,” the paper stated. Likewise, the CDU hopes to create a “worldwide alliance for freedom, human rights and an International Social Market Economy,” by spreading Western ideals through globalization (*ibid.*).

These are disturbing proclamations from Germany, a nation which



led the world into two world wars with ideas on its “superior culture.” In effect, the CDU, by using the Roman Empire as a model, is hoping to launch a new Holy Roman Empire led by Germany.

It also claims Islam, not just Islamic fundamentalism, is the “unbridgeable opposition” to this superior culture possessed by Europe

and North America. CDU Chairman Angela Merkel has said the new “World Ethic” is based on “the Christian view of mankind” and must be raised to a binding norm “universally.”

No longer is this thinking attributed to a few neo-Nazi extremists; it is now mainstream. A major political party has issued a theme remarkably similar to that of the Nazi Party, and it has stirred no controversy! These are the same kind of statements Germany made before two world wars.

The paper falsely attributes the social market to Anglo-Saxon (British Commonwealth and U.S.) traditions. Ironically, this social market corporatism has always been a source of *conflict* between continental Europe and Anglo-Saxon traditions, not a unifying bond.

These remarks are being made in Germany just when neo-Nazism is on the rise and remorse over World War II has faded from public consciousness. Because of a stalled economy and soaring unemployment, the CDU stands to make strong gains in Germany’s next general elections.

Continue to watch as an emboldened Germany spreads its nationalist and socialist ideas to resurrect a new Holy Roman Empire. For more information, order a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

## Zimbabwe: Voting for Food?

FOR THE UPCOMING U.S. election, both candidates are expending millions of dollars hoping to garner more votes for their side. The public is being inundated with television and radio ads, bumper stickers, and signs planted in people’s yards. But there is one idea neither candidate has tried: trading food for votes.

In Zimbabwe, this tactic may already be in use. Human Rights Watch said the Zimbabwean government may be planning to “use food scarcity as a political weapon” (*Guardian*, London, August 13). In Zimbabwe, maize—the country’s staple grain—must be transported and delivered by the state Grain Marketing Board. “Many witnesses say grain board officials turn away those who do not have a Zanu-PF card” (*ibid.*). Zanu-PF is the party of President Robert Mugabe, who has a history of using corrupt election tactics.

Of course, this is only relevant if there *is* food scarcity in Zimbabwe. Mugabe claims there is not; the government is forecasting a bumper harvest of 2.6 million tons of maize. But the international community disagrees with his optimistic assessment.



**SATISFIED** Zanu-PF supporters cheer their leader in a rally.

According to the summary of a report released in June by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee, “A total of 2.3 million people will not be able to meet their minimum cereal needs during the 2004-2005 season.”

Zimbabwe’s presidential elections in 2002 featured this same tactic—food being used as a bribe—along with violence and vote rig-

ging, which have been common for many years. In an effort to improve relations with the European Union and the United States by ensuring these practices do not continue, Zimbabwe’s neighbors met at a two-day summit of the Southern African Development Community in August. “[T]hirteen southern African leaders approved a new regional charter on free and fair elections that specifies how they should be conducted to guarantee democracy” (Agence France Presse, August 18). President Mugabe himself made reference to the “free and fair” parliamentary elections that would be held in Zimbabwe March next year, knowing full well that this charter is aimed squarely at him. His own reelection is coming up in 2008.

EUROPE

## Pushing Israel's Door Open

**A**MID RECENT TENSION between Europe and Israel, the European Union has made some strident demands for continued involvement in the Middle East peace process. On a visit to Israel on July 23, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana told Israelis that the EU “is a very important international power and is going to play a role here *whether you like it or not*” (*Jerusalem Post*, July 25; emphasis ours throughout).

This hostile statement came in response to Israeli anger over the EU's vote against Israel's security barrier in the United Nations three days earlier. The UN resolution demanded Israel abide by the ruling of the International Court of Justice earlier in the month, which stated that the Israeli security barrier is illegal and must be dismantled.

The 451-mile West Bank barrier currently under construction is intended to increase security for Israelis by impeding the movement of suicide bombers. Even Solana admits the fence has already saved many lives. However, by a vote of 150 to 6 (with 10 nations abstaining), the UN General Assembly agreed that the fence should be dismantled because it cuts through Palestinian territory. The EU's vote was unanimous in support of the resolution.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon responded by telling Solana, basically, that if the EU kept voting against Israel on security issues, it couldn't expect to remain involved in the peace process.

Solana's fiery reaction to Sharon's threat, *insisting* on Europe's continued involvement, shows how important the region is to the EU.

“Europe has friends, neighbors and *strategic interests* in the Middle East, Solana said, adding that the EU *would not* be frozen out of the region's peace efforts” (*ibid.*).

In reference to the level of EU involvement in the peace process, Solana stated at a press conference, “We *don't have any limitation on that*. We will do it economically, we will do it politically” (United Press International, July 22). He then elaborated on the EU's “experience in sending *police and military forces* to other trouble spots in the world ...” (*ibid.*).

Europe certainly is not being put off by Israel's resistance to its “help”! “The security of Israel and the protection of the Israeli people is something we have always supported and we'll continue to support,” Solana said (*Jerusalem Post*, July 23).



**DIVISIVE** The EU voted against Israel's security barrier.

Solana's spokeswoman, Christina Gallach, said she had “no doubt” that Israel and the EU would continue to work together. “We are convinced that Israel does not want to isolate itself,” she said (*ibid.*). This implied

threat became even more specific when—referring to an EU-Israel agreement signed earlier in the month in preparation for Israel's involvement in the Galileo satellite project—Gallach said, “We are absolutely convinced that Israel wants to preserve that agreement ...” (*ibid.*). Although Gallach said there wasn't any indication that the EU would cancel the agreement, the point was made: It would be in Israel's best interests to cooperate with Europe.

The Palestinians, for their part—being recipients of large amounts of aid from the EU—are *insisting* on Europe's involvement, with Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat stating, “I don't see how there can be a peace process without the EU” (Associated Press, July 23). It is true: There is no way Israel *can* remove Europe from the peace process completely, for it is “inextricably tied” to it via Europe's ongoing rela-

## Vatican: Turkey Too Muslim for EU

**O**NCE AGAIN THE VATICAN has stirred up controversy. It has let its true colors show by opposing Turkey's accession to the European Union.

In an interview with France's *Le Figaro* magazine in August, Joseph Ratzinger, one of the Roman Catholic Church's leading cardinals, said Turkey is “in permanent contrast to Europe,” and to allow it to join the EU would be a blunder (*International Herald Tribune*, August 16). To back up his point, Ratzinger described the Ottoman Empire's history of invading Europe in past centuries.

Put simply, Ratzinger discards Turkey because he sees the EU as a *Christian* union. He and other Catholic conservatives are concerned that allowing a predominantly Muslim secular country of nearly 70 million people into the EU would cause a loss of Europe's Christian identity.

In the Turkish media, Ratzinger was quoted as saying that cultural riches should



**Ratzinger**

not be sacrificed for the sake of economic riches. His solution? Turkey could “try to set up a cultural continent with neighboring Arab countries and become the leading figure of a culture with its own identity” (*EU Observer*, August 16).

Turkey is gaining some support for EU membership from Germany, Britain and Spain; the decision of whether or not to begin accession negotiations

will be made in December. The question is, does the EU control the Vatican, or does the Vatican control the EU? Time will soon show that the Vatican is gaining a tight grip on the EU. This is also what Bible prophecy predicts. (For more on this, see “The Unifying Power” under Editor's Choice at [www.theTrumpet.com](http://www.theTrumpet.com).) That is how we know Muslim Turkey can never be part of the EU.

Additionally, the Bible prophesies that Catholic-dominated Europe will clash with an Islamic power bloc. Our free booklet *The King of the South* explains this truth.



tionship with the Palestinians (Stratfor, July 23).

The EU's insistence on being involved in the Middle East peace process while at the same time condemning Israel's own efforts at security shows that Europe does *not* have Israel's best interests at heart. What Europe really wants—as history, current events and biblical prophecy reveal—is control of Jerusalem (request *Jerusalem in Prophecy*). This is why, as our editor in chief wrote back in December

1996, “The European Union is moving to be the heavy-weight in the Middle East.”

Israel is rebuffing Europe for now; it does not trust Europe. But Israel has few friends—and few options. The time will soon come when it *will* welcome Europe's involvement in its security.

In the meantime, watch for conciliatory behavior from Europe as it seeks to justify a peacekeeping role for itself—which will lead to Jerusalem being surrounded with armies (Luke 21:20).



**MANEUVERS** Chinese soldiers march in Hong Kong in August.

## CHINA

### Gearing Up

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC of China is making new efforts to modernize its military. China's recent hardware acquisitions, and the restructuring of its military leadership, are part of its plan to become a more dominant player in the Southeast Asia region.

China has covertly produced a new type of attack submarine, apparently a hybrid of Chinese hardware and Russian weaponry. These Yuan-class non-nuclear powered submarines would help China build up submarine forces that could counter U.S. aircraft carriers in the event of a confrontation over Taiwan. The Pentagon is also aware that China is con-

structing two nuclear-powered submarines.

Not only this, but the European Union is considering lifting its 15-year arms embargo, which would accelerate China's ability to produce more-powerful weapon systems.

Although China's changes have many thinking trouble for Taiwan, China's efforts at modernizing its military have broader implications.

China's military goals link with Bible prophecy. China is prophesied to join forces with Russia and other Asian powers to face off with a united Europe and threaten the whole world. For further details, please request a copy of our booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*, and continue to watch as China enhances its military capability.

## IN BRIEF

### EUROPE

#### Eurocorps in Afghanistan

German Embassy Online, August 10

“EUROCORPS ASSUMED command of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan on August 9, the first deployment of Eurocorps outside of Europe. Eurocorps, headquartered in Strasbourg, France, is a multinational force with contingents from Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Spain.

... Overall, approximately 7,000 soldiers from 33 countries—including about 2,000 from Germany—make up ISAF.”

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Quotable

Iraq's Economy and Treasure minister in Iran, August 2

“BAGHDAD SERIOUSLY favors strengthening bonds of friendship with Tehran. ... Iran and Iraq, as two friendly neighbors, need to take long strides toward broadening the scope of bilateral cooperation. ... Iran is Iraq's friend, and ... we all need to do our best to pave the way for strengthening the bonds of friendship.”

### ASIA

#### N. Korea Going Ballistic

The Age (Australia), August 5

“NORTH KOREA IS DEPLOYING new ballistic missiles that can carry nuclear warheads and may have sufficient range to hit the U.S. mainland .... *Jane's [Defense Weekly]* said North Korea had customized a dozen scrapped Russian submarines to launch ballistic weapons of mass destruction. ... Apart from aiming at the U.S., South Korea or Japan, cash-strapped North Korea might try to sell the technology to countries that have bought its missiles in

the past, with Iran a prime candidate ....”

#### Japan Told to Put Article 9 in File 13

Stratfor, August 13

“IF JAPAN WANTS A permanent seat on the UN Security Council, it first must revise its pacifist Constitution, says U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. The Japanese news agency Kyodo quoted Powell as saying that Japan would have to re-examine Article 9 of its constitution, which renounces the right to go to war and forbids a military.”

### U.S.

#### Adjustable-Rate Bombs

Financial Times (London), July 26

“THE CONSUMER FEDERATION of America [released] a report warning of a potential financial ‘time-bomb’ because of the strong interest of low-income consumers in adjustable-rate mortgages at a time of rising interest rates. ... [A]s homes become increasingly difficult to afford and higher interest rates make fixed mortgages more expensive, more homebuyers are taking out more risky adjustable mortgages, for which the rate varies.” Keith Gumbinger, vice president at HSH Associates, an independent mortgage research firm, said, “Some of the products that are being originated today will turn into the foreclosures of tomorrow.”

### AFRICA

#### Plague du Jour: Locusts

BBC News, August 6

“NATIONS ACROSS NORTH-west Africa have appealed for aid to fight what could be the worst locust plague in 15 years. ... The swarms turned green trees to brown skeletons in a matter of hours .... ‘It's literally a crisis of biblical proportions,’ [Karen Homer of aid agency World Vision in Nouakchott] said.”

# The Unreachable Olympic Ideal

## IN CONTENTION

Spain's Pau Gasol attempts a dunk, contested by U.S. center Tim Duncan.

REUTERS

### BY ANDREW HESSONG

SINCE THE EIGHTH CENTURY, the Olympic Games have been accompanied by the declaration of an international truce. All nations are called upon to halt war from seven days before the games to seven days afterward, allowing participants and spectators to travel to and from the Olympics safely.

As the world stares terrorism and nuclear, biological and chemical Armageddon in the face, this truce is easily appreciated.

"[The] Olympic Truce means no war for 16 days during the Olympics, and hopefully no war beyond," said Greek Ambassador at Large Stavros Lambrinidis, director of the International Olympic Truce Center, concerning this summer's games in Greece. "It doesn't help much to stop fighting for two weeks, then go back to killing each other" (Athens News Agency, March 21, 2002).

The Olympics are intended to promote the ideals of peace and unity between people and nations. Every four years, the Olympics are held with the hope of illustrating friendship and fraternity in a desire for peace. The official Olympics website calls the games "the greatest celebration of humanity, an event of joy and optimism to which the

whole world is invited to compete peacefully" ([www.athens2004.com](http://www.athens2004.com)).

The Olympics, like few other events, portrays the human desire for peace. But at the same time, they reveal that man, of and by himself, is utterly incapable of ever reaching that lofty and magnificent goal.

The history of the Olympics demonstrates this fact. A brief look at the Olympics since they were reintroduced in 1896 shows the true heart of man.

**A Troubled History** The Berlin 1936 games, essentially commandeered by Hitler, were turned into a showcase of Aryan supremacy despite the wondrous achievements of a black American, Jesse Owens. Germany walked away with the largest number of medals, fueling the disastrous rise of German nationalism at home and abroad.

Sixteen years on, flying in the face of the ideals of peace and unity, the 1952 games in Helsinki, Finland, saw the growing seeds of the Cold War when Russia and the nations trapped behind the Iron Curtain were permitted to build their own Olympic Village, keeping their athletes separate from the West—a clear demonstration of hostility and mistrust. For 30 more years, Communist nations used the games to demonstrate their strength and desire for global dominance.

From the 1956 Melbourne games came the seeds of international politicization of the event. That year, the Netherlands and Spain pulled their teams because of the Russian invasion of Budapest, Hungary; Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq withdrew their teams in response to the Suez crisis, which was coordinated by Britain and France. China also withdrew because Taiwan was permitted to compete.

Despite the idea that politics was not to enter the Olympics arena, South Africa was kept from competing in the 1964 games in Tokyo because its team consisted of only white athletes—it refused to condemn apartheid.

Within just two weeks of the 1972 Munich games, 20 countries vowed to withdraw if Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was permitted to compete. And on the 11th day of the Olympics, terror ripped through the very games designed to promote peace. Terrorists from the Palestinian terrorist group "Black September" commandeered the Israeli team's residences, and the resulting shootout with police left 11 Israeli athletes dead.

In the 1976 Montreal games, the dispute over the legitimacy of Taiwan came up again. The United States threatened to pull its athletes until a compromise was reached permitting Taiwan to fly its flag and play its anthem but not permitting it to compete under the name China. When the dust finally cleared, Taiwan pulled its team anyway and went home. That same year, more than 20 African nations as well as Guyana and Iraq stated they would pull their teams if New Zealand was permitted to compete. The issue: The New Zealand rugby team had toured in racially segregated South Africa earlier in the year.

Then came the famous 1980 boycott of the Moscow games. After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 62 nations, including the United States, boycotted the games.

Of course, we must not forget the huge vote-buying scandal over the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics as well as the \$13 million in Olympic funds the Chinese have already misappropriated in their preparation for the 2008 games.



So much for the demonstration of peace, unity and fraternity!

**Unhealthy Competition** Clearly, on the national level, the Olympics have failed to reach their ideals. On the level of the individual athlete, the ideals are much more alive. However, even then, they often buckle under the weight of individual impropriety in pursuit of “Citius, Altius, Fortius”—faster, higher, stronger—the Olympic slogan. Individual athletes, like the nations they hail from, can demonstrate more concern with personal gain than with the ideology of integrity, peace and unity for mankind. In doing so, many have turned to performance-enhancing substances. It was necessary for a system to be set up to verify the integrity of the individuals who were supposedly embodying the Olympic ideals. The issue of banned and performance-enhancing substances has surrounded the Olympics for many years, but the problem is growing worse as new substances are becoming increasingly harder to detect—and thus increasingly tempting to use.

Before the games in Greece began, six athletes had already been rendered ineligible for doping. Today athletes attempt to use substances such as erythropoietin (to boost production of red blood cells) and human growth hormone. Last year, it was discovered that a new designer steroid, tetrahydrogestrinone, was being used by athletes—which disintegrated during the standard testing process. As a result, a new array of codes and sanctions, enforcers and testing protocol have been added. The latest development is insulin-like growth factor 1, which can add more muscle mass and strength and can be easily purchased on the Internet (National Public Radio, August 10).

Doctors became police for this year’s athletes. Forty-nine doctors checked each winner, along with 30 percent of all competitors. The checks looked for steroids, designer steroids, human growth hormone—and even went so far as to check if athletes had completed transfusions of their own blood to boost their stamina. Competition and dishonesty have become so pervasive that some Olympians even feared being sabotaged with drugs in their food or water, which would have resulted in disqualification and being banned for two years (*U.S. News & World Report*, August 9).

**1936 BERLIN, Germany ▶** Commandeered by Hitler, the games turn into a showcase of Aryan supremacy despite the wondrous achievements of a black American, Jesse Owens.



**▼ 1952 HELSINKI, Finland** Russia and the nations trapped behind the Iron Curtain are permitted to build their own Olympic village, keeping their athletes separate from the West.

**1956 MELBOURNE, Australia** The Netherlands and Spain pull their teams because of Russia’s invasion of Budapest. Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq withdraw in response to the Suez crisis. China withdraws because Taiwan is permitted to compete.



**1964 TOKYO, Japan** South Africa is banned from competing in the games because it refuses to condemn apartheid—its team consists of only white athletes.

**1972 MUNICH, Germany** 20 countries vow to withdraw if Rhodesia is permitted to compete. During the games, the Palestinian terrorist group “Black September” commandeers the Israeli team’s residences, killing 11 Israeli athletes.

**1976 MONTREAL, Canada** The U.S. threatens to pull its athletes if Taiwan is not permitted to take part. Taiwan ends up pulling its team. More than 20 African nations as well as Guyana and Iraq stated they would pull their teams if New Zealand was permitted to compete, because the New Zealand rugby team had toured in racially segregated South Africa earlier in the year.

**1980 MOSCOW, USSR ▶** After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, 62 nations, including the United States, boycott the games.



**Securing the “Olympic Spirit”** Casting a shadow over this year’s games was the stark reality of today’s terror-torn world. Because of terrorism, the games took place in a veritable fortress. Greece spent nearly \$1.2 billion on security. This is about five times what was spent in Sydney four years ago. Triple the personnel were used to protect the 10,500 athletes and 1.5 million visitors. In the Greek port of Piraeus, 11 cruise ships housed heads of state and other distinguished guests. The port area was in a virtual lock-down with seven aircraft, six helicopters, 656 coast guards and 213 defense personnel and was enclosed in a perimeter fence complete with sensors and closed-circuit TV. On standby were several teams of interventionists and diver units, explosive ordnance teams, explosive detection dogs and, of course, snipers. The airspace over Greece was restricted, and a 12,000-person joint military security force was ready. The northern border with Bulgaria was locked down, and a series of “lock downs” took place so security could sweep for things such as bombs. All in all,

the security for the 2004 Athens games is unparalleled in the history of the games.

Despite all noble efforts to promote peace, cooperation and fraternity, the nations and peoples of this world have proven that they are not capable of living in peace and cooperation with one another. There is no denying that overall, the Olympics actually further illustrate the deep problems within mankind. The Apostle Paul addressed these type of issues, calling them the works of the flesh: “... enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions” (Galatians 5:20; *New American Standard*).

Man’s dreams of world peace are just that—dreams. It is man’s very nature, under the influence of the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), that prevents the high Olympic ideals from being reached. Prophecy says that at this end time people will talk of peace while there is no peace (Ezekiel 13:10; Jeremiah 8:11). God makes plain in His Word that mankind does not know the way to peace (Revelation 3:17). It will take God’s intervention in world affairs to bring about world peace. That day is fast approaching. God speed the day. ■

## A HISTORY OF HATRED

SOCIETY IS JUBILANT ABOUT THE fact that the average life expectancy in the developed nations is rising. On the other hand, the increasing numbers of elderly are seen to be a mounting problem.

In 1950, the worldwide average life expectancy was 44. In 2002, that figure was 65, and it is expected to rise to 77 by 2050 (BBC News, April 8, 2002). So, it seems,

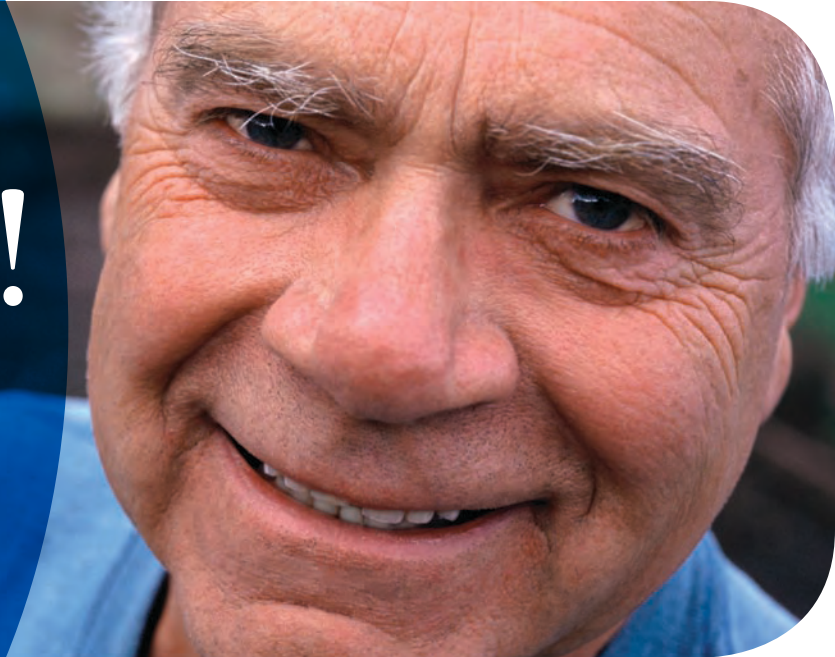
contact with grandparents. Not only are the young then deprived of valued and needed instruction, but just at a time when the elderly need the family, they are often rejected, abused and abandoned. WHAT A TRAVESTY!

This is in direct violation of God's plan for the family. He commanded, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land

In certain instances, this can lead to an even greater problem of age. An International Psychogeriatric Association press release, referring to findings of one of its directors, Dr. Eric Caine, stated, "Suicide rates are highest among the elderly and the situation appears to be getting worse. Depression is a primary factor in these deaths. Much of the depression occurs because of multiple small

# Improve With Age!

"You can't teach an old dog new tricks," the saying goes. Don't believe it! BY GARY RETHFORD



men and women want to live longer, but getting old is a problem. What a paradox!

Why do people fear getting old? One principal reason is the "throw away" mentality of our Western society. The social pressure to "keep up with the Joneses" means that not having the newest model or latest gadget is seen as being out of date. In like manner, we have been programmed to think getting old makes us second-class. That is planned human obsolescence! It is a destructive misconception.

Notice how our media promote the error: In advertisements, young, lively individuals are used to sell products aimed at encouraging us to look more handsome, pretty, muscular or successful, while older generations are used to advertise denture products, sleep inducers, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and the list goes on.

Society's throwaway mentality has other ramifications. Due to advances in transportation technology, family members often relocate great distances from each other. Children grow up and move away. Grandchildren have less

which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). The implication is that if we DO NOT honor our parents, our days will NOT be long upon our land. God also recorded: "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord" (Leviticus 19:32). It is all about respect for authority. If we do not respect and honor our elderly, we are showing disrespect and dishonor to God.

Society's perception of the elderly has indeed had a huge impact on how people view the "problem" of getting older. But it is not the only factor.

Generally speaking, it is a characteristic of youth to ignore the fact that if we live long enough, we all grow old. The result is that, in far too many cases, no provision is made for later years. Many young people notoriously live life by burning the candle at both ends. Physical or mental habits wrongly practiced in our youth often result in major health and emotional problems in senior years. This abuse of our bodies exacts a toll greater than the wear and tear the human body normally experiences as it gets older.

problems—medical and otherwise—exaggerated in the minds of an individual more often than because of terminal illness. People become 'demoralized and discouraged' by their declining physical abilities and assorted nagging problems, but the depression these difficulties generate is far more serious than whatever brought it on" (Aug. 19, 2003).

While the Caine report demonstrates that the problem is growing internationally, it certainly is already epidemic in those nations known to be modern Israel today—the peoples of Anglo-America. But it doesn't *have* to be this way for any individual. We do not have to fear getting old!

**Myths About Aging** In their book *Successful Aging*, John Rowe M.D. and Robert Kahn Ph.D. comment on six widely believed myths exposed by the most extensive and comprehensive study on aging in America, conducted by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

These myths are, first: "To be old is to be sick." Yes, the aging body is more prone to complaints, but the study re-



veals that as people age they are more likely to do it in a state of wellness rather than being ill. It is absolutely false to believe that just because you're getting older, you can't remain healthy.

The second myth is based on the saying "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." Not only is this untrue about old dogs, it is equally false about older humans. Because of what is termed *plasticity*, the human brain is now known to be capable of accumulating knowledge well past the onset of old age. Scientists have come to understand that the brain works a lot like a muscle—the more we use it, the better it functions. Age should never keep us from using our mental faculties. In fact, in this regard, the saying is very true: "Use it or lose it."

The third myth is described as "The horse is out of the barn," referring to the totally false belief that if a person didn't take care of his or her health when young, it's too late to do so in later years. God actually made the human body amazingly resistant to abuse. Replacing bad habits with good habits allows the body to begin the process of mending at any time in one's life—the earlier the better, of course. While there is no "fountain of youth," clean, healthful living is the best prescription for "anti-aging."

The fourth point they address is that successful aging is determined by heredity. Heredity, they show, is a factor, but it plays much less of a role than the choices we make. Here again, clean living and mental peace are far more important to the success of the aging process. Rowe's and Khan's research illustrates that the importance of genetics as a health factor shrinks as one grows older, while lifestyle habits become more influential.

Fifth in their list is, "The lights may be on, but the voltage is low." This stereotype has led society to believe that

the elderly suffer from inadequate mental and physical abilities. Such need *not* be the case. Scientists have come to understand that senility does not come with old age; it comes from lack of use of the brain. The saying "you're only as old as you think you are" is absolutely true.

The sixth myth is that elderly people do not pull their own weight. Probably the most virulent, this is a reference to the fact that Western societies tend to measure worth according to wealth or fame. We feel the need to know who the wealthiest person is, or what is happening with our favorite movie star. For that reason, unpaid production or selfless service is not always considered as "pulling one's weight." The truth is the diametric opposite. Those elderly who do volunteer work (and those many who work for pay), and give aid to families, friends and neighbors, are providing a valuable contribution to society.

**Make a Commitment** The fact is, sooner or later we're all going to get old. It's also a fact that only survivors reach old age. Therefore, when we reach the time of "old age," we ought to be rejoicing! WE HAVE SURVIVED! If you're there already, CONGRATULATIONS—WELL DONE! Now it's time to learn how to enjoy those well-earned years.

We need to make a commitment to stay active physically and mentally. If we broke the laws of health as a young person, we can still profit from obeying them now. Eat a balanced diet of whole foods. Exercise daily. Get plenty of rest. Begin to take a new look at life. GET EXCITED ABOUT LIFE! The truth is, life can get *better* with age!

Elderly people need to strive to be up to date on the happenings of today so younger people can find them more interesting. In addition, we certainly need to know what is happening in the world by staying abreast of world news. Traveling, hobbies and activities can now be enjoyed as our budget allows. Community centers and local colleges offer ways to improve. Take advantage of these opportunities.

Positive *mental* health is extremely important, and it is the area over which we have most control. One cause of discouragement at any age is the loss of self-worth. In our elder years it can be more devastating, because many begin to feel they are no longer needed. That is simply not true! This is almost always caused by focusing on the *self*. Those

See AGE page 31 ▶

## A National Resource

A nation's elder citizens should be considered a national resource. God says in Proverbs 16:31 and 20:29 that gray hair is a crown of glory. Our elderly are walking repositories of yesterday's treasures. The history of a nation—its society and culture—are living memories in them. Too much has been lost already because we have failed to draw on their wisdom, their strength and their resili-



HERBERT ARMSTRONG

ence. Our elders have learned through experience, and that is what sets them apart.

Many giant contributions to our nations have been given by individuals in their golden years. Winston Churchill, Leo Tolstoy and Charles de Gaulle are only a few examples. Arthur Rubinstein, famous pianist, was born in 1887, and for 85 of his 95 years he appeared with the world's major symphony orchestras.

Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of publications and colleges, blazed the path of truth and set a tremendous example of commitment. He lived a vigorous, productive life well into his 90s. Mr. Armstrong traveled throughout the world meeting world leaders as an unofficial ambassador for world peace. He positively affected the lives of millions of people through his encouraging and enlightening articles and broadcasts. Yet, he felt his most important work was accomplished during those later years. In his book *Mystery of the Ages*, he wrote, "I have lived a long, active, interest-packed life covering the last eight and a half years of the 19th century and all of the 20th to the present. ... And now, in my 93rd year, I have been led to write this book before this event-packed life ends, to share with as many as care to know, the answers that the great supreme mind of God reveals in His Word ..." Request a free copy of this tremendous book.

### The Seven Laws of Radiant Health

Eat proper foods in moderation

Be clean in body, dress and abode

Get plenty of sunshine and fresh air

Get proper exercise

Get regular sleep and rest

Avoid bodily injury

Build a positive mental attitude

# You Shall Not MURDER

Do you know all there is to know about the Sixth Commandment? BY DENNIS LEAP

**T**HE DAY CAME THAT PAUL SPOKE to the Greek intellectuals on Mars Hill. Provoked to speak out against the pagan culture of that city, the apostle now had his opportunity.

He had come to Athens to escape persecution in Berea. Walking in the city, he was amazed at how the Athenians had given themselves *wholly* over to idolatry. He observed temples, statues, sacrifices and ceremonies. Extremely concerned, he met with the Jews, who were somewhat affected by that culture. He even went into the marketplace and spoke against these grave sins with anybody who would listen.

Paul soon gained the attention of influential Greek scholars. Groups of opposing philosophers—the Epicureans and Stoics—wanted to hear Paul out. He came to a gathering at the very center of paganism in the Greek world.

Paul looked over the crowd. Some considered him a “babbler” of strange teachings about strange gods. Not dismayed by stern stares, he got their attention and spoke out loud: “Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you” (Acts 17:22-23). The Greeks followed many gods. Paul discovered they constructed altars to these gods, including an *unknown* god—just in case they missed one! Paul told them boldly that they were too superstitious—not religious.

Essentially, he informed them that for all their intellectual progress, they knew nothing at all about God. The confident apostle let them know that he was will-

ing to give them a *real* education.

Of course, he got a reaction from the crowd. Some mocked him. But others listened intently. He continued, “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things” (verses 24-25). Paul gave these intellectually vain men easy-to-understand revelation about God. It was their first *true* education!

The Greeks, and the Egyptians before them, believed in evolution-like theories of creation. Paul taught them that the God unknown to them is the Creator God. He made the world and all the living things in it. Paul showed them that God does not need anything—including worship—from men. However, men desperately need God. Why? He is the *giver* and *sustainer* of all life.

Paul did not stop there. He continued teaching the men that the God they ignorantly worshiped held a great purpose for human life. Overall, that purpose included seeking out God and living His way. Paul made it clear that God, even though unseen, was in complete control of human history. “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device” (verses 28-29). Using lines written by Greek poets at that time, Paul showed them that mankind is made in God’s image—His offspring.

Mars Hill was full of artistic and architectural splendor. Paul knew it all was

devoted to pagan lies. He explained that God is a superior, living Being, therefore no statue or piece of art could honestly represent God. Paul gave these men astounding revelation. He showed them that man’s incredible potential is to be born into God’s very Family as His children—composed of spirit. This teaching was so radically different than the confused pagan religion that it seemed strange and very unusual to these men.

Paul forcefully concluded his teaching by leaving no doubt that man has an eternal future with God.

Men today still need the simple teaching that Paul gave the Greeks. We live in a world of religious confusion. There is only one source—the Holy Bible—that can answer the deep questions about the purpose for human life. It is time to reject the vain intellectual reasoning of men and discover the fantastic truth of God’s plan for man.

**Man—Highest Creation of God** The Bible reveals that God created mankind as a special creation. Although we share a physical existence with the animals, man is not an animal. Man is the *highest form* of life created from the dust of the earth. We are made after the God kind (Genesis 1:26-27). All men are made in the very *image* and *likeness* of God. The Hebrew word for *image* refers to God’s spiritual character. Man’s physical creation (same form and shape as God) was complete at the creation of Adam and Eve. Yet, mankind’s spiritual creation is ongoing according to God’s plan for each individual. It is God’s intention to create His very character in any human being who desires Him to do so. Building godly character requires not only God’s Spirit but also *time* and *experience*. These facts are fully explained



in *Mystery of Ages* by Herbert W. Armstrong. Write for your free copy today.

Man's purpose is to qualify to receive eternal life. We are not immortal beings trapped in physical bodies, as the Greeks believed. We are mortal—subject to eternal death (Genesis 3:19). Every man has only so much time to prove to God his worthiness to be given eternal life.

Life is an incredible gift. Our high purpose, and the time allotted to us by God, makes human life very precious. No man has the right to take any other human life through *murder*. It is the brutal devastation of a man's hopes, dreams and plans. Therefore, at Mount Sinai God commanded the Israelites, "Thou shalt not murder" (Exodus 20:13, Jewish Publication Society translation). To take a human life is truly a capital sin. Besides destroying the highest creation of the Eternal God, it is a wicked attempt to thwart the very purpose of Almighty God. God is the giver of all life. Man has no right to take it away.

Biblical experts agree that the word *murder* is a more correct translation of the originally inspired Hebrew. It is possible to *kill* and yet not to murder.

It is also critically important to understand that true Christians must observe both the letter and the *spiritual intent* of the law as taught by Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:20-26). There is a *spirit of murder* that is a direct violation of the Sixth Commandment.

**Spirit of the Law** Under the Old Covenant, Israel only understood the letter of the law. At that time, only intentional murder was forbidden. God authorized capital punishment for those guilty of major crimes (Exodus 21:12-17). It is clear from the book of Numbers that *accidental killing* (manslaughter) was not considered murder (Numbers 35:9-34). However, manslaughter was considered a serious offense. The careless or unwitting slayer was sentenced to remain in a city of refuge



DIGITAL STOCK

for many years until the high priest died.

In similar fashion to capital punishment, God commanded Israel to carry out certain wars on His behalf. These wars should never be viewed as violent acts of wholesale murder, but as the carrying out of divine will through human instruments. Study verses such as Deuteronomy 7:1-2. God directly commanded Israel to wipe out the pagan peoples of Canaan. This may not seem correct to our modern way of thinking. Yet, it is the truth!

Let's realize that when God permitted the taking of human life, it was only as *His* representative according to *His* will. God used Israel as an instrument of His divine judgment—no matter what modern scholars may say otherwise. Recognize, whenever Israel engaged in war on its own initiative, it suffered slaughterous defeat.

Israel was a physical nation. Even as God's chosen people, the Israelites were not given access to God's Holy Spirit at that time. They were unconverted. The true Church of God represents the spiritual nation of Israel. Because of this, there is a difference as to how the law applies today. The Apostle Paul summed it all up nicely for Spirit-led Christians. He stated, "[F]or the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (2 Corinthians 3:6). From our creation, God intended that man learn not to kill, murder or make war against another nation. God is developing His very character of love and service in Spirit-begotten humans. God is specifically teaching His Church that our purpose is to save human life, not destroy it.

In Christ's soon-coming Kingdom, murder and war will become a thing of the past (Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3).

### Root Causes of Murder

Unfortunately, ours is a violent, murderous society. As we watch the nightly news and read our papers, it is clear that Earth's peoples are filled with hatred and intense competition. Personal tensions run high in families, villages and towns, and among nations. Spouses murder

spouses—siblings other siblings—nations wipe out other nations. In October 2002, the World Health Organization reported that one person commits suicide about every 40 seconds, one person is murdered every 60 seconds and one person dies in armed conflict every 100 seconds. These statistics represent only a part of the story about our sick world. Our personal well-being is under constant threat. Mental, physical and sexual abuse takes place in every country every day!

The Apostle Paul saw prophetically into our day and told Timothy, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come" (2 Timothy 3:1). The Greek word for *perilous* can mean *fiercely dangerous*! What an apt description of our times. It is a fiercely dangerous time for all human life. Gang violence is escalating out of control in many U.S. cities. The terrorist threat is a plague on all continents. Sobered experts recognize that terrorist groups *will* use chemical, biological and *nuclear* weapons against innocent people. We must wake up and pay attention! It is not a matter of *if*—it is simply a matter of *when*. In addition, terrorist-sponsoring nations like North Korea and Iran are furiously developing nuclear weapons programs. These weapons will be used! Each day our minds are being prepared to accept the likelihood of mass murder and global suicide. Terrorism is intended to demoralize our peoples and contribute to social woes such as national apathy, depression and paralyzing fear.

**Our purpose, and the time allotted to us by God, makes life very precious.  
No man has the right to take any other human life through murder.**

Of course, it is natural to want to escape such problems. A summary report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services revealed that months after 9/11, almost a third of Manhattan residents surveyed had increased marijuana, alcohol or cigarette use since the attacks. Yet, dropping out on drugs and alcohol is no escape. The best way to deal with this world crisis is to face—not run from—the problem. Our only way out is to understand and cure *the cause* of violence and murder.

The violent nature of our world should indicate to us that we are very sick spiritually. The root causes of murder are lust, competition, anger and hatred. These reflect deep spiritual problems. More police, better intelligence, bigger armies or better weapons can never stop murder. None of these will give us the protection and peace we all desire. All human beings must change their way of thinking and attitudes in order to stop the scourge of world violence and murder. We must fully keep God's Ten Commandments—especially the sixth.

**Commandment in Action** To solve spiritual problems, we must look to the Bible for solutions.

The Apostle James taught how to stop our violent ways. He wrote, “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts” (James 4:1-3).

James wrote these verses to *religious* people. So, we all have to examine ourselves. Are we truly obeying the Sixth Commandment? The principle discussed here applies to nations as well. Lust for the things of others has been the underlying cause for murder and wars since man was created.

The history of Cain and Abel is proof of this. Cain was envious of God's favor toward his brother—so he murdered Abel. Sibling rivalry is still a problem in our modern world. In fact, sibling rivalry often leads to sibling abuse. Law enforcement and child-protection agencies face increasing incidents of crimes committed among siblings. We are not talking about pushing, shoving or punching. There are thousands of cases of mental, physical and sexual abuse. Gruesome murders

have been committed. Are we surprised? Western society is suffering a collapse in stable family life. With so much divorce—parents at violent odds, satisfying selfish lusts—children learn early how to argue, fight and win control over siblings. We have allowed the *spirit of murder* to

**The spirit of murder and the Holy Spirit—a spirit of love—cannot co-exist in the same mind.**

**To stop murder, men must learn to control their thoughts by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

enter the grass roots of our society—the family. Any permanent change in society must start within the family. We must get back to teaching love, sharing and cooperation not only between husbands and wives but among siblings.

But to truly put this commandment into action, we must go beyond simply avoiding hatred or committing violence against any human being. Much more is required. On the positive side, we must *actively love* every human being. This is the hardest part of the Sixth Commandment to implement. It requires a massive change in human thinking.

The current clash among the three major religions of the world is a prime example of what we mean here. Christians, Muslims and Jews are involved in some of the most intense, murderous fighting this world has ever seen. Isn't it time to question our religion? Are these armed conflicts inspired by the God who is love? Soon all mankind will come to see that most wars supposedly fought in the name of God were not fought for God at all. The Bible shows that the underlying cause of Armageddon will be religion. Thankfully, Jesus Christ will step in with angelic armies to stop man from destroying all life on this planet (Matthew 24:21-22).

**Jesus Christ's Teaching** Jesus Christ came to Earth with a message from God the Father for all mankind. He brought the good news of the coming Kingdom,

of the Family of God (Mark 1:15). As Prince of peace, Christ will usher in a millennium of peace like this world has never known under the rule of man. While on Earth at His first coming, Jesus Christ showed mankind the way to achieve that peace. He *magnified* God's law and made it *honorable* (Isaiah 42:21). Christ refocused our attention on the Ten Commandments and expanded our understanding of them by emphasizing their full spiritual intent.

Jesus Christ stated, “Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire” (Matthew 5:21-22). These two verses say so much. It is a message from a King to His subjects. Notice that Christ does not do away with the law—He expands it! Men need to learn to apply it.

Christ takes us directly to two of the major sources of murder—hate and anger. He asserts clearly that any individual who fills his heart full of anger is in danger of *the judgment*, which means *condemnation*. If that anger leads a person to have total hatred and contempt for another human being, he shall be in *danger of the council*, which means punishment from God. Finally, if the problem is not corrected—if a person allows his mind and heart to become so full of bitterness toward a fellow human being that he debases that person, calling him *a fool*—he faces the lake of fire! This is the fullest expansion of the spirit of the Sixth Commandment. All of this shows how serious Christ considers the Sixth Commandment to be. So must we.

Anger and hatred are the spirit of murder! All sin takes place in the mind first. Actions follow thought. What we think about most, we eventually do! John, the apostle who enjoyed the closest relationship with Jesus Christ, taught, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also” (1 John 4:20-21). John obviously discussed the subjects of love and hate with Christ.

Christ taught John that the spirit of murder and the Holy Spirit—a spirit of



love—cannot co-exist in the same mind. To stop murder, men must learn to control their thoughts. Of course, this kind of control can only come by the power of the Holy Spirit. Real conversion can only come with the gift of God's Spirit. God gives it only to those people willing to obey Him (Acts 5:32). True conversion is the process of God writing His laws into men's hearts and minds (Hebrews 8:10). Let's face it. The only solution to change our violent world is spiritual conversion.

**Love Your Enemies** You may ask: How then do I deal with my enemies? We must avoid the human tendency to want to get even. Jesus Christ taught, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:44-45). How many of us have the strength of character to do what Christ says here?

It takes godly character to help and serve those who attempt to harm us. It takes godly love and wisdom to recognize that our enemies are fellow human beings—made in the image of God—and that they are simply in error in their thoughts and actions. It takes real spiritual depth to realize that only God can properly punish those who do us harm.

Paul taught the Romans, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19). No man is capable of taking *just* vengeance. We simply do not have the ability to see as God does. God alone has the wisdom, power and right to take vengeance on human beings. It is time to recognize that God is real. His protection and ability to avenge any wrong done to us is just as real!

Rather than get even, we must learn to do good to our enemies. Paul also taught, "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (verses 20-21). What a simple teaching, yet it is so hard to perform. This is precisely how God and Christ live! God is the great Giver (James 1:17). Through the incredible sacrifice of Jesus Christ, God demonstrated that He was willing to give up every-

thing for those who hate Him (Romans 5:10). We must learn to do the same.

**Murderous Entertainment** There is not enough space in this article to cover all the various forms of murder being committed in our Western world. We must

**Multiple millions of people nurture the spirit of lust, violence and murder daily through television and movies. Can we look on these things and not sin?**

understand the principle of the Sixth Commandment and then fully obey it! Certainly, abortion, euthanasia and suicide are included. God considers all three to be murder.

Consider this. Multiple millions of people *nurture* the spirit of lust, violence and murder daily through television and movies. There is a flood of fornication, adultery, beatings and murders broadcast nearly every hour of the day. Can we look on these things and not sin? Jesus Christ said, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). The same principle applies to entertainment filled with *hate, violence and murder*.

When we drench our minds with pictures of violence and murder daily—allowing these images to embed in our minds—we become guilty of the same acts—in spirit! Violence and murder should never entertain us. In fact, they should repulse us!

It is time for us to face reality. Our society is based on a system of competition, greed and selfishness, which breeds a spirit of murder. We live in a modern Babylon of incredible confusion. And God warns us to come out of Babylon before His final punishment—the Day of the Lord—is unleashed upon it (Revelation 18:4). God plans to end all the violence in this world very soon by punishing the violent. We need not suffer God's wrath. Let's all fully obey God's command—you *shall not murder*. ■

feelings can be overcome by concentrating on helping *others*. One basic way to having a peaceful mind is to begin a relationship with God. Study His Word and realize that He has a purpose for us. He knows us individually and will never let us down—if we will obey Him.

The times in which we live can be stressful enough. Make a positive commitment to change your life to offset as much of that stress as you can. We all need to accentuate the positive side of life and eliminate the negatives. Don't focus on the past; look forward to the future—and join the club, participate in the activities, meet the people, make the friends, and do the service. Make a commitment, TODAY, to prove to yourself that you can, AND WILL, improve with age! ■

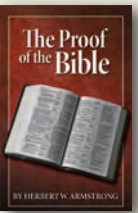
You've heard us quote the Bible time and again.

# But don't just take our word for it.

HAVE YOU EVER PROVED WHETHER, as the book itself purports, it is the authoritative Word of the Creator God? Rather, have you not simply assumed, from what you have heard, read or been taught, that it is either authentic, or else the religious writing of a small ancient Jewish race, groping in the darkness of human ignorance and of superstition, trying to develop a concept of God?

Isn't it about time—and the point of rational wisdom—that you prove this important question once and for all? Because, if the Bible is in fact the inspired, authentic Word of a living, all-powerful God, then your eternity will be judged by it.

Request your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet, *The Proof of the Bible*.



# The Plain Truth About Human Embryo STEM-CELL RESEARCH



## BLOODWORK

A scientist works with embryonic stem cells at Reliance Life Science Research facility.

AP/WIDEWORLD

BY MARK NASH

ANYONE INTERESTED IN NEWS has heard something about embryonic stem-cell (ESC) research. Prior to Aug. 9, 2001, when U.S. President George W. Bush made a public statement summarizing his position to prevent government funding of ESC research, it was an uncommon topic in the media. From the time of the president's address until now, embryonic stem-cell research has become a political football.

Human embryonic stem-cell research is the practice of "harvesting" cells from a fertilized or cloned human embryo. Harvesting the stem cells destroys any opportunity for that embryo to develop and be born.

Typically, people who oppose abortion oppose ESC research, while those in favor of abortion, called "pro-choice," are in favor of it. Though there are a few cross-over opinions, most people find their belief for or against ESC research is the same as their belief for or against abortions. There is a good reason for that fact.

The same public-relations problem exists for proponents of embryonic stem-cell research as for pro-abortion-

ists. They are faced with the challenge of convincing the public and governmental officials with control of funds for research that embryonic stem-cell research is moral and should be legal. It comes down to a couple of basic definitions: What is life, and when does a human being start to be a human being?

**LIFE IS A PRETTY SIMPLE  
THING TO DEFINE.  
IT IS THE OPPOSITE  
OF DEATH.**

**Defining Life** Life is a pretty simple thing to define. It is the opposite of death. But science always tries to enhance the simple by creating complex definitions. And so it has been with the definition of "life." Through the centuries, scientists arrived at an acceptable definition of life, and it has worked well, until the last few decades when abortion and now ESC research have challenged it.

That definition of *life* has been: "The property or quality that distinguishes living organisms from dead organisms and inanimate matter, manifested in

functions such as metabolism, growth, reproduction, and response to stimuli or adaptation to the environment originating from within the organism" (*American Heritage Dictionary*).

In other words, if something reproduces (cell duplication is reproduction), if it reacts to stimuli, if it is not dead, it is said to be alive.

Human embryonic stem cells do each of those things; therefore they are alive, and scientists do not argue that fact.

The problem begins when the question "If they are alive, what are they?" is asked. Well, they are not dogs or cats, they are not bacteria, and they are not tomatoes or carrots. It is really pretty simple: They are human tissue at the very least. But that is not the end of the story. If that was all there is to it, it probably wouldn't be very controversial.

The real question that sticks in the throat of scientists is, *where do they come from?* Do they come from a human embryo? Are they harvested from an unborn infant? Therein is the problem.

A brief description of how embryonic stem cells are harvested should clear up this dilemma for anyone with an open mind. Since the first stages of ESC research are the same as for cloning, further clarity will come from a brief review of cloning.

First, cloning is an attempt to grow an identical "twin" from an existing being, whether human or otherwise. For this discussion I will refer to human beings only. To clone a human, DNA from one of the donor's, or "parent's," cells, maybe a skin cell, is transplanted into a human egg from which the egg's DNA has been removed. That cell, if the cloning is successful, will then reproduce an exact duplicate of the original person. That has not been accomplished by scientists, but that is the theory.

For embryonic stem-cell research, the start is the same. DNA is implanted into a human egg and it is allowed to "grow," or "reproduce." The DNA supplied may be from a donor, as in the case of cloning, or it may come from sperm, as in normal reproduction. For ESC research, the cell is allowed to reproduce no more



than 14 days. Then its growth is interrupted. At that point, the outer layer is removed and the embryonic stem cells from within are dumped onto a growth medium (petri dish) to continue life as stem cells.

Up until that point, the normal outcome should be the birth of a child. Once the outer layer is removed and the stem cells are harvested, that potential child no longer exists.

From this point, the researchers use chemical and electrical stimulus to guide the growth of the stem cells into some desired tissue for the treatment of a disease.

When a human egg is fertilized inside of a woman, it reaches the uterus somewhere around the 4th or 5th day of life and attaches to the wall of the womb. At that time she is officially pregnant.

The term *blastocyst* is used to refer to these cells once there are about 16 cells, day 4 or 5, until the age of about 4 weeks. This human blastocyst, if undisturbed, will develop into a human baby and normally be born after 9 months of growth.

**Murder?** There are stem cells other than embryonic, and they are processed differently. For example, some are taken from umbilical cords at birth. But these are not embryonic stem cells the scientific arena claims it needs for research. These do not involve killing an embryo and there is little problem with such research.

The problems arise when human life is interrupted. The scientists know a social-political argument begins whenever they toy with life. That is why they have instituted the definition of pre-embryo.

But in truth, as Shakespeare wrote, a rose by any other name would smell as sweet. Do scientists really think that changing a name changes reality? Apparently they do. This author does not.

Life begins at conception, a fact that makes abortion murder. The production of an embryo to be “harvested” likewise kills a potential human being.

The fact is that blastocysts are implanted in women at fertility clinics and grow into beautiful human babies. Changing the name to pre-embryo does not alter this

potential is total—it can produce any kind of tissue found in the mature organism” (*Forum for Applied Research and Public Policy*; Vol. 15, 2000).

To understand the potential of that developing human being, request our free book *The Incredible Human Potential*. Once you have studied that book, you will have a greater understanding of the severity of murder for embryonic stem-cell research.

Some scientists argue that they should be able to use embryos left over at fertility clinics. They argue such embryos would never mature into people and should be available for research. But some noted scientists disagree. Kelly Hollowell, who has a Ph.D. in molecular and cellular pharmacology, says that “the justification that the embryos ‘left over’ in IVF clinics (reportedly >300,000 in the U.S. alone) will simply be discarded anyway, reflects a chilling absence of moral conscience. We do not consider it appropriate to take organs from dying patients or prisoners on death row *BEFORE* they have died in order to increase someone else’s chances for healing or cure. Neither, then, should we consider any embryos ‘spare’ so that we may destroy them for their stem cells” (“Ten Problems with Embryonic Stem-Cell Research,” [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org), February 2002).

God’s instruction book for mankind explains it this way: “If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman’s husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe” (Exodus 21:22-25).

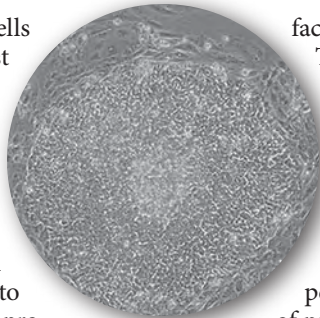
The phrase “no mischief follow” means that the baby is born prematurely without any other problems. It is healthy. The phrase “if any mischief follow” means there has been some sort of injury to the infant and the payment of life for life makes it clear that an unborn child is equal to a living man. That is how God sees it.

Killing an unborn human being is murder whether it is for stem-cell research or as an abortion. Neither the semantics of scientific terms like pre-embryo nor the arbitrary selection of 14 days of age changes a thing.

The plain truth is that harvesting human embryonic stem cells is murder. ■

## LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION, THAT FACT MAKES ABORTION MURDER. THE PRODUCTION OF AN EMBRYO TO BE “HARVESTED” LIKewise KILLS A POTENTIAL HUMAN BEING.

To harvest the stem cells for research, the blastocyst must be destroyed. Since researchers don’t want to deal with the interruption of this development as an issue of human life being cut short, they don’t want to call it a human life. In order for the government to smile on this process and to provide money for research, the scientists must avoid the appearance of murder. Their solution: a new word for an embryo that is less than 14 days old is added



**EXPERIMENT**  
A cloned embryonic stem-cell line from a South Korean lab

to the vocabulary of ESC researchers and, they hope, to the vocabularies of the public and government officials needed to provide funding for research. The term they have devised is “pre-embryo.”

This is an arbitrary assignment of title and time. In reality, it has nothing to do with any difference in the material makeup of the cells. Scientists take the new embryo and remove the outer layer of cells exposing the inner “stem cells” and dump the stem cells into a petri dish and claim that is was just a pre-embryo, not a person at all.

fact nor does it justify murder. The *International Herald Tribune* explained, “The worrisome element is that the blastocyst stage, needed to extract stem cells, is also the stage where fertility clinics typically implant embryos, with a 40 percent to 60 percent chance of producing a baby” (February 14).

As many as three out of five of these “pre-embryos” become newborn babies when allowed to grow—but not if embryonic stem-cell researchers have their way.

When the growth of a developing human is intentionally stopped, it is murder. Calling a developing embryo by the name “pre-embryo” does not change anything: It is murder.

The following statement from the article “A Stem Cell Primer” demonstrates a simple fact: “Human development begins when a sperm fertilizes an egg and creates a single cell that has the potential to form an entire organism. This fertilized egg is totipotent, meaning that its



AVIARIGHT/SHUTTER

TECHNOLOGY

## MarriedSeekingMarried.Com

WHILE THE INTERNET has become a fairly successful venue for singles seeking singles, some dating agencies have used it to promote adultery. And the “success” rate for matchmaking marrieds is increasing. In fact, the technology consulting firm Jupiter Research has discovered that of people registered with an online dating service, 12 percent are married.

It’s easy enough just to lie about your marital status to dating agencies that forbid extramarital searching (not all of them do by any means), and some places such as Yahoo and MSN.com offer chat rooms for flirty married people. But there are agencies that cater *specifically* to spouses who want to cheat on spouses—and encourage ones who are just thinking about doing so.

Two of the biggest agencies are based in Canada. One is the Ashley Madison Agency, whose membership jumped 50,000 during the summer—to 220,000 clients. Coining the slogan “When Monogamy Becomes Monotony,” its success is leading to the establishment of other sites like it in the States. The homepage of the

other large Canadian agency reads, “Helping you sort out your thoughts, provide some direction for your

extramarital affair, and a safe, secure outlet for your extramarital desires is our mission.” Some sites even offer storytelling hints to create alibis.

The decadence is another unquestionable sign that we have lost the art of marriage, and that is crippling us. One family counselor, Brett Williams, commented on the ruination of marriages via the Web: “They’re basically destroying the fabric of our society. ... Our society is built on family units. Once that decays, we’re not going to have much of a society” (Fox News, August 5).

For God’s perspective on the subject of marriage, request a free copy of our booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*

MATERIALISM

## Prosperous and Happy

RECENT STUDIES SHOW that people living in prosperous countries are not any happier than those living in poor countries. According to a survey done with a scale of 1 to 7 (1 being completely satisfied), 400 of the richest Americans average 5.8. That’s the same average that Inuits living in Greenland and cattle herders in Kenya scored (*Wall Street Journal*, August 13). Psychologists are finding out that although economic output continues to rise in the West, satisfaction in life

SEXUALITY

## New Olympic Record

AFTER RUNNING OUT OF CONDOMS in the Olympic Village for the 2000 games at Sydney, a condom company shipped 130,000 packets of its product to Athens this summer to be freely distributed to athletes and officials. With 17,000 people living in the village for the two-week event, the manufacturer provided enough condoms for each person to help themselves to *eight*.

Other contraceptive companies also offered free samplings of their product, bringing the total estimated number of free condoms to somewhere in the neighborhood of a half million—shattering the previous Olympic record of 250,000 set at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake.

The marketing manager for one condom distributor boasted of her company’s gesture: “We hope this substantial donation will allow athletes to enhance their performance and go for the gold without worrying about the dangers of unprotected sex.” What she fails to mention is that having free condoms available at every corner

in the Olympic Village only encourages dangerous and reckless sexual activity, which is what God considers sex outside of marriage to be. It violates His law of love. And when that happens, there is always a penalty to be paid, whether one uses a condom or not. (For much more of God’s perspective on the subject of sex, please request our free book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.)

Some commentators brush aside these astronomical figures of condom distribution by pointing to the fact that many of them are hoarded by Third

World athletes and taken home, where supplies are scarce or expensive.

While that might be true, it is also true that life in the Olympic Village has become a highly charged sexual atmosphere where young people from all over the world are having sex with strangers—a lot like Spring Break in Cancun or Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

“There’s a lot of sex going on,” one U.S. athlete admitted to *Men’s Journal* magazine. A Canadian athlete put it this way: “It’s all about safe sex and there’s a ton of that going on.” A ton of it is happening, for sure. But it isn’t safe.



FAVEZ NURELDINE/AF/GETTY IMAGES

**INTERACTION** Athletes meet in the Olympic Village cafeteria.





is staying the same. Why this paradox?

One psychologist attributes the low satisfaction in life to materialism. Though people who have virtually nothing can still be happy, those who have plenty seem to always want more. “Luxuries come to seem like necessities, canceling the psychological benefits of economic growth” (ibid.).

In his booklet *The Seven Laws of Success*, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote that “happiness is not material, and money is not its source.” Happiness is a state of mind, he taught—which explains why people with very little can still be very happy. It’s a mindset that puts God and His laws above all else. And the beauty of it is, when man sets that as his top priority, material prosperity—though not lustful desires—will soon follow. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

For more information on the keys to abundant and successful living, request *The Seven Laws of Success*.



## LITIGATION

## Westernism Brings Lawyers

IT SEEMS, IN ADDITION TO freedom and democracy, the U.S. has given Iraqis another Western phenomenon: lawyers and plenty of lawsuits.

In the 15 months following the Iraq war, some 16,000 compensation claims against the coalition were made by Iraqis. Half of those claims were rejected, but \$3 million was dished out in 5,000 settlements. Another 3,000 are pending. The U.S. military even opened a claims center in March to handle the volume.

The cases surround everything from destruction of personal property to loss of limbs and deaths of family

members. According to one legal administrator in the U.S. military, around 90 percent of the claims he sees relate to vehicle damage caused by coalition activity (*Spectator*, July 10).

Indeed, the Iraqis picked up the compensation habit from the coalition itself, against which the first claims from the war were made by coalition soldiers. Soldiers’ complaints included such things as side ef-



fects from vaccinations, and injury from “friendly fire.” Now, American lawyers are considering suing the Department of Defense “for causing some U.S. troops to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, presumably by sending them to fight in Iraq” (ibid.).

*Spectator* journalist Brendan O’Neill

opines, “[I]n the past [these misfortunes] would have been seen as ugly facts of war, as risks that soldiers take when

they go out on to the battlefield. Today it seems that the compensation culture is so deeply ingrained, the notion that someone else is always responsible for our misfortunes so widely accepted, that even armies can be sued by their own soldiers for making them do unacceptably risky things or causing them to suffer from stress” (ibid.).

“[I]n the compensation culture someone else is always to blame,” he says. “[T]he one thing [America and Britain] have successfully projected on to Iraq is contemporary Western decadence—our widespread sense of victimhood and injury, where we are given to weeping and complaining in the face of misfortune.”

## LITERACY

## Worth the Risk

“READING AT RISK,” A survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and recently released by the National Endowment for the Arts, found that from 1982 to 2002 there was a 10 percent decline in literary reading—defined as novels, short stories, plays and poems. At present, less than half of American adults read literature. While the decline is prevalent in all age groups, it is sharpest among those ages 18 to 24.

Several factors contribute to this trend—particularly the increasing amount of time Americans spend on the Internet. Americans also spend more money on movies and DVDs than they do on books. And the average American household now has three televisions.

The decline in leisure reading actually makes us more antisocial and less active as a society. The National Endowment for the Arts believes that reading is a baseline for participation in social activities like community service, visiting or participating in artistic events and involvement in athletic activities.

So if you are looking to lead a more active, healthier lifestyle, it may seem funny, but cuddling up with a good book might be exactly what you need to do.



**SOCIETYWATCH** is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the *Trumpet’s* editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mail [societywatch@theTrumpet.com](mailto:societywatch@theTrumpet.com). If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.



Our July article on the Fourth Commandment, “Remember God’s Sabbath Day,” generated quite a lot of response. George Farmakis of Franklin, Ohio, wrote, “The *Trumpet* is one of the most remarkable sources of Christian information . . . I am of the Eastern Orthodox faith, and I will certainly bring your existence to the attention of others.” Another reader, Corliss-Louise Pinkney from Norwalk, Ohio, said, “I was at the doctor’s office for my annual exam and noticed your magazine on the rack. The article about the true Sabbath caught my eye. As

a little girl, I learned about the true Sabbath and have never believed that it was changed by divine decree. Of all the commandments, the fourth is the only one that states, ‘Remember . . .’ God knew that man would forget and man would set up his own Sabbath.”

Several readers disagreed with the article, however. “I cannot agree with your idea that we are required to worship on the Sabbath and observe all the holy feasts or we will be condemned,” said Larry Gillihan of Bono, Ark. “There is nothing wrong with doing it, and I’m sure God is pleased, but He does not require us to do this to be saved. He warns us in the Bible about trying to be saved by obeying the commandments. Salvation is a gift from God to those who love Him. . . . Christians do the right thing not because it is the law, but because it is the right thing to do. . . . God has told us in the Bible that the law was not given to make people obey it or be condemned; it was given so we could see what terrible sinners we are, and that we are unable to obey it. If we could be saved by obeying the law, we wouldn’t need Jesus.”

The point that we do things not because they are the law, but because they are the right thing to do, brings up a tricky question: How do you know what the right thing to do is? Man isn’t capable of determining right from wrong without God’s help. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). That is why God provided His law in the first place. If we reject that law, what God wants becomes much more hazy. As the Apostle John wrote, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). We show love by *obeying God’s commandments*.

It is true that we are not “saved by obeying the law.” Eternal life is the *gift* of God (Romans 6:23), not something we can earn. That does not, however, mean that God expects nothing of us. When we sin—break God’s law—we earn death, and that penalty must be paid. Everyone has sinned and thus earned that penalty, but Christ’s death enables us to be forgiven upon repentance. Remember though, Jesus Christ Himself stated: “[I]f thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments” (Matthew 19:17).

It is interesting that this argument always comes up in regard to the Sabbath command. No one would argue against the murder command in this way. No one would argue against the command not to steal with this reasoning. But remembering the Sabbath is always the first of God’s Commandments that man rejects. Carnal reasoning allows men to dismiss this commandment as somehow less important than the others. God’s Word makes no such distinction.

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

## Free of Charge

I TRULY THANK YOU FOR BLESSING ME with your booklets and a subscription to your wonderful, awe-inspiring magazine. Since I have been reading your literature these last two months, I have grown tremendously in my knowledge of the true living Word of God. Thank you for opening my eyes to the truth about today’s world and tomorrow’s world. Now I can watch the news and know why certain events are taking place across the world. I appreciate the diligence and time you put into your booklets, books and magazines, and the fact that you share the truth and hard-hitting facts free of charge.

*David Barclay—TEHACHAPI, CALIF.*

I AM NOT A VERY RELIGIOUS PERSON and as a result take little notice of anything religious. I just wanted you to know that you are making a difference in your efforts, and I give my encouragement to all of you to continue what you are doing. Your conviction, apparent in your expression, called me to listen. Your message urged me to envision possibilities. Your offer to educate anyone interested with no obligations

or cost motivated me to request a book. Your website instilled in me a desire for knowledge and understanding. If there were only no limits to the number of books I could request, I would request to have all of them sent; such is the effect of your inspiration.

*Alexis Poquiz—RENTON, WASH.*

## Courage to Print

I LIKE TO READ YOUR MAGAZINE BECAUSE it is very informative and descriptive of world and domestic events. I also admire the way your writers do not shy away from any question or reprimands in your letters section. You seem to have so much confidence in your message that I cannot help but hold your magazine and staff in high regards. Stay strong!

*S. Aguilera—SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.*

I HAVE JUST RECENTLY READ TWO ISSUES of your magazine, and I am absolutely shocked by your courage to print the truth of matters. In a world culture where it is politically incorrect to hold an opinion of your own, I find your magazine a beacon of light

guiding minds to the truth of the matter. The events going on worldwide are consequences of our culture’s and government’s unrepentant nature, not random acts of senseless terrorism. Keep up the good work.

*Reuben Mills—NAVASOTA, TEX.*

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A UNIQUE AND DEEP insight into prophecy that most churches do not have today. I am sort of a news junkie and follow a variety of news sources, but your magazine stands alone in its scope, grasp and thoroughness in reporting on seemingly obscure events.

*Jesse Bubert—ARLINGTON, TEX.*

I MUST SAY WE IN AFRICA AND ESPECIALLY in Ghana are very much in love with your magazine and how you explain in detail the unfolding events with reference to the Bible. I always

## Comments?

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



# Hope to Cope

Tough times are about to get unbearable. But don't forget what's on the other side. BY FRED DATTOLO

**Y**OU EITHER BELIEVE HIM OR YOU DON'T. THERE'S NO in-between. Jesus Christ said: "For that will be a time of greater horror than anything the world has ever seen or will ever see again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race will be destroyed" (Matthew 24:21-22, New Living Translation).

When the Son of God walked the Earth 2,000 years ago, He foresaw that man would not only *create* weapons of mass destruction but also *use* them! At first, *one fourth* of the Earth's population will die from conventional warfare, famine, disease, wild animals, riots and acts of terror inflicted during the time of the four horsemen of the apocalypse. That's about one and a half *billion* people—dead! *Read it* in Revelation 6:1-8, especially verse 8.

As terrible as that is, the four horsemen are but a prelude to the time of the greatest horror Christ spoke about. These horsemen set the stage for weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical and biological—to be unleashed over the remainder of humanity. Billions *more* will die (see Revelation 9:18).

The Bible reveals that *all* humanity would be wiped off the face of the Earth—*unless* God intervenes. And He will! God the Father will send Jesus Christ back to Earth to save us from extinction. God will *not* allow man to destroy himself, because He has a **PLAN** for man, and you need to understand what it is. It's incredible beyond words to describe, and **NOTHING** will give you more hope!

It begins with the realization that God is a *family*. One of the most obvious proofs of this is repeated over and over in the New Testament. The word "son" is used 422 times in the New Testament alone. At least half of the time, it's referring to Jesus Christ as the *Son* of God. The word "father" is used 352 times in the New Testament—most of the time referring to God the *Father*. Father and Son are a **FAMILY**!

But that's not all. Jesus was the *firstborn* Son, but not to be the *only* born son. He was "the firstborn among *many* brethren" (Romans 8:29). The Bible shows that Christ was the Captain, or Pioneer—the first one born—so He could bring "*many* sons unto glory" (see Hebrews 2:10). Where do you suppose these other sons come from? Open your mind to this startling truth!

After God created animals, each with the ability to reproduce after its own kind (Genesis 1:24-25), He made man after the God-kind—that is, in *God's* image and likeness! (Genesis 1:26). Notice that man is made in both the likeness *and* the image of God.

Mankind is in God's likeness, meaning we *look like* God! Even though God is composed of spirit and man of matter, we resemble His form. But that's just the first phase. To develop completely into God's *image*, not just His likeness, man

needed to be taught God's way of life, practice His way and ultimately develop *His character!* But **WHY?**

The answer to that question reveals the mind-splitting truth for the purpose of man: God is *reproducing* HIMSELF—through man! Ponder on that a while. God is expanding His Family—through man! So we could *understand* the truth about His Family, God ordained the physical family. In other words, we were created to become the very sons of God, *literally*—**NOT** figuratively!

Can you even begin to fathom your incredible potential? Man is ultimately to be *born* of spirit, and composed of spirit in God's form and shape and with God's character and power!

Let's understand. We cannot become a son of God until we *acquire* the character of God. To be *born* a literal son of God (what "born again" really means), each of us must of our *own free will*, **CHOOSE** to obey God, His laws and His *give* way of life. At the same time we must reject the way of this world—which is Satan's way of *get*. Unfortunately, most will not turn to God's way until they *experience* the end result of Satan's way—a cataclysmic upheaval that would destroy the *entire* human race were it not for God's intervention.

That's why God will allow such great tribulation to come to this Earth. Only *then* will man finally be humbled to the point that he will listen to God. Only *then* will he finally *yield* to his Maker in unconditional surrender. When man's attitude is like that of an innocent *teachable* little child, God will be able to instill His character and His very nature into man so that he can be born of God!

What about you? Will you choose to obey God now—and be protected from the coming holocaust—or will you choose to ignore this warning?

When the unimaginable Great Tribulation hits, it is a sign that this present evil age is coming to an end! When it explodes onto the world scene, remember that there is incredible, astounding *hope* on the other side. God the Father will not let mankind destroy itself. He will send His Son Jesus Christ back to Earth to stop that from happening. After Christ returns, man will finally be willing to live God's way and the most beautiful, peaceful, joyous world will emerge from the ashes—the wonderful World Tomorrow.

Then God will set about to expand His Family, and ultimately all who have died will live again and have the opportunity to choose **LIFE** and become a *literal* son of God! Focus on the God Family vision! **THAT** is the *hope to cope* that God wants you to have. ■

If you'd like a more in-depth scriptural explanation of this remarkable biblical truth, request free a copy of our booklet *God Is a Family*. For an even deeper understanding, you may also request *The God Family Vision*.



ARTVILLE

# THE KEY OF DAVID

## Television Listing



### UNITED STATES

**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur  
**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Direct TV DBS** WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Dish Network DBS** WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Dish Network DBS** WWOR Chan. 238 9:30 am ET, Sun  
**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Northeast cable** WWOR 9:30 am ET, Sun  
**California, Los Angeles** KCAL 7:00 am, Sun  
**Hawaii, Oahu** Chan. 52 7:30 am, Sat  
**Hawaii, Maui/Molokai/Lanai** Akaku Chan. 52 10:00 pm, Sun; 7:30 am, Mon  
**Illinois, Chicago** WCIU 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, New York City** WWOR 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Oklahoma City** KOCB 9:00 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Portland** KPDX 8:00 am, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia** WPHL 9:00 am, Sun  
**Texas, Dallas** KDFI 10:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Tyler** KYTX 5:30 am, Sat; 7:00 am, Sun  
**Washington, Seattle** KTWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington D.C.** WBDC 8:00 am, Sun

### CANADA

**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur  
**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Nationwide cable** Vision TV 8:30 am ET, Sun

### LATIN AMERICA

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur  
**Argentina** WWOR 10:30 am Sun  
**Brazil** WWOR 10:30 am, Sun  
**Chile** WWOR 10:30 am, Sun  
**Colombia** WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun

**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; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Panama** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Puerto Rico** WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun  
**Venezuela** WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

### CARIBBEAN

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur  
**Regional satellite** Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Aruba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Bahamas** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Belize** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Cuba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun  
**Dominican Republic** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Grenada** CCN 7:30 am, Sun  
**Grenada** Meaningful TV 7:00 am, Sun  
**Haiti** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Jamaica** WGN 9:00 am, Sun; WWOR 10:30 am, Sun  
**Tobago** CCN 7:30 am, Sun  
**Trinidad** CCN 7:30 am, Sun

### EUROPE/AFRICA

**Malta** Smash TV 5:00 pm, Sat; 11:00 pm, Wed; 11:25 pm, Fri  
**South Africa** CSN 6:30 am, Sun

### AUSTRALIA/SOUTEAST ASIA

**Adelaide, Southern Australia** Chan. 31 11:30, Sun  
**Australia nationwide** Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun  
**New Zealand nationwide** TV3 6:00 am, Fri  
**Philippines nationwide** Studio 23 8:30 am, Sun  
**Tasmania** Southern Cross TV 5:00 am, Sun

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