

MAY 2003

PCG OWNS ALL COPYRIGHTS

SHOCK
&
AWE

The Philadelphia

Trumpet

MYSTERY OF THE AGES

*Did you ever ask yourself: "Who am I?
What am I? Why am I?" You are a mystery.
The world about you is a mystery.
Now, you can understand!*

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

VICTORY

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The PCG now owns *Mystery of the Ages* and 18 other works of Herbert W. Armstrong. Here is a detailed account of how it all came about.

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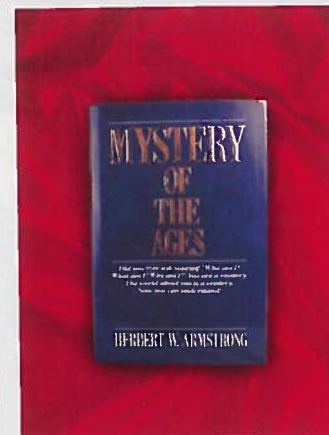
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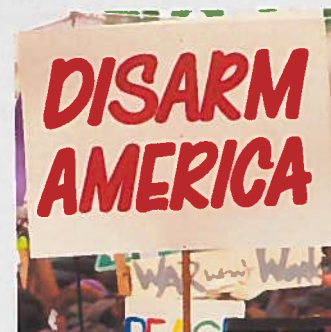
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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March/April and September/October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2003 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

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United States: P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083
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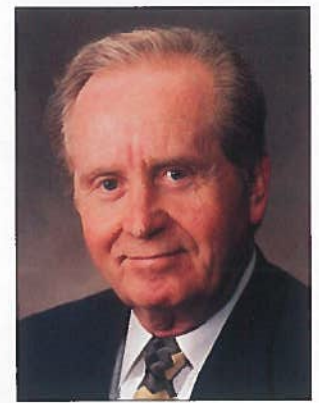
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PERSONAL FROM *Gerald Flury*



Miracle Victory! And What It Means

WE HAVE JUST WON THE GREATEST VICTORY EVER IN THE PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD! It will probably be our most thrilling victory in this entire end-time work.

Six years ago, the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) filed suit against us for printing *Mystery of the Ages*. They had been determined, ever since their doctrinal transformation, to use the copyright law to suppress the works of Herbert W. Armstrong. We responded to their suit with a counterclaim of our own—seeking the “fair use” of 18 other works by Mr. Armstrong. Under any circumstances, the best we could have hoped for within the judicial system was a ruling that said we had a right to reproduce those written works because of “fair use” under copyright or because of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The courts, however, could have never given us *what we now have*—ALL 19 OF THOSE COPYRIGHTS! *That's right.* We not only have the right to reproduce those works—WE OWN THE COPYRIGHTS!

Nearly five months ago, the Worldwide Church of God approached us wanting to settle our six-year lawsuit. In the end, settlement cost us an even \$2 million—and we got much more than we ever thought possible when this litigation began. (Read our featured article in this magazine on page 2 to understand the whole story.)

In the beginning, the WCG was determined to stop us from using any of these works. It was their “Christian duty.” Now they’ve given up all these copyrights for a fee that barely covers their court costs—*if even that.*

WHY are these works so important to us? This whole world needs to understand why.

Mr. Armstrong’s writings are the foundation of all that we believe. We teach his messages to our people quite diligently. However, we have been unable to teach them to the world. These works were blotted out by the WCG. We could not offer them to a deceived humanity—until now! And we believe that God commands us

to proclaim Mr. Armstrong’s works to the world as a *witness* (Matt. 24:14; Rev. 10:11).

That is our God-given commission. So WE BELIEVED THAT WE HAD TO WIN THIS CASE! We have fought this court battle for six years, always expecting a MIRACLE—even after we lost a 2-1 decision on the appellate level. It appeared we were hanging by a thread. Still, our faith remained strong. And now everybody can see the monumental reward.

We have a critical message for a dying world. But the world can’t fully understand without Mr. Armstrong’s

revealed writings. Roughly three fourths of God’s end-time message is finally available to mankind. The one fourth we could proclaim along the way could be fully comprehended only by those who already understood Mr. Armstrong’s writings.

As soon as we build up our finances again (in a few months), we will have a message three to four times more powerful. And we fully expect this work to double or triple its worldwide impact!

Time is running out. We must get this message out now WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME.

Look at this anxiety-ridden world, ready to explode at any moment. America is at war with Iraq. Our people are fearful. But they are going to get far more fearful if they don’t turn to God. Biological, chemical and nuclear weapons were prophesied (Matt. 24:21-22; Dan. 12:1-4). And the horrifying megadeath outcome was also prophesied!

Delivering this message is the supreme way that we show love for mankind. Only God’s message will give them hope and show them the solution to these problems. This is a work of love. That is why there is no charge for our literature.

Our message could save the world from a holocaust, if heeded. But even if it is rejected, God is still going to save us from ourselves—after unparalleled suffering. So either way, this message is filled with hope.

Mr. Armstrong’s writings are the foundation of all that we believe. We teach his messages to our people quite diligently. However, we have been unable to teach them to the world. These works were blotted out by the WCG. We could not offer them to a deceived humanity—until now!



Philadelphia Church of God

The PCG now owns *Mystery of the Ages* and 18 other works of Herbert W. Armstrong.

Here is a detailed account of how it all came about. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF God attorneys have asked us numerous times over the last six years, “Why didn’t PCG just ask the Worldwide Church of God for permission to print *Mystery of the Ages* in 1996 before going ahead and doing it?” (In actuality, some of our members did try, unsuccessfully, to obtain permission from WCG to reproduce Mr. Armstrong’s writings.)

Right after we started distributing *Mystery of the Ages*, WCG’s in-house lawyer, Ralph Helge, threatened litigation in a letter to Gerald Flurry. He wrote, “We would appreciate you advising us by what authority you are, *without the permission of the Church*, copying and publishing [*Mystery of the Ages*]?” (Jan. 21, 1997; emphasis mine throughout). Three weeks later, on February 10, the WCG filed suit against PCG for what it felt to be copyright infringement.

Of course, anyone associated with the Church of God understood why few were willing to even make such a request for permission—*because any such attempt would have been futile*. We in the PCG knew it—and so did WCG officials. But within the sphere of court proceedings, the WCG gave the impression before judges that it would have objectively considered, and possibly

granted, any such request—even from the Philadelphia Church of God; a church started by a man who was *disfellowshipped and marked from the Worldwide Church of God* by Joseph Tkach Jr.

Indeed, on September 25, 1997, inside Judge Letts’s chambers, Ralph Helge exclaimed, “We’ve never had any intention or decision to not publish [*Mystery of the Ages*]!” That summer, however, WCG’s pastor general, Joseph Tkach Jr., had made this statement in his book *Transformed By Truth*: “In February 1997 we filed suit against the Philadelphia Church of God ... to block republication of *Mystery of the Ages* We feel it is our Christian duty to keep this book out of print ... because we believe Mr. Armstrong’s doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation.”

Tkach’s statement put WCG in a difficult position from the start of the lawsuit. How could they convince a judge or jury that they weren’t really using their copyrights to suppress Mr. Armstrong’s writings when, in fact, their own pastor general—who happens to wield absolute power in the church—says it is his “Christian duty” to keep these works out of print?

In large part, this is why, in mid-1998, a federal district judge ruled in favor of PCG’s distribution of *Mystery of the Ages*. That judge concluded that

the PCG’s dissemination of the work was a “fair use” under the copyright act. The book was, after all, out of print—and its owner had vowed to permanently keep its “doctrinal errors” out of circulation.

WCG protested this was wrong. It revealed, on the eve of the district judge’s summary judgment ruling, that it had plans to distribute *Mystery of the Ages* after all. Apparently, there had been “discussions” about printing an “annotated version” of the book all along! It was to be a critique of the original text, exposing all of its doctrinal “errors.”

In September 2000, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the lower court’s fair use ruling—albeit in a 2-to-1 split decision. The court’s reversal, in large part, rested on its conclusion that WCG “planned an annotation” of *Mystery of the Ages*.

In the meantime, PCG had included with its answer to WCG’s complaint an affirmative claim for relief of its own. Specifically, PCG claimed that copyright’s “fair use” doctrine and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act protected PCG’s right to distribute free of charge 18 *other works* by Mr. Armstrong. After the Ninth Circuit decision, of course, WCG argued that the ruling should apply across the board to our counterclaim as well. But since WCG won the appeal on the strength of

its annotation plans for *Mystery of the Ages*, we argued: Do you now also have annotation plans for *The Incredible Human Potential*? What about *The Missing Dimension in Sex*? *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*?

The WCG's request for summary judgment on the counterclaim was denied in November 2001.

What this meant was that, as the WCG pressed forward in its damages trial over our copyright "infringement" of *Mystery of the Ages*, we pressed forward with our counterclaim seeking the right to distribute these other 18 works by Mr. Armstrong.

First Talk of Settlement

After the Ninth Circuit's decision, the PCG immediately appealed to the Supreme Court. On April 2, 2001, the highest court in the land opted not to hear our case and to let the Ninth Circuit's ruling stand.

Even though the chances for getting the Supreme Court's attention are slim (they hear less than 1 percent of the petitions they receive), we still held out hope that they would reconsider our request once the damages trial concluded. (The Supreme Court generally does not hear cases that are not totally finished. In our lawsuit, while the Ninth Circuit had ruled in favor of WCG, the district court had yet to award them damages for copyright infringement and had not resolved our counterclaim.)

By mid-2001, on the surface, it seemed that we were backed into a corner—left with little choice but to vigorously fight against what we felt to be an unjust ruling.

Yet, on the other side, the WCG was waking to the fact that, in order to prevail on all the merits of their case—whether in the damages trial or with respect to the counterclaim—THEY HAD TO, in some form, *make Mr. Armstrong's works available to the public.*

But, as Tkach's "Christian duty" comment made clear, they despised these teachings. They wanted nothing whatever to do with Mr. Armstrong's works. They had already asked their supporters to forgive them for the heretical views of years gone by. They had since come out of the "darkness" of Armstrongism and into the "glorious light of the gospel."

And now they had to make these works available?

By the end of summer 2001, the WCG stated in court filings that it would have objectively considered any offer we might have made to license the works of Mr. Armstrong prior to our printing them in 1997. They also suggested that they would—even then—seriously consider any bona fide offer from the PCG. Furthermore, they assured us (and the court) that when Tkach Jr. said he had a "Christian duty" to keep Mr. Armstrong's works out of print, he was *not* speaking for the WCG, but rather espousing his own "personal" views.

On October 19, 2001, matters took yet another turn when Matthew Morgan, secretary of WCG's Board of Directors, wrote to Gerald Flurry. In his letter Morgan explained that once the PCG began distributing MOA in 1997, WCG suspended all considerations regarding "how it could best utilize its copyright assets" (MOA was now an "asset"). But since the lawsuit had now been "resolved in favor" of WCG (with the Ninth Circuit's decision), WCG's Board had now decided what to do.

They moved forward with their annotated *Mystery* plans, right?

were seeking in our counterclaim! (They later added *Mystery of the Ages* to their e-publishing scheme.)

Getting back to Morgan's letter, initially the whole e-publishing project hinged on the following WCG proposal: that the PCG *would pay all of the WCG's costs* for publishing the works *and withdraw its counterclaim*. All the while, WCG would still be able to claim damages over the *Mystery of the Ages* infringement. And because they were "publishing" the books on the Web, WCG could withdraw its consent and shelve the books again the moment the case ended.

It was an absurd "offer"—one they knew we would ignore.

On October 31, 2001, WCG attorney Allan Browne wrote to our lead attorney, "PCG contends that [WCG] is attempting to suppress the works and that it would be futile for PCG to request a license of the 18 works. We therefore must insist that all communications concerning WCG's offer be presented to the Court." He concluded by insisting that the PCG make a "direct, immediate and unequivocal response to the WCG's solicitation."

In 1998, a judge concluded that the PCG's dissemination of the work was a "fair use" under the copyright act. The book was, after all, out of print—and its owner had vowed to permanently keep its "doctrinal errors" out of circulation.

Wrong—they now intended to turn to the never-before-utilized world of "e-publishing." And they were not going to e-publish *Mystery of the Ages*; they were not going to e-publish everything that Mr. Armstrong had ever written; they were just going to e-publish (shockingly) *the other 18 works on our counterclaim*—the only ones that had *not* been resolved in court!

Are you following these shenanigans? They told the courts they had grandiose plans for "annotating" or re-publishing *Mystery*. Then, to excuse the fact that these plans never materialized, they said they had been put "on hold" until litigation had been resolved in their favor. And once that resolution came (for *Mystery*), they told the courts about their grandiose plans, *not* for *Mystery*, but for *the 18 works* that happened to be the same exact titles we



ROUND ONE The federal district court building in Los Angeles, Calif., where PCG won the first round of the copyright dispute.

Our First Offer

By early spring 2002, PCG decided it was time to call WCG's bluff. After conducting our own investigation at headquarters to determine from others in the publishing industry what a fair offer would be, we put WCG to the test of their willingness to consider an offer from PCG "in good faith."

My dad drafted a letter to Matthew Morgan on March 14. In it, we made the long-awaited request to print and distribute *Mystery of the Ages* and the 18 works we were seeking in our counterclaim. He mentioned to Morgan that Tkach Jr. had vowed in 1997 to keep these works out of print because of his "Christian duty." And yet, he continued, the WCG had curiously made recent representations before the court indicating a willingness to license the works. He reminded Morgan of Mr. Armstrong's lifelong policy of giving away literature at no cost to the recipient. Nevertheless, "based on the WCG's recent representations to the court, we are making an offer in good faith to license these works."

We offered to pay the WCG a royalty of 10 cents for every booklet we distributed, 25 cents per book and 50 cents for each correspondence course sent out. My dad concluded the letter by saying, "WCG recently made an 'offer' to have PCG underwrite the expense of so-called 'e-publishing' most

other things, the facts that, outside the court case, neither Mr. Tkach nor anyone else has renounced WCG's avowed 'Christian duty' to keep Mr. Armstrong's works out of print; and that WCG does not (to our knowledge) 'e-publish' any other work in which it claims to hold a copyright. I look forward to receiving your response to PCG's offer to license these works."

In all the posturing WCG had made before the court—acting as if they were more than happy to license—they had actually *never even made an offer to license*. And NOW THE PCG HAD.

Here is how Matthew Morgan responded on April 8: "As an initial matter, Mr. Flurry, with all due respect, I feel it is necessary to mention that your letter, after 12 years of silence, is belated and fraught with self-serving comments. Its obvious purpose is to gain some type of legal advantage. Nevertheless, we will afford the courtesy of a response regarding your inquiry about a license. So there is no misunderstanding, and although we do not address each one of your self-serving comments, they should be considered as denied."

The bottom line, however, is this: They are the ones who brought the subject of licensing before the Court, even though they technically never offered one. They are the ones who tried to gain the upper hand in litigation. And no matter how "belated" our offer might have been, it was, nevertheless, a

able" works would include an offensive preface prepared by WCG's Michael Feazell.

Morgan concluded by saying, "[T]he WCG is extremely pleased that its decision to publish, not only serves as the best means for the Church to capitalize on its literary copyrighted assets, but also has the additional benefit of fulfilling your church's alleged spiritual needs as well." Yet the preface to those 19 works concludes with this statement: "The material below is copyrighted and may not be reproduced in any form without this entire preface and without written permission from the Worldwide Church of God."

Due to the "additional benefit" of the WCG's "good faith" e-publishing offer, we could now direct prospective members, who might know nothing about Herbert Armstrong, to download a copy of *Mystery of the Ages* (at a substantial cost) with a 1,500-word preface denouncing the author as an uneducated hack who taught heretical doctrines and wielded dictatorial control over the Worldwide Church of God.

Of course, we failed to see how this would truly benefit the spiritual needs of our church.

Deposition Warfare

As one would expect, WCG did not seriously consider our offer. We therefore pushed forward in the direction we had figured this would go all along—fighting to the bitter end. We always believed WCG feared going before a jury much more than we did, even though we were technically going into trial as the "loser" at the intermediate court (with respect to MOA). My dad believed something dramatic would happen, whether in court or out, that would eventually turn the tide in our favor. "If God is with us," he said, "we will win this. If He's been with us, He still is with us—that is, if we keep the faith."

The trial had been set for mid-October 2002, meaning discovery and depositions needed to be completed by the end of the summer. As we geared up for a busy summer of discovery and depositions, my dad instructed his entire staff at Edmond to make the court case top priority. More than a dozen people involved themselves in gathering information and helping to prepare for the depositions of the key witnesses of the

WCG was waking to the fact that, in order to prevail on all the merits of their case—whether in the damages trial or with respect to the counterclaim—they had to, in some form, make Mr. Armstrong's works available to the public.

of these works. Aside from not being a license to PCG at all, this 'offer' suffered from numerous problems, among them that WCG apparently could withdraw the works from circulation immediately upon the conclusion of the court case between our two churches. WCG's previously announced 'plan' to produce an 'annotated' version of *Mystery of the Ages*—which by all appearances was created solely to gain a litigation advantage and (to our knowledge) has never been pursued— informs our concern in this regard. This concern is reinforced by, among

reasonable offer. And they rejected it out of hand.

Morgan went on to explain how "valuable" Mr. Armstrong's writings were to the WCG, which is why they were now moving forward on the e-publishing front. "Therefore," Morgan wrote, "no need exists to engage in complicated negotiations over the terms of a license. Your church will now be able to purchase as many legal copies of the 19 works as it desires and finds necessary to fulfill all its *alleged* spiritual needs."

He failed to mention what we later found out—that all of these "avail-

WCG—Joseph Tkach, Michael Feazell, Greg Albrecht, Bernard Schnippert, Ronald Kelly and others.

The depositions proved to be very tense exchanges. Given that a key issue in the case was whether the WCG leaders who despised Mr. Armstrong's teachings actually intended to publish his works, the WCG leaders found themselves in the uncomfortable position of having to square their litigating position with all they had said and done while dismantling Mr. Armstrong's teachings. This made for some heated exchanges with their attorneys over the summer as one WCG official after another found themselves in the hot seat, uncomfortably answering pointed questions that exposed what we had said all along was hypocrisy.

At first glance, one would think both sides in this dispute were growing further apart—becoming hardened by the grueling litigation warfare taking place almost daily. In truth, however, our commitment to fighting through to the end was actually wearing the WCG down, though we didn't know it at the time. On the surface, they appeared to be getting angrier and more arrogant by the day.

Helge's Assault

At the height of the August depositions, Ralph Helge wrote to Bob Ardis in an effort to give "accurate information" about the court case. Ardis, who was disfellowshipped from the PCG in 1997, copied Helge's letter and sent it to his entire mailing list, comprised mostly of PCG members.

In his letter, Helge explained how we initially won at the district court level. Judge Letts said we had a right to distribute MOA because, in Helge's own words, "WCG was not publishing it at the time, and because it was allegedly central to PCG's religion."

In the next paragraph, Helge explained that the three-judge panel at the Ninth Circuit reversed Judge Letts's ruling. What he failed to mention is that they overturned the ruling, in large part, because of the WCG's "plans" to publish an annotated *Mystery of the Ages*—a project that had been in the "initial discussion phase" for over five years!

Helge's scathing letter accused Gerald Flurry of "pirating" *Mystery of the Ages*, of misinforming and misleading

PCG members, of disobeying and disregarding the laws of the land, of using nearly every trick in the book to disrupt the legal process, among other things.

This paragraph, though, is of special significance: "Mr. Flurry has made representations to the PCG members, giving the misimpression that there is still the possibility in the case that the court is going to award PCG the right to pirate the MOA. This is simply, again, misinformation. The case has been finally decided and concluded regarding MOA, and Mr. Flurry, out of sheer despera-

1999, after losing at the district level, when WCG immediately appealed the decision and floated the idea that it would publish an annotated MOA—which had all the earmarks of a technical maneuver intended to thwart the judicial process. And later, the e-publishing scheme established, not by WCG's publishing department or Plain Truth Ministries or anything having to do with literature, but by *Ralph Helge's legal department*, and for the admitted purpose of undermining our argument that Mr. Armstrong's works were unavailable.

My dad believed something dramatic would happen, whether in court or out, that would eventually turn the tide in our favor. "If God is with us," he said, "we will win this."

tion, has exhausted all legal remedies available to him. Any attempt of PCG to acquire any court ordered right to print the MOA is over, done, finished. Legally there is NO PLACE ELSE FOR HIM TO GO ON THIS ISSUE. I don't know how else I can say it. PCG's only 'right' is to stand before the bar of justice and have damages assessed against them and attorney's fees for the wrong that it has committed" (emphasis mine).

In quick response, our lead attorney drafted this letter to Helge on September 18: "Any competent lawyer knows that these statements are undeniably false, and you in particular know that they are. It is beyond any dispute that the Ninth Circuit's September 2000 decision did not constitute a final judgment."

Reading between the lines of Helge's arrogant assertion, there was actually another, more subtle message: *Why won't these guys just give up?* He just wanted all of this to be over, and he boiled over upon realizing that we intended to fight them—to exhaust every possible legal option at our disposal. To Helge, though, exercising all our options was some kind of technical maneuvering intended to thwart the judicial process. He obviously felt much different about exercising all legal options if it benefited the WCG—like when they dismissed their lawsuit in California three weeks after filing in early 1997 because Judge Letts wouldn't grant their request for a temporary restraining order, hoping a lawsuit filed in Oklahoma would render better results. Or, in February

All of this, spearheaded by a man who then lectured us about thwarting the judicial process.

Television Cuts

Just days before Helge's letter landed in the mailboxes of many PCG members, my dad called for an Advisory Council of Elders meeting at our headquarters facility in Edmond on September 11. During this meeting with leading ministers of the Church, he announced that we would be cutting all of our television stations, except for the cable channel WGN, because of the court case. He said that we were now in the heat of the battle and that our time, energies and finances needed to flow in that direction. He reassured the ministry that if we had the faith of the Prophet Habakkuk, God would eventually give us Mr. Armstrong's material.

While the decision to cut television costs certainly helped increase the work's cash flow, it wasn't made for that reason alone. As our television audience had grown through the years, we were being contacted by an increasing number of respondents who knew very little or nothing about Herbert Armstrong—let alone his teachings. Without Mr. Armstrong's literature, we felt these new contacts could not be spiritually nurtured until we had a breakthrough in the court case. It is difficult to grasp the full depth of our literature without the foundational teachings of Mr. Armstrong. The idea was, *Let's win the court battle first, and then concentrate on taking our message*

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to the largest audience possible. My dad admonished us to educate our members as to why we were involved in this legal battle. He said, "Maybe God wants to teach the whole Church how vital these works are." To win this battle, every member had to do his part.

A week and a half later, PCG members from all over the world convened at various locations to celebrate our annual fall festival—the Feast of Tabernacles. During the Feast, my dad delivered two messages that were broadcast live, via satellite, to most of the PCG's worldwide membership. In his first message, on September 22, he said he didn't think he would ever give a more important message because of what was happening in the work. He went on to discuss the meaning of the court case—saying it was a test for us, but that if we had faith, God would revive this work and give us that literature somehow—some way. To obtain those works, though, he said we had to be willing to fight to the end—willing to do whatever God required of us.

He concluded the sermon by quoting from Helge's letter to Bob Ardis. Regarding Helge's comment that we had "pirated" Mr. Armstrong's works, my dad said it was WCG leaders who had in fact pirated an ENTIRE CHURCH.

In his second live sermon on September 27, my dad explained that one reason this trial might be dragging on is because God wants us to EXPOSE the WCG. He told the membership that we intended to press forward, fully intent on exposing them every step of the way.

At the end of the sermon, he announced the TV cuts he had made at the September 11 meeting. He told the membership that our message to the world could not be truly effective until we acquired the right to publish Mr. Armstrong's works. "We must go all out in this court case," he said.

About Face

Two weeks after our fall festival ended, on October 14 (the trial had been pushed back to early December), there was a dramatic turn in events: WCG offered to sell us *Mystery of the Ages* outright. We were skeptical of WCG's offer, and thought the price they were asking was too high, but just the fact that WCG now wanted to sell it outright—no restrictive license with a gag order preventing us from criticizing them—left us in a virtual state of shock.

Why, after all the rhetoric about annotation and e-publishing, after Morgan's ridicule of our March offer to license, after Helge's scathing editorial about PCG's hopeless position ("the case has been finally decided and concluded"; "legally there is no place else for [the PCG] to go"; "PCG's only 'right' is to stand before the bar of justice and have damages assessed against them and attorney's fees for the wrong that it has committed") would WCG now ask us to settle?

This was a HUGE breakthrough.

In many ways, we felt we had finally worn them down. Our first thought was on getting *all* the works—*Mystery of the Ages* and the 18 we were seeking

in our counterclaim. Our second thought was about finances. At the time, we had about \$1 million cash on hand, in reserve.

Helge Lashes Out Again

Meanwhile, Ralph Helge wouldn't stop spouting off. The *Journal*, a newspaper reporting on the news of WCG and its many splinter groups, interviewed Helge on October 29. (PCG respectfully turned down the newspaper's request for an interview.) The article that was published in the October 31 issue was loaded with Helgeisms: "In various court rulings over the years, the WCG's arguments ... have overwhelmingly prevailed" and WCG "seeks to recover costs for attorneys' fees plus damages from the PCG for illegally printing *Mystery*."

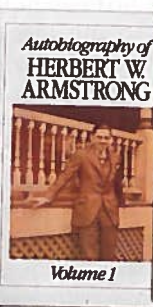
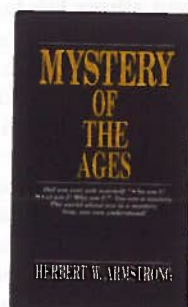
Helge informed the *Journal* that the WCG was now electronically publishing the very works we were seeking in this case. Even the *Journal* expressed skepticism about the sincerity of such a move, wondering if it was simply a strategy employed to undermine the PCG's position. "Mr. Helge insists the church's real motive is to make the works of Mr. Armstrong available to the public and that removing the PCG's legal claim that these works are unavailable is of only secondary importance."

Of course, we believed all the evidence showed that, both before and after this case started, WCG was determined never to make Mr. Armstrong's works available. But that Helge would even admit that removing our legal claim was at least of "secondary importance" was an astounding admission. They never hinted at this in the court proceedings. But again, the question is why would WCG even need to make the works available if PCG was in such an indefensible position? Hadn't the court been ruling "overwhelmingly" in WCG's favor? Were we not left with just one

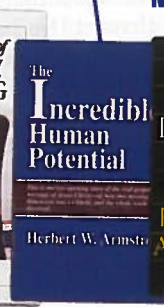
FREE LITERATURE — PLEASE READ

"TO THE VICTOR ..." The copyrights to *Mystery of the Ages* and 18 other books and booklets written by Herbert W. Armstrong, shown below, are now property of the PCG. Indicated are those items for which printed copies are currently available—we invite you to request your free copies today! PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST ANY ITEMS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. You may view most of these items in their entirety online at www.theTrumpet.com (see back cover).

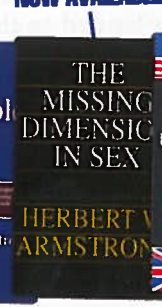
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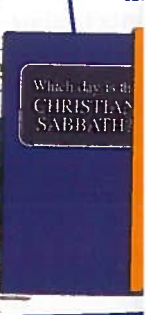


NOW AVAILABLE



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option in this litigation—standing before the bar of justice to have damages assessed against us for our “unlawful” and “illegal” distribution of *Mystery*?

Helge concluded his interview with another personal attack against Gerald Flurry. “Mr. Helge predicted that, whenever the final court hearing adjourns and the PCG is still not allowed to print Mr. Armstrong’s books, ‘I’ll bet he says this is a famine of hearing the Word, that Satan did this’”

Helge did not mention anything

In truth, our commitment to fighting through to the end was actually wearing the WCG down, though we didn’t know it at the time. On the surface, they appeared to be getting angrier and more arrogant by the day.

about the WCG’s offer to settle the case just two weeks before his interview with the *Journal*.

Meanwhile, my dad had called for a Church-wide fast within the PCG. Members were asked to beseech God for special deliverance in this struggle. The fast was scheduled for the weekend of November 23-24.

Denied Summary Judgment Again

While negotiations for settlement continued off the record, preparations for the December trial had to move forward. In the *Journal* article, Helge had indicated that if the November 6 hearing came out in favor of WCG, then the next step would undoubtedly be a “trial to determine attorneys’ fees and damages the PCG would have to pay the WCG.”

The hearing he referred to did not come out in their favor. WCG had filed another motion for summary judgment regarding the other 18 works. The judge again denied their motion

on the grounds of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a law enacted by Congress in 1993 designed to prevent the government from substantially burdening a person’s free exercise of religion. We believed the copyright law unfairly and substantially burdened our religion because WCG was using it to suppress Mr. Armstrong’s works.

This is why the WCG devised the e-publishing scheme: How can it be a “substantial burden” when these works are now available through e-

publishing? At the hearing, the judge said they were “charging too much” for *Mystery of the Ages*. Our attorney pointed out that “although the Ninth Circuit did say that having to ask for a license and presumably having to pay for it couldn’t be a substantial burden, they didn’t say that the Worldwide Church could set the price wherever they wanted.”

“And in fact,” the judge said to WCG’s lawyers, “they implicitly suggest that it *has to be available on a reasonable basis*.” Three years after that ruling, *Mystery* was still unavailable. And we had made a “reasonable” offer to license the works, but WCG never responded.

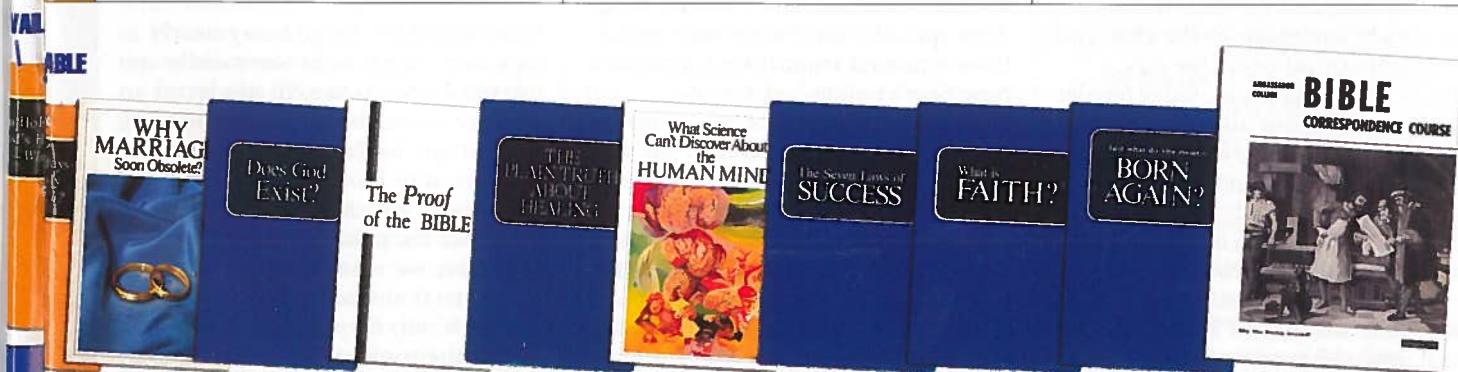
Junk Science

While formulating a defense against our counterclaim, WCG also had to prove how badly they had been “damaged” by our distribution of *Mystery*—a book that we gave away for free, that WCG had distributed for free during Mr. Armstrong’s life, and that WCG

had long since said it had a “Christian duty” to keep out of print. The bulk of evidence in this regard fell on the shoulders of a “forensic economist” named John Crissey, who had worked as an expert in numerous cases for Allan Browne’s law firm. According to Crissey’s September 18, 2002, expert report, WCG had been denied “profits” totaling \$3.84 million—\$4.3 million with interest—by the PCG’s free distribution of 100,000 copies of MOA. He also calculated the future “losses” of WCG to be \$3.3 million. All totaled, WCG would be seeking \$7.63 million in damages at trial—just for *Mystery of the Ages*. (They would also be seeking millions of dollars in attorneys’ fees.)

Crissey based his findings on the fact that *Mystery* recipients gave more money than non-recipients of the book—nevermind the fact that *Mystery* recipients might just happen to agree with the PCG’s message and its teachings. What Crissey ignored was that pre-1997 data showed that *Mystery* recipients had already been giving at a higher rate long before PCG even started its MOA distribution! He ignored this data (which we supplied him with) because it completely contradicted his “expert” analysis. Many of our own members and their children were the first ones to request copies of MOA once we began distribution. These people were already “pre-disposed” to giving more—they were already tithing members of the Church!

In PCG’s motion to dismiss Crissey’s report, our lawyer, Mark Helm, argued that the court should not admit Crissey’s testimony, calling it bogus, fatally flawed and defective junk science, among other things. Judge Snyder seemed to agree. She wrote in her tentative order, a few days after a November 25 hearing, “[T]he methodology employed by Mr. Crissey has not



COPYRIGHT VICTORY

been shown to be sufficiently reliable to allow it to be presented to the trier of fact, and therefore his quantitative estimate of the amount of contributions that are attributable to distribution of MOA is not admissible.”

Thus, on the eve of the damages trial, WCG was faced with the prospect of not having any real evidence to show how much PCG supposedly “profited” from and WCG was “damaged” by MOA distribution. Of course, WCG had much difficulty with this argument long before Crissey came along. The very first reason WCG gave in 1989 for discontinuing *Mystery* was the exorbitant cost of distributing such a big book! Now they were saying it was a huge moneymaker for the PCG.

When we started distributing the work in 1997, we absorbed all the excessive printing and mailing cost, and then gave it away free of charge! Under any circumstances, it would be difficult to show how this was some sort of moneymaking scheme for PCG. But for WCG to then claim that our free distribution was actually stealing “profits” from them is the height of hypocrisy. Why would they now seek “profits” from a book they had been ridiculing for years and had vowed to keep out of circulation?

Gutting Their Case

The November 25 hearing was a significant victory for us in ways other than Crissey’s report. WCG had long been indicating, during depositions especially, that they intended to portray us as a cult before the jury. They would try to show how we were a racially bigoted, misogynistic fringe group, led by a self-proclaimed dictator with 25 Messianic titles. (Of course, WCG argued that *for us* to bring up anything about *their* religion or how they destroyed Mr. Armstrong’s work—and did it in such an evil, deceitful way—was totally irrelevant to the case and would unfairly influence the jury.)

In her tentative order, Judge Snyder said she would not allow the trial to turn into an “attack on Flurry” because it would “distract the jury from the issues at trial” and “unfairly prejudice PCG.” Later, the court concluded that “WCG should not be permitted to describe specific religious tenets—either its own, or PCG’s—regarding racial issues because such evidence will

be unfairly prejudicial and will confuse the issues at trial.” In explaining why they discontinued *Mystery*, the judge said she would allow WCG to say that it considered its message to be “no longer *socially* acceptable.” But so far as the judge was concerned, they couldn’t even use the word “race.”

This was huge. Added to the ruling on Crissey, we felt the tentative order would pretty much gut the WCG’s case for damages.

Not only were they unable to prove damages, now they couldn’t sling mud. Added to that, they still had to tackle our counterclaim, not to mention subject themselves to a rigorous PCG defense dead set on exposing their lies and deceit.

from any obligation to WCG.

But we hadn’t totally ruled out the idea of licensing, so long as it gave us the control we needed. It had to be in perpetuity, royalty free, with no disclaimer at the front of the works, and an inoffensive copyright notice, like “© Herbert W. Armstrong.”

We made our final proposal on Monday, January 13—it was to buy perpetual licenses for all 19 works. Admittedly, we submitted the proposal with some reservation. Though we basically had the control we needed with perpetual licenses, we still wouldn’t own them.

The next day, to our utter amazement and shock, the WCG asked us to submit an alternative offer for buying the copyrights outright. Thus, by the

On January 16—17 years to the day after Herbert W.

Armstrong’s death—the WCG agreed to sell us all the

copyrights. The total cost to PCG was an even \$2 million.

Sealing the Deal

The damages trial had now been pushed back to March 4 because Allan Browne said he had another trial starting ahead of our case. This allowed both sides more time to argue over what evidence would be allowed at trial. Judge Snyder scheduled another hearing on December 18, as a follow-up to her tentative order. Having read everything, she said at the outset of the hearing that she wasn’t inclined to change her tentative ruling.

Two days after that hearing, WCG seemed even more eager to settle. Sensing desperation, my dad was all the more inclined to be patient. On December 24, we put together a package offer for all the copyrights to the 19 works involved in the litigation.

We wouldn’t hear back from WCG, despite their insistence to get things done quickly, until after their executives returned from their Christmas/New Year’s holiday celebration.

The first two weeks of January is when the negotiations finally got serious. The biggest obstacle, however, proved to be over licensing versus ownership, although money certainly factored in heavily. The WCG wanted to sell licenses. We wanted the advantage of OWNERSHIP, giving us full control of Mr. Armstrong’s works and freeing us

end of the 14th, they had two final offers on the table—one for licenses and one for full ownership.

On Thursday morning, January 16—17 years to the day after Herbert W. Armstrong’s death—the WCG agreed to sell us *all* the copyrights. Apart from contributions from our insurance carrier, the total cost to PCG was an even \$2 million.

Later that day, Mark Helm and the WCG’s attorney conference-called Judge Snyder to tell her that both sides had agreed to terms of settlement. Thus, for all intents and purposes, six years of litigation ended the afternoon of January 16, 2003.

In the weeks that followed, we haggled over the precise wording in the paperwork needed to finalize the deal. It was completed on Friday, March 7.

To the Victor Go the Spoils

I can’t imagine Helge being nearly as high-and-mighty as he was months ago during depositions, in his letter to Ardis or his interview with the *Journal*, but I’m sure he’ll think of some kind of positive spin he can put on the final outcome of this case. “We finally made them pay the price for their thievery.” Or, “See, we would have sold those works to them before all of this got started, if only they would have asked.”

But the truth of the matter is, ever

Helge knows you only have to scratch beneath the surface to find out who really won in this case. What exactly did the WCG gain from six years of litigation? They settled to cover the legal costs they had already incurred on the case. They retrieved no “profits” or “damages” from PCG. And all of their supposed “overwhelming” victories were conditioned on them making Mr. Armstrong’s works available—despite Tkach Jr.’s vow in 1997 to keep them “out of print.”

On the other hand, what about us in the PCG? What did we gain by printing *Mystery of the Ages* in 1997 and by defending ourselves in this lawsuit? True, we had to endure through six years of grueling litigation same as WCG. But even they would have to admit that we derived much more pleasure and satisfaction from this battle than they did! Added to that, there were so many other benefits. Thousands of pages of evidence, released through discovery, exposed what we had long said had been happening—a small band of second-generation WCGers who never liked Mr. Armstrong’s teachings had gained power and quickly proceeded to deliberately, methodically, deceitfully and forcefully “transform” that church into an Armstrong-bashing “Christian” denomination. (Of course, WCG members who resisted these monumental changes were summarily excommunicated.)

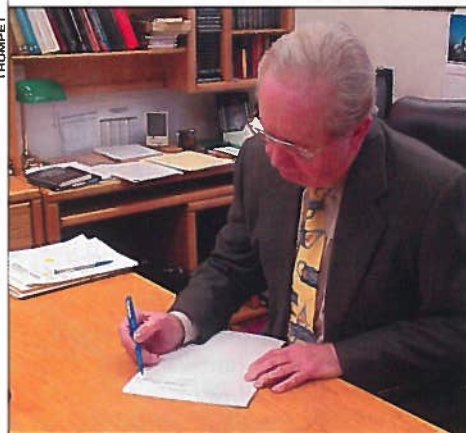
And despite Mr. Helge’s rhetoric about “overwhelming” victories in court and, as he wrote to Ardis, that only “two judges decided for PCG and 35 judges decided in favor of WCG” (counting all the judges at the Ninth Circuit and in the Supreme Court who chose not to hear the case), the facts are these: *Four* out of the six years of litigation, we were able to freely distribute *Mystery of the Ages* to 100,000 recipients. For *two years*, we freely distributed five other works by Mr. Armstrong.

We also concluded the lawsuit with the satisfaction of making Joe Tkach Jr. eat his words: “We filed suit against the Philadelphia Church of God ... to block the republication of *Mystery of the Ages* ... We feel it is our Christian duty to keep this book out of print ... because we believe Mr. Armstrong’s doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation.” Had we not taken them to task on this “duty,” it is our firm belief that Mr. Armstrong’s printed works would

have never again seen the light of day.

Considering Tkach’s comments above and the way the lawsuit ended, we also believe we exposed the “annotated version” and “e-publishing” for what they really were—a complete sham, concocted for no other reason but to gain an advantage in litigation.

Oh, and one other benefit we can claim as a result of this lawsuit: We now own the copyrights to 7 books, 11 booklets and a 58-lesson correspondence course—something that would not have been possible in 1996 and *not even possible if*, in fighting to the bitter end, THE SUPREME COURT OVERTURNED THE NINTH CIRCUIT’S RULING!



JUBILEE Gerald Flurry signs the final contract to obtain the 19 works.

To be sure, the final outcome of this case exceeded anything we ever could have imagined.

“Buy the Truth, and Sell it Not”

Some few might question why we would ever give any money—even one dollar—to an organization we believe is motivated by the devil. But such criticism misses the whole point of this lawsuit. Satan’s first goal in all of this was to destroy Mr. Armstrong’s writings because those works expose him for what he is—the father of lies. *God simply would not allow that to happen.*

Again, just imagine what would have happened had we never decided to step out in faith to distribute what WCG was unlawfully trying to suppress. This case proves what good comes from a willingness to stand up for what is right and the determination to fight to the bitter end. James 4:7 says if we “resist the devil”—if we stand up and fight against him—he will flee from us!

That is what happened in this case.

Once the WCG realized they could not suppress these works, they eventually took the money and ran.

Giving up “mammon” for the truth of God does not violate our faith one bit. To the contrary, God’s Word says, “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Prov. 23:23). It’s the WCG who ought to be ashamed that they “sold” the truth. Talk about a faith crisis! Like Esau, they gave up their spiritual inheritance for what amounts to a bowl of soup, comparatively speaking.

Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a pearl of great price. Upon finding that “pearl,” it says in Matthew 13, the merchant went and sold *everything* he had to obtain it.

Again, in Matthew 19, Jesus told a rich man who wanted to inherit the spiritual riches of God’s Kingdom that he had to be willing to give up *EVERYTHING* of *physical* value.

You simply cannot affix a monetary value to spiritual truth. That is the precise reason Mr. Armstrong never sold his literature. And that’s why, even after six years of litigation and spending millions of dollars, we will never sell Mr. Armstrong’s literature.

Over the course of six years, including the \$2 million we paid at settlement, we spent about \$5 million on this lawsuit—*less than one tenth of our total income during this same period.*

And considering what we obtained in return—it’s by far the best money we’ve ever spent. ♦

thetrumpet.com

For more on our history and beliefs, see “This Is the Philadelphia Church of God” under About Us.

We currently have printed copies of seven of Herbert W. Armstrong’s works available for you to order. They are:

Mystery of the Ages

The Incredible Human Potential

The Missing Dimension In Sex

**The Wonderful World Tomorrow—
What Will It Be Like?**

The United States and Britain in Prophecy (1980)

Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?

Pagan Holidays or God’s Holy Days—Which?

See inside the front cover of this magazine for how to request your free copies. We ask that you do not request any other of the 19 works at this time.



FIRSTS At the Vatican, John Paul II met with Castro for the first time in 1996, paving the way for his 1998 Cuba visit.

From Communism to Catholicism?

BY RON FRASER

BACK IN FEBRUARY 1998, WHEN THE world was still reeling from the great East Asian financial meltdown and the new European Union federal currency had yet to see the light of day, this magazine made a prediction. It was a prediction based upon an understanding of history, placed within the perspective of current events, and overlaid with the vision of biblical prophecy: "[T]he first link in the chain that will inevitably bind Havana to Rome and thence to the European Union is forged. The way is open for the key diplomat of the EU, Pope John Paul II himself, to influence the powerful EU to invest in Cuba, resurrect its economy, and give to the [European] Union major influence in the most strategic location that it could ever hope for, just a short haul from the Straits of Florida, a proverbial stone's throw from the North American mainland" (*Trumpet*, February 1998).



◆ CUBA

Five years later, on March 11 this year, the newswires buzzed with the story that the EU had established an official office in Havana.

Here is how the EFE News Service portrayed that event: "The European Union has opened a representative office in the Cuban capital which officials said heralded a new era in relations between Brussels and Havana. ... [Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque] said that Cuba understood that the presence of the new EU office was 'a signal by the European Union that it is interested in tightening relations and cooperation' with Havana."

The EU presence in Havana will work toward hastening the entry of Cuba into the Cotonu Accord. Under this trade treaty, the EU guarantees preferential trade allowances to former European colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

In one fell swoop, the EU has sabotaged the 40-year trade embargo imposed by the U.S. on Cuba and seized preference in trade with what will become Cuba's revitalized economy.

It's the old colonial approach to Latin America from mother *Europa* all over again: Capitalize on the development of much-needed resources in the New World in exchange for processed goods from the Old World.

In that old deal, which operated from the 15th to 19th century, the winner was Europe by far. It all began in Cuba way back in 1492.

"Sunday, October 28: He went ... in search of the nearest point in the island of Cuba to the south-south-west, and he entered a very lovely river He says that the island is the most lovely that eyes have ever

seen; it is full of good harbors and deep rivers, and it seems that the sea can never be stormy, for the vegetation on the shore runs down almost to the water ..." (*The Journal of Christopher Columbus*). These were Christopher Columbus's observations on the day he entered and named the river and harbor of San Salvador, Cuba.

Today's Cuba still has much in the way of exploitable resources. Though considerable deforestation has occurred, the island continues to support a lush mix of vegetation ranging from tropical near-jungle to upland pines. Large, state-controlled plantations support the growing of Cuba's principal cash crops—cane sugar, tobacco, citrus fruits and coffee. Rich in nickel deposits, the island also contains sizable reserves of copper, chromite and iron ore.

However, Cuba's economy, long tied to the apron strings of the USSR, has languished in the wake of the implosion of the old Soviet Union. The nation simply needs another patron. Enter Karol Wojtyła—Pope John Paul II.

Squeezed between the seemingly all-powerful United States to the north and the giant Catholic countries within the huge continent to its south, Fidel Castro's Cuba has seemingly taken a most uncharacteristic, yet, given the economic and political circumstances, a most obvious, position. With U.S.-sanctioned embargoes limiting trade with North America, Castro must see the writing on the wall.

Catholic Latin America will inevitably return to its roots and join in a trade alliance with the most dominant economy outside the U.S., the EU. With few exceptions, revival of religion has largely brought social, if not yet economic, stability to Latin America following decades of revolution and counter-revolution. Latin America is a plum ripe for timely plucking by the European colossus.

The revolutionary movement in Cuba, without the support of the now-defunct Soviet Union, is sputtering in its death throes. Cuba must either consort with the EU, or it is fated to descend into decay. In recent years, as

"[T]he first link in the chain that will inevitably bind Havana to Rome and thence to the European Union is forged. The way is open for the key diplomat of the EU, Pope John Paul II himself, to influence the powerful EU to invest in Cuba" • TRUMPET, FEBRUARY 1998 •

the aging dictator of this last revolutionary regime in the Latin American region has contemplated the future of his nation and the imminent waning of his power, he has paradoxically turned to the one man who has so powerfully worked to destroy the ideology that Cuba once embraced for 30 years—godless communism—and who is the dominant spiritual influence both on the continent of Europe and in Latin America: Pope John Paul II.

Preparing for the inevitable, Castro began easing formal restrictions on religious worship. In 1992, the Cuban government, officially atheist since 1962, declared it was now adopting a secular approach. The people immediately commenced a religious revival.

Castro visited the pope at the Vatican in November 1996. An invitation was issued to John Paul II to visit Cuba. The pope accepted, but on *his* terms, which included free movement, equal participation of the church in organizing the visit, and free expression of faith in services. Castro submitted to the pope's demands.

As a gesture of goodwill to the Vatican, Castro re-introduced the Christmas holiday on December 25, 1997. Roman Catholic parishes in Havana were packed with worshippers that day. Church bells rang out in celebration all over Cuba. Two days later, Cardinal Jaime Ortega, archbishop of Havana and leader of the Catholic Church in Cuba, cried out to a gathering of 1,200 young, newly religious hopefuls, "In your search for sense in your life, look for a centering place: the Catholic Church." Religious fervor increased the closer the Cubans got to January 21, 1998—the date of the pope's arrival in Havana.

The government saw the visit of John Paul II as having great public-relations value to Cuba's ailing economy. The president of the Cuban Congress, Ricardo Alarcon, observed that the pope's visit would place Cuba on the front pages of newspapers worldwide, showing that the island nation has powerful friends among other nations, despite the efforts of the U.S. to isolate it.

This milestone visit was a huge success for the pope. It was, indeed, another brilliant Vatican coup. Cuba was finally coming in from the cold and joining the long line of those penitent, previously communized nations all

having fallen under the papal spell since the heady days when the pope endorsed the Polish Solidarity Movement as the thin edge of the wedge to break the grip of the hold of communism on so many of them.



Since Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba, relations between Cuba and the Vatican have continued to warm. By isolating Cuba from any association with the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the U.S. is simply pushing Cuba into the waiting paws of the Eurobeast.

In March, the EU announced the imminence of the conclusion of a free-trade agreement with certain Latino countries: "The EU and Mercosur—Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay—have set themselves firmly on the road to opening up markets between the two trading blocs. An exchange of first offers for market opening paves the way for an EU-Mercosur Association Agreement ..." (www.EUBusiness.com, March 6).

Mercosur is the free-trade association of Latin America. Conceived as a virtual Latin American common market, membership is open to all Latino countries. Its present members are Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. Chile and Bolivia have already signed free-trade agreements with Mercosur. Negotiations continue for Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela and Bolivia to join; Central American countries are also negotiating membership. Having membership open to all Latin American countries means that Cuba could apply for membership.

The real nub of the Mercosur equation is its relationship with the EU. Once the four member countries have concluded their historic deal with the

EU, it is just a matter of time before the whole of Latin America jumps onto the bandwagon. With their economies in situations that range from desperate in Argentina and Brazil to not much better elsewhere, the Latin American nations will be easy meat for the massive European Union to take advantage of in trade and thus build a massive cross-Atlantic bloc that will dwarf all others in size and global economic clout. Connected by a common language, religion and Hispanic heritage, Latin America will naturally merge with the EU through Spain, one of the EU's most influential member nations, in the political arena.

The strategic dangers—political and economic—to the U.S. posed by such a prospect are huge. They take on even greater meaning when Cuba enters the equation. As the U.S. giant remains nonplussed by these developments, the beast of Revelation 13, ridden by the great whore of Revelation 17, nibbles almost at its feet.

Watch for careful but overt initiatives from Vatican City to consolidate the church's power through winning the loyalty of its Cuban parishioners back to their religious roots. Watch for strengthening religious, commercial, political, defence and security ties between Latin America and Europe.

**The strategic dangers—
political and economic—to the U.S.
posed by such a prospect are huge.
They take on even greater meaning
when Cuba enters the equation.**

Indeed, watch for the wheel to come full circle. Watch for Cuba, one of the first New World lands claimed by Columbus for the religion of Rome, to become the final piece falling into place in the bonding of Latin America by the power of religion to its European foster parent. Watch for developing EU foreign policy to ultimately exploit the whole region from Havana to Tierra del Fuego in a great future blockading of an economically declining North America. This will prevent the U.S. from waxing "rich through the abundance of her [EU] delicacies" (Rev. 18:3) and place it in the gravest of dangers—as fodder for "the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus ..." (Rev 17:6). ♦



SUSPECT Russian-built Bushehr nuclear power reactor in southwestern Iran

agreed to speed the completion of this same nuclear power plant.

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham stated that Washington has “long been concerned that Iran’s only interest in nuclear civil power—given its vast domestic energy resources—is to support its nuclear

weapons program” (ibid.).

Two factors encourage the continuing partnership of Russia and Iran, despite deep U.S. unease and mistrust; one is monetary, the other is political. Russia’s military elite “view themselves as keepers of the Russian imperial flame, and the only people who can oppose the American influence in the world” (ibid.).

Watch the relationship between Iran and Russia continue to build as the pace of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy in the Middle East picks up. One of the most significant factors, supported by this evidence, will be that of *Iran achieving recognition as a nuclear power.*

◆ RUSSIA

Helping Iran go nuclear

As the conflict between the allied coalition and Iraq continues, there is a sickening silence concerning the nuclear cooperation between Russia and Iran.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov visited Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan during the second week of March. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov explained to Interfax, “This trip was planned long ago and its role will increase in connection with the deteriorating situation in the region” (March 7).

The most significant aspect of the cooperation between Russia and Iran, world-security wise, will be their *nuclear partnership*. The Western powers will certainly be forced to address this issue eventually. BBC News noted last year that though the relationship between President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin has blossomed, “there is one issue threatening to come between them: an \$800 million nuclear reactor being built by the Russians in Iran” (Aug. 16, 2002).

The project, begun by a German firm in 1972, was abandoned after the 1979 Iranian revolution until a decade ago, when Moscow agreed to finish it. Last December, Russia and Iran

◆ GERMANY

Gateway to the East

Germany’s waterways have offered it access to the greater continent of Europe since Roman times.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the German dream of *lebensraum* was revived. When the unification of Europe into a federation of states, dominated by Germany, became a reality, East was to be joined with West.

Crucial to this unification of a Germanized Europe are the German Unity Transport Projects. Of particular note within this

visionary effort to unite the middle European transit systems is Project 17—the development of the existing waterway link between Hannover in north-central Germany and Berlin in the northeast.

This *pièce de résistance* within the Unity Transport developments involves the most ambitious project of all: the 1 kilometer-long canal bridge over the Elbe River at Magdeburg, directly linking the Mittelland Canal and the Elbe-Havel Canal.

Up to now, shipping traveling from Germany’s massive North Sea ports to Berlin had to make huge detours before it could head in the direction of the German capital and on into Eastern Europe. The new canal bridge will speed the transfer of goods east and west along one of the busiest transport routes in Europe.

This huge engineering feat was actually begun within an earlier decade of German expansionary vision, the 1930s, but was abruptly terminated during World War II.

Revived in 1998, the great canal bridge project is nearing completion as the time approaches for 13 Eastern European nations to join a federating Europe. Unified by common currency, governmental institutions, judiciary, police and defense, the EU is now being increasingly unified through a massive waterways transport system—largely under the control of the EU’s historically most aggressive member nation. Germany’s gateway to the East is about to open.



◆ CYPRUS

Turkey loses with EU

Following the breakdown of United Nations-led negotiations on the re-unification of Cyprus, the European Commission announced March 11 that the European Union will admit only the Greek-speaking half of Cyprus when it takes in 12 new members next year.

The talks, conducted at The Hague, were aimed at re-uniting the Greek south of the island and the Turkish north—a state recognized only by Turkey, which invaded Cyprus following a failed Greek coup intended to merge the island with Greece in 1974. The failure of the talks came when the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, rejected the U.N. plan to bring the two sides together under a single weak central government. Denktaş held out for official recognition of the Turkish occupied north.

However, a broader issue is at stake. Denktaş’s rejection of the U.N. plan for Cyprus does not bode well for Turkey’s bid to enter the EU fold.

Jean-Christophe Filori, a spokesman for EU Enlargement Commissioner Gunter Verheugen, said that unless the two sides of the island agreed to unite by May 2004, “it will be difficult to imagine starting negotiations” to admit Turkey into the EU (*International Herald Tribune*, March 12).

Filori explained that if there was still no settlement by the end of 2004, the EU “will be facing this rather weird situation where a candidate country knocking at the door does not recognize one of our own member

states" (*Guardian*, London, March 12).

Filori went so far as to say that if a solution wasn't found by the time the Greek Cypriots joined the EU, that Turkey would be "militarily occupying one of our member states" (Associated Press, March 12).

Turkey and Northern Cyprus do seem to be caught on a back foot. Moreover, once Cyprus's accession to Europe occurs in the coming year, the government of the southern Greek side may become the official government over the whole island, at least within a European legal framework. Filori said the treaty to join the EU "will be signed by Cyprus as we know it today"—meaning the government of the Greek half of Cyprus, the only internationally recognized Cypriot authority (*International Herald Tribune*, op. cit.).

Europe is well on its way to engulfing Cyprus, a prized piece of strategic real estate in the eastern Mediterranean, as a military base pointing into the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

◆ CHINA

How big a change?

A sweeping government change occurred during the first two weeks of March in Communist China at the



WHO LEADS CHINA Hu Jintao (right) and Wen Jiabao

annual session of its parliament, the National People's Congress. The top level of the Chinese leadership has new faces: Jiang Zemin stepped down as president and was replaced by Hu Jintao; Premier Zhu Rongji was replaced by one of his vice prime ministers, Wen Jiabao. Chinese legislators also appointed new leaders in other key leadership and cabinet positions.

This being the biggest leadership change since the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, the impoverished Chinese people are hopeful that they will benefit from the change.

The people's desire for change might seem odd considering China's past two decades of economic and political advancement. However, a closer examination of the facts shows that the economic boom has really only affected the urbanized east coast. The 70 percent of China's 1.3 billion population living in the poorer, rural areas of the country have not benefitted.

President Hu, who grew up in a peasant family, has emphasized the necessity to address this growing wealth gap and spread the prosperity to China's agricultural inland. But will the new administration be successful in this goal? Or is it just a new face peddling an old ideology?

In his first public remarks as president, Hu stated, "Only socialism can save China, and only socialism with Chinese characteristics can develop China" (Associated Press, March 17). The new-comer president of China seems to be cast in the same mold as his predecessors, emphasizing that there is to be no change in the Communist ideology that failed so grandly in their neighbor to the north, greater Russia.

To what extent the new leaders can truly address China's Achilles heel—the poverty extant among millions—is yet to be seen. Any solution to the poverty problem, Wen stated in a news conference, must be approached within the framework of the old red ideology: "Governing China is a project that is extremely demanding. Only by reform, opening up and implementing socialism with Chinese characteristics can we build a more modern, prosperous China" (ibid.).

To the Chinese, socialism remains the key to success in their nation, despite its massive failure within the old Soviet Union.

◆ ASIA

A nuclear Japan?

In Japan, the shackles that I have constrained the nation since 1945 are slowly being loosened.

Japan's pacifist constitution explicitly renounces the use of force to resolve international disputes and denies Japan the right to collective security—restrictions imposed to prevent Japan from ever again waging offensive warfare.

But the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the subsequent war on terror have accelerated a change in the way the Japanese view their role in an increasingly volatile world. Neighboring North Korea is unpredictable and has proven willing to provoke Japan with hostile gestures; there is the threat of terrorist strikes against Japanese interests in retaliation for its

support of the U.S. Add to that Japan's own desire for greater regional influence. All this has brought about what was not so long ago considered taboo—discussion of acquiring nuclear weapons by the only nation ever to be victims of a nuclear attack.

"As Ichiro Ozawa, the leader [of] Japan's Liberal Party, said last year: 'We have plenty of plutonium in our nuclear power plants, so it is possible for us to produce 3,000 to 4,000 nuclear warheads. If we get serious, we will never be beaten in terms of military power'" (*Times*, London, Feb. 22).

Japan's principal obstacles to acquiring nuclear weapons are legal and political—but these are steadily being overcome. As right-wing member of the Japanese parliament Shingo Nishimura stated, "When I talked about nuclear weapons in the past everyone attacked me. ... But now no one does.' [A]mong politicians, academics and bureaucrats the possibility is now being discreetly and



OZAWA

cautiously discussed" (ibid.).

Some note that Japan is not isolated in its ambitions. U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney has said that North Korea's nuclear weapons program could trigger Japan to rethink

whether to become a nuclear power itself. In March he told NBC News, "The idea of a nuclear-armed North Korea with ballistic missiles to deliver those will, I think, probably set off an arms race in that part of the world ..." (*Japan Economic Newswire*, March 17).

Despite its political hurdles, geostrategic pressures dictate that Japan will become a well-armed nuclear power.

SPECIAL FEATURE

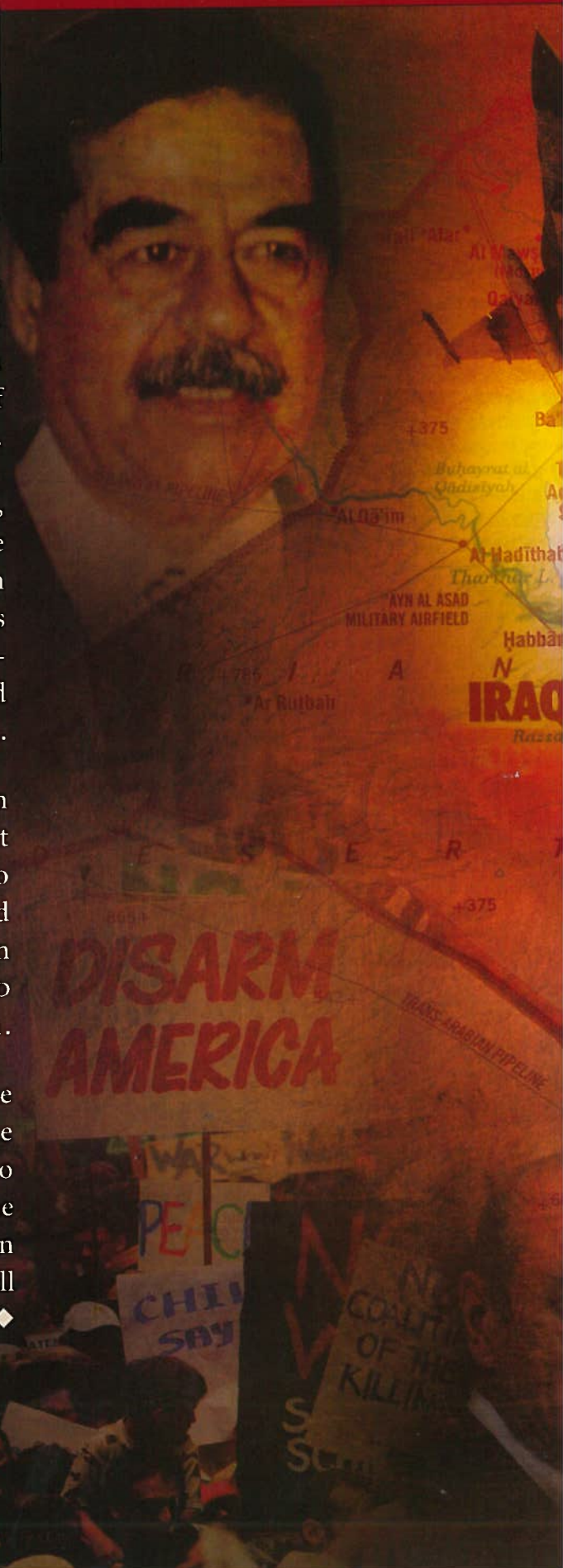
SHOCK & AWE

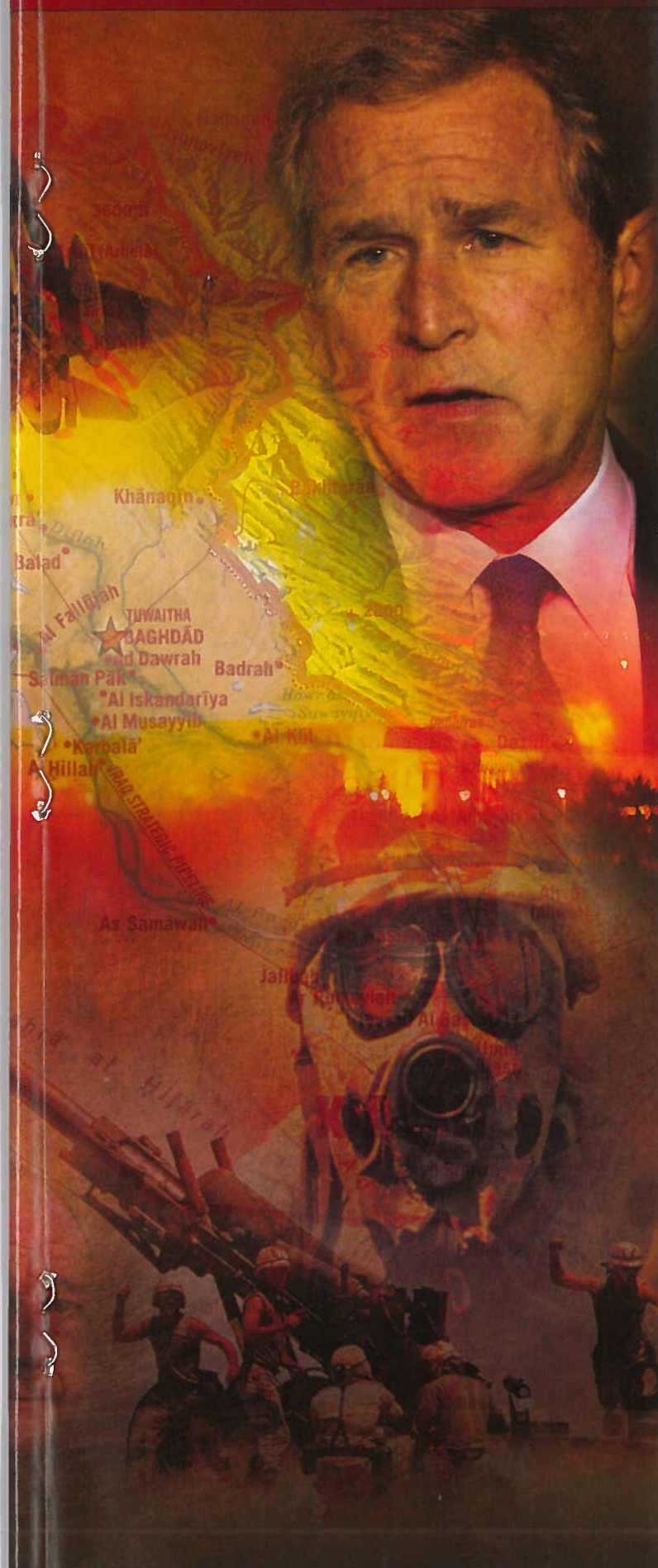
BAGHDAD'S NIGHT SKIES BURNING WITH MUSHROOM clouds. Guerrilla firefights in the desert. Brutalized American POWs. Now these and many other images are seared into our minds. The American-led campaign on Iraq has provided us an unmatched sweep of press coverage, a profusion of information about each development in the war.

But among all the frantic and breaking news, woefully absent is the real UNDERSTANDING—the comprehension of the grand perspective. To gain the broad view, we must compare current facts with BIBLICAL PROPHECY—the infallible preview of the major events that will precede the end of this age, provided us by Almighty God.

The world is witnessing a titanic transformation in the global balance of power, a tidal shift it does not yet grasp. For those with the eyes to see, the prelude to conflict in Iraq exposed many aspects of this shift, and foreshadowed an unfolding reality filled with far more SHOCK AND AWE than America's radical military plan.

In this special feature we will look at some of the most dramatic, prophetic implications of the events leading up to the war. And in articles to come we will forecast what the landscape of the Middle East will look like once the Iraq campaign comes to a close and beyond—a future that will leave all the world stunned with shock and awe. ♦





APOCALYPSE NOW

Recently, apocalyptic headlines have run in some of the most reputable publications. Is there any semblance of reality in this tendency for doomsaying? **BY RON FRASER**

"AND THE FIFTH ANGEL SOUNDED, AND I SAW A star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit."

These beginning verses of the ninth chapter of the book of Revelation presage a frightening litany of future events to unfold in the prophesied last hour of man's civilization on Earth.

These scriptures portray, in symbolic language, the use of weapons of mass destruction on a grand scale, vaporizing a whole third of the population of this Earth! (v. 18). Certain verses within this chapter also indicate mass use of chemical and biological agents in warfare. Those types of weapons are described as inflicting excruciating pain for five months, without actually killing the victim (vv. 5-6). This is nuclear, chemical and biological warfare such as has never been witnessed by man.

But to a largely secular society, such horrific visions of death and destruction have long been relegated to the realm of the fanciful imaginings of an ancient religious nut—until very recently.

SOUND MINDS—HORRIFYING VISIONS

OXFORD GRADUATE PAUL JOHNSON IS ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED of British historians. A prolific author and articulate journalist, Johnson is renowned for his "feet on the ground" analysis of history and of current events. Mr. Johnson's regular contributions in the British *Spectator* magazine are gems of distilled thought captivated in pristine English prose.

But last December, Johnson's first contribution to the *Spectator* for that month was a complete change from all that he'd penned in the past. This piece reflected in dark language a

powerful nightmare he had experienced—a dark vision within a brilliant mind attuned to the symphony of history, caught in a time-warp of catastrophic proportions.

“The sound of the explosion was so loud, so prolonged and so unusual that I knew at once I was listening to a historic singularity. Indeed, it may not have been an explosion: more a catastrophic global event. Was it the end of the world?” (*Spectator*, Dec. 7, 2002).

Thus Johnson set the scene for his apocalyptic vision of terror. Here was a mind, in its senior years, thoroughly familiar with the human condition having observed the degree of “man’s inhumanity to man” through a lifetime of studying the history of humankind. Yet this accomplished scholar could but dream of a horrifying end to civilization of biblical proportions.

“It was, rather, as if the entire earth moved, as a unit, but out of its regular axis. ... It was now, audibly, the noise of destruction on an immense scale. ... To the north, the sky was blue, yet there was no daylight. ... When I glanced south, into central London, I saw why The whole of the southern view was occupied by a dense, swirling, expanding and ascending column of smoke. ... What incalculable force had done this monstrous thing?” (ibid.).

What made this view of doom so real to any reader who has visited London was Johnson’s ability to render detail into the swirling canvas of his nightmare.

“It was alive, this prodigious sore or cancer in London’s heart, expanding its frontiers all the time. It had swallowed and vaporized all Westminster,

“I just think that we have come to the end of a golden age of peace and security, and there are some nasty things lurking in the near future.”

John Derbyshire
National Review

and sucked out the entire contents of the Thames and turned them into thick clouds. It had gone down the river at thousands of miles an hour, engulfed the City and its tall towers, vaporizing steel, concrete, glass and water as it punched and thrashed and pounded the streets of massive buildings into nothingness Now it was crumpling and atomizing St. James’s. ...

“[It] advanced before my eyes, having snuffed out Buckingham Palace and the Mall in an instant, snapped at Mayfair with cavernous jaws, swallowing it in three rapidly succeeding mouthfuls, while simultaneously devouring all Belgravia in one tremendous gulp. Appetite unappeased and seemingly unappeasable, it was now guzzling up Hyde Park, its trees whooshing into brief candles of flame, the Serpentine quaffed and vaporized in an instant, the Round Pond licked away in one fiery rub of its tongue” (ibid.).

The source of this conflagratory confusion on a mass scale in Johnson’s nightmare was then revealed: “This was not an episode, like an earthquake ... but more like a volcano, spreading its lava with all deliberate speed over a vast area. How many billions of tons of high-explosive equivalent had gone into what I assumed to be the detonator, at ground level, of an enormous hydrogen device, I could not guess” (ibid.).

This is a man of sound and sane mind. The *Spectator* is one of the most reputable of weekly British periodicals. It appeals to *thinking* people, *concerned* people, *involved* people, all over the world. What would possess its editors to include such a

REUTERS



DOOMSDAY Will the scene in Baghdad in the first days of the campaign against Iraq be repeated in American and British cities in the future?

nightmarish piece for one of their pre-Christmas editions?

Paul Johnson’s dramatic dream had a powerful impact on another thinker—John Derbyshire, author, journalist and regular contributor to the well-respected American journal *National Review*. In his contribution to that magazine’s February 6 edition, he wrote, “For as long as I can remember, the historian Paul Johnson has been doing a weekly as-I-please column in the *Spectator* These are chatty, personal pieces; one thoughtful man’s view on current events Even within these wide boundaries, though, Johnson’s December 7 piece was ... strange.”

To Derbyshire, “Johnson’s nightmare was the more striking because he normally doesn’t write like that at all” (ibid.). Mr. Derbyshire is aware of the Johnson persona—a “level-headed, practical sort of fellow, worldly and very knowledgeable about politics” (ibid.).

Then Derbyshire starts to consider the condition of this world in the 21st century in relation to Johnson’s nightmare. “The genie is now out of the bottle. Now nutcase nations or pseudo-nations like North Korea and Pakistan have nukes, and the principle of deterrence, which served us so well 1949-89, will break down. Deterrence only works with responsible people” (ibid.).

Derbyshire has noticed a new phenomenon among his circle of friends and acquaintances. Many are sharing his apocalyptic thoughts. “Then I started to notice how many other people were thinking the same way. ‘Thinking’ is actually the wrong word. This isn’t something thought so much as something felt, something in the air. And what I really didn’t like a bit was that the people who are thinking it are people I have found to be pretty reliable guides to what is going on in the world” (ibid.).

His conclusion? It merges well with Mr. Johnson’s nightmare: “And the things people say in conversation nowadays!—things like: ‘It’ll take another 9/11 ...,’ which I seem to hear roughly five times a day. And my friend here on Long Island, waving his arm at the busy suburban landscape beyond the window of the diner, and saying: ‘When New York City’s been taken out, all this real estate will be worth zip.’ Nobody talked like that ten, five years ago. Nobody even thought those

things." Nobody, that is, except maybe the crazed doomsayers wearing sandwich boards declaring THE END IS NIGH! But these are nominally sensible folk, sharing a creeping fear that something has gone wrong, gone *terribly* wrong in this society.

"Is something unspeakably horrible going to happen? I don't know. I'm only saying that there is something in the air—a grimness, a bracing. ... "The future casts its shadow into the past," said Schopenhauer, who actually was a philosopher. I can't shake off the feeling that we are living, right now, in that chill shadow. ... I just think that we have come to the end of a golden age of peace and security, and there are some nasty things lurking in the near future. We are heading, in Kevin Myers's memorable phrase, into the realm of chaos" (ibid.).

Just to make the point that the apocalyptic visions of these two thinking men are far from the exception, we shall consider the recent thoughts of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Charles Krauthammer: "The domestic terror alert jumps to 9/11 levels. Heathrow Airport is ringed by tanks. Duct tape and plastic sheeting disappear from Washington store shelves. Osama bin Laden resurfaces. North Korea reopens its plutonium processing plant and threatens pre-emptive attack. The Second Gulf War is about to begin.

"This is not the apocalypse. But it is excellent preparation for it" (*Washington Post*, Feb. 14).

Krauthammer then summed up the dangers facing mankind in this early 21st century: "We are in a race against time. Once such hostile states establish arsenals, we become self-deterred and they become invulnerable. North Korea may already have crossed that threshold.

"There is a real question whether we can win the race. ... 2003 could be as cataclysmic as 1914 or 1939" (ibid.).

Pointing to the vast extent of time within which scientists estimate the universe has been in existence, Krauthammer then contrasted this with another fact: "[W]eapons of mass destruction [have existed] for less than 100 [years]. A hundred—in the eye of the universe, less than a blink. And yet we already find ourselves on the brink. What are the odds that our species will manage to contain this awful knowledge without self-destruction—not for a billion years or a million or even a thousand, but just through the lifetime of our children?

"Those are the stakes today. Before our eyes, in a flash, politics has gone cosmic" (ibid.).

APOCALYPSE NOW

THE APOSTLE JOHN'S VISION HAS BEEN AROUND FOR OVER 1,900 years. Few have understood it. Few today comprehend its meaning within the context of history, prophecy and current world events. Yet if we attune ourselves to the flow of global events, which have taken on a heightened drama, a more frenetic pace, over the past two years, the vision becomes clearer. *The apocalypse is becoming a reality!*

Even the headlines that the most respected of publications are employing to describe the current state of the world speak volumes as editors strive to convey a sense of the disproportionately unusual, unprecedented nature of current world trends.

"The Last Days?" is the headline over John Derbyshire's article in *National Review*. Charles Krauthammer's piece ap-

peared in newspapers around the U.S. and Canada, including in the *National Post*, where it had the title "The Four Horsemen Are Saddling Up." The *Spectator* even resorted to a scriptural quotation straight out of the biblical book of Revelation for a headline over Paul Johnson's article, "There Arose Out of the Pit the Smoke of a Great Furnace."

If you cannot identify with the concern expressed by thinking people such as Johnson, Derbyshire and Krauthammer, you are simply out of touch with reality. Yes, this is real! We are indeed living in the beginning of apocalyptic times. The outcome for the masses of humanity will be horrific.

"And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads" (Rev. 9:4). The *only* people to be saved from this living nightmare will be those who *have* the seal of God in their foreheads! Do you *know* what that seal is? You *need* to know!

These are *desperate* times. We literally live, right now, in that prophesied time of *no more delay* in the fulfillment of end-time prophecy (Rev. 10:6). *Time is running out!*

Did you know that, right within the midst of the end-of-the-age prophecy of the apocalypse, God guarantees a place of safety to those who are sealed with His seal in their foreheads? (Rev. 12:6). It's time to get serious about what you are going to do in response to this heightened pace of apocalyptic events beginning to engulf this world.

That place of safety has to do with a *deep repentance* from sin. Failure to repent will result in the most terrible of consequences: "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet *repented not* of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: *Neither repented they* of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (Rev. 9:20-21). Their ul-

itimate end if they refuse to repent is forecast in Revelation 22:14-15. Their hope of eternal life is cut off—forever!

Yes, even after punishment for sin is enacted, some will refuse to repent! But those who *do* heed this final warning from God to repent of sin, even within this last hour, and submit to His government over their lives in complete obedience to His authority, are promised the greatest of rewards: "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4).

Request now your own copy of our booklet *Repentance Toward God* and begin to live the only way that will guarantee you peace and safety in a world that faces the nightmare of nuclear annihilation. ♦

SHOCK & AWE



ARMY OF OPPOSITION Protests against U.S. military action in Iraq—like this February rally in Sydney—occurred worldwide before and during the campaign.

WAR ON AMERICA

The leadup to the Iraq war accelerated a dangerous trend, where many people and nations are working to pull America from its superpower perch. Soon they will have their wish! But what will result will be a terrifying nightmare.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

A VIOLENT TURN IN WORLD EVENTS IS ABOUT TO OCCUR! THE CURRENT world order is ALREADY being forcibly overturned to a degree few really grasp!

The masses who are helping to bring this change about are largely IGNORANT of what they are doing. But not even those leaders and heads of state who are making the decisions truly understand the nightmarish nature of the world they are about to create!

Even as it wars against Iraq, the United States itself is under siege on multiple fronts—the worst of which is driven from WITHIN by its own citizens, many of whom are increasingly consumed by moral wickedness and self-hatred. Such people want to see America step down or be wrenched from its superpower perch.

Soon they will have their wish.

History has seen the rise and fall of dozens of impressive empires—Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, China, Byzantium, Britain, the Soviets. Even the greatest of them peaked and then slid into obscurity. The fact is, SUPERPOWERS DIE.

To the delight of much of the world, America's descent has already begun. In this time of war, America's enemies—from Islamist extremists, to European politicians, to the anti-war American and British press and public—are stirred emotionally, spouting self-righteous rhetoric about America's six-shooter president and arrogant imperialism. The world would be better off, they assert, if the U.S. would just stand down and take its place among "equals" like France, Germany, Russia, China.

However, if they knew what God prophesies will happen in the very near future—if they ONLY KNEW!—they would plainly see the fatal irony in such thinking. America's faults as a nation, and its faltering as a world leader, will soon be looked back upon with a much more charitable perspective—a hindsight hardened by the horrors of a new holocaust!

It's time we honestly faced this devastating prophecy of God: that Ameri-

ca will succumb to the siege, and what will take its place will not be a brotherhood of cooperative, equal nations; nor will it be another cold war. No—it will be the rise of ANOTHER, *truly* arrogant and imperialistic superpower.

The Making of a Hated Superpower

During the Cold War, two global superpowers—the U.S. and the USSR—kept each other in check. The rest of the world aligned themselves to varying degrees with one side or the other. It was uncomfortable, but, because of the seriousness of mutually assured destruction, it produced a relatively stable world.

Then, in 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed. Suddenly, the U.S.—the most powerful single nation in history—stood alone at the helm of the world. Its singular political, economic and military might was unprecedented, and now it had virtually free reign.

Before long, it became apparent that, in the eyes of many nations, a balance of power needed to be restored.

One by one, nations and groups of nations began to take steps to chip away at America's dominance. A new wave of anti-Americanism in the Middle East began a steady rise; terrorist strikes on U.S. interests increased (even on U.S. soil—as early as 1993, a sniper attacked CIA employees in Virginia, and Osama bin Laden's operatives bombed the World Trade Center). India and Pakistan, despite condemnation from the U.S. (and the world), went nuclear. And, most significantly, Germany began to assert itself more aggressively, independent of America's wishes, as evidenced in its policy toward the Balkans (see our booklet *The Rising Beast*).

America's response to these challenges was weak at best. And the rest of the world pressed its advantage.

Columnist Charles Krauthammer called the 1990s America's "holiday from history," a decade in which "every major challenge to America was deferred ... every can was kicked down the road." Among the threats that were not decisively dealt with: Iraq, North Korea and bin Laden (who, despite the 1993 WTC attack, was let go for "lack of legal justification" when Sudan offered him to the U.S. in 1996). "On June 19, 2000, the Clinton administration solved the rogue-state problem by abolishing the term and replacing it with 'states of concern.' Unconcerned,

the rogue states prospered, arming and girding themselves for big wars" (*Washington Post*, Feb. 14).

But it wasn't just rogue states executing this subtle sabotage of American power. A trend toward globalization, toward up- holding the ascendancy of international organizations and



CLEANUP After the 1993 WTC attack, which America did not decisively deal with.

treaties, provided groups of nations an opportunity to exploit U.S. power while limiting U.S. hegemony. (Ironically, many of these very organizations—including the United Nations—were American creations, products of plainly non-imperialistic post-World War II goodwill, intended to gift power back to the world.) In the states of former Yugoslavia, for example, Germany used NATO—driven largely by American military muscle—to secure what have essentially become colonies of the European Union. Through disarmament treaties, nations sought to blunt American potency. Through environmental and trade treaties, they substantially worked to restrict American industry.

And as long as America didn't

One by one, nations and groups of nations began to take steps to chip away at America's dominance.

U.S. response to these challenges was weak at best. And the rest of the world pressed its advantage.

protest these constraints, the big-name countries still spoke as though they were the best of friends, only too happy to let America shine in the superpower spotlight.

Then George W. Bush became president in a close and controversial election. Liberals within the States welled up with bitterness, which quickly turned into a virulent kind of America-hate. Blame for the world's increasing desire to topple the U.S. was pinned on the new president within months of his taking office; the message from the liberal American press to the world was, *We understand—we don't like the guy either*.

When President Bush began showing independence, pulling back from the "rule by consensus" used by his predecessor, and withdrawing from international treaties, the world got angry. As an example, after America's rejection of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming, an environment campaigner from Fiji stated that even though all nations are enemies of the environment, the U.S. is the number-one offender. "[T]here must be a new category for the United States. I would like to see an international justice system that would recognize this crime" (Reuters, May 21, 2001).

The sanctimonious hostility was on open display at the international forums and summits—not just from the picket lines surrounding them, but even from attending officials. Take last year's U.N. world summit on environmental issues in Johannesburg, South Africa; attendees wore a collar pin saying, "What should we do with the United States?" (*Daily News*, New York, Aug. 28, 2002). A leading environmental activist, angry toward America's refusal to submit to international restrictions, said, "Bush should be hauled in front of an international tribunal and be made accountable" (ibid.).

The threat of just such an action became more real with the creation of the International Criminal Court. Thus, Bush's refusal to sign America onto the project only stoked the world's infaturation (see below).

Even the horrors of 9/11 did nothing to arrest the hatred. After a few months of outwardly showing sympathy with the U.S. and solidarity in its war on terrorism, the world began to turn ugly again. Disapproval among

many people over how President Bush was running his war began with the first strikes on Afghanistan, and steadily ramped up right through to the beginning of the Iraq campaign. The German newspaper *Berliner Zeitung* criticized President Bush for using the September 11 terrorist attacks as an "opportunity to strengthen its selfish superpower position" (*Atlantic Monthly*, November 2002).

Today, America grapples with an unparalleled level of antipathy in the world.

The United Nations Sham

President Bush threatened action against Iraq for over 15 months, and this after over a decade of diplomacy. The common perception peddled by much of the world press of Bush as a

heedless, trigger-happy cowboy was undermined by the repeated continuances he gave to Saddam Hussein and the lumbering U.N. inspection process.

Nevertheless, the groundswell of global opinion against Bush soared to new heights. Europe in particular saw this as its opportunity to take a real swing at America. And the forum they chose was the United Nations.

The single biggest factor staving off a U.S. strike on Iraq, apart from a natural distaste for conflict, was the U.N. The peaceniks hailed the supposed wisdom of the "international community" and cried out that when the 15-member U.N. Security Council doesn't approve of a war, that war is illegal and wrong.

To some, such thinking may sound righteous. But the fact is, this agenda

was advanced by people who hate America and are vigorously working to undermine its power.

As Conrad Black wrote in London's *Spectator*, "Many reasons are advanced for opposing American policy, but most of them are no more than simple anti-Americanism. In order to present an obstacle to American action, an *absurdly exaggerated legitimization of the United Nations has occurred*" (March 22; emphasis mine throughout). How absurd? To try to get the requisite Security Council support for its actions, the U.S. was forced to go cap-in-hand to such non-entities as Cameroon and Guinea, and even deal with U.S.-declared state terrorist sponsor Syria!

In truth, for the months leading up to the war the U.N. simply was used as a WEAPON against the U.S.—a leverage against its power. As Mr. Black wrote, some nations on the Council were bent on inaction because "self-righteous weakness resents a law-enforcing power that has become unprecedentedly strong." In other words, they vetoed the battle plan not because of their aversion to WAR, but because of their aversion to U.S. LEADERSHIP. Even Mideast nations that would love to see Saddam Hussein removed from power still protested the plan only because it was spearheaded by the U.S.

The ironies were stark and powerful. The United Nations, an organization created largely by the U.S. to solicit the world's help in containing dictators, was now being used by the world to contain the U.S.

The heat of the pre-war debate was remarkably revealing. And the most important of these revelations was the exposure of the gaping and widening rift between America and Europe—a rift caused not by failed diplomacy on the part of the American president, but by the NAKED ASPIRATIONS FOR SUPERPOWER STATUS ON THE PART OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Challenge Out of Europe

What is *behind* this tidal wave of anti-Americanism? There is a HIDDEN CAUSE unseen even to the most astute of geopolitical observers!

Taking a big-picture survey of the international landscape, we see it increasingly coalescing into four main camps: Anglo-America, Europe, the Islamic nations, and the Asiatic nations. Currently

U.S. REJECTS INTERNATIONAL COURT

A PARTICULARLY STRONG EXAMPLE OF AN institution designed to consolidate European power at the expense of American power is the International Criminal Court (ICC), set up last year.

It is intended to complement the existing International Court of Justice (known as the World Court), which deals with conflicts between nations. The ICC differs in that it will put *individuals* on trial for crimes against humanity. Both courts are located in The Hague, in the Netherlands.

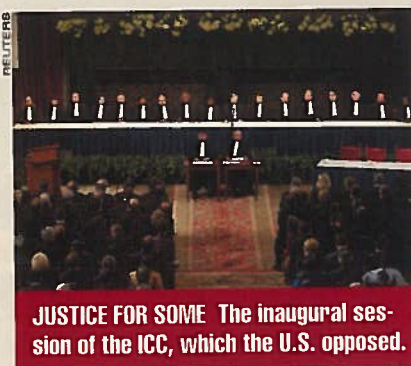
Many nations have eagerly welcomed the new court, hoping to find a new global implementer of justice. The ICC came into force on July 2, 2002, after 76 countries ratified it—excluding the U.S.

The U.S. has concerns regarding the ICC's authority over sovereign states, even states that never signed the Rome Statute that implemented the ICC. For example, will the ICC step in if it doesn't like a verdict or sentence from a sovereign state's own judicial system? Because the ICC lacks checks and balances to guarantee fairness and allows no possibility for a trial by a jury of one's peers, Washington will not submit to this judicial institution.

The Bush administration was first worried about politically motivated allegations resulting in prosecutions of American citizens and soldiers. The Bush administration later explained that its biggest concern was for America's highest leaders. "The soldiers are like the capillaries, the top public officials—President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary Powell—they are at the heart of our concern," a senior official said (*International Herald Tribune*, Sept. 9, 2002). The possibility of American leaders being charged for war crimes was the main reason for the U.S. government refusing to sign the Rome Statute.

Just one year after the 9/11 attacks, high-ranking European and Canadian officials overtly expressed their irritation over Washington's opposition to the ICC. Both have vowed to make the court's jurisdiction extend throughout the entire world (*New York Times*, Sept. 10, 2002).

Even though nations like China and Russia also refuse to ratify the treaty, *only America has been universally criticized* for standing in opposition to this new judicial authority.



JUSTICE FOR SOME The inaugural session of the ICC, which the U.S. opposed.

WILLIAM GHANNAM

the latter three of these groups are each working in various ways to enfeeble and undermine the first group.

This present reality is a stunning vindication of the power of biblical prophecy, which foretells precisely such an alignment among nations in this end time!

But, just as the Almighty God said this would be the case, so too He prophesied the outcome.

America's foreign policy is based on the supposition that its most dangerous adversary lies within the group of Islamic nations. But what is becoming more and more clear is that, in truth, the greatest long-term threat is actually emerging from Europe. The prelude to war in Iraq made plain that what has been commonly viewed as one of America's strongest alliances since World War II—that shared with Germany and France—has been a sham.

What the world witnessed in the run-up to the Iraq campaign was just the latest volleys in a trans-Atlantic battle that has been heating up over several years—one that is PROPHESED to culminate in WORLD WAR III!

"Make no mistake!" Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in 1965, warning that the economic union of six European nations—Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy—was only a pretext for a more ambitious goal. "The six countries so far involved in this economic union—and other European countries—urgently want *political union*, the very UNITED STATES OF EUROPE I have been assuring *Plain Truth* readers for 36 years is definitely coming" (*Plain Truth*, November 1965). Mr. Armstrong, until the time of his death in 1986, repeatedly predicted the rise of a united Europe to superpower status.

Given the U.S.'s dominance politically, economically and militarily, Europe has had to pick its battles, remaining content for smaller gains where necessary. In reality, it has done a cunning job of exploiting U.S. power to meet its

The pre-war debate exposed the widening rift between America and Europe—a rift caused not by the American president's failed diplomacy, but by Europe's naked aspirations for superpower status.

WILL AMERICA LOSE THE IMF?

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) statutes require that its headquarters be located "in the territory of the member having the largest" weighted vote (*Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 7, 2002).

Europe is considering the idea of consolidating the voices of its many constituent countries and speaking as one legal body within this international financial institution, making it the largest IMF member.

"The main advantage of greater economic policy coordination would be a more coherent voice for the eurozone on the world stage," said Andrew Duff, a delegate from Britain at last November's Convention on the Future of Europe (*ibid.*).

The fact that a unified Europe would control 34 percent of the IMF's total voting rights, compared to America's current 17.2 percent, is certainly not lost on decisionmakers. Nor is the fact that it would necessitate moving IMF headquarters from Washington D.C., to Europe.

One problem to this European proposal is that only individual nations are allowed to be members of the IMF. Nevertheless, convention delegates are confident that the rules would be changed by the IMF. "We would have to negotiate accession, as it were," said Duff, adding that "it would be impossible for the IMF to resist" (*ibid.*).

This is just one more example of the fact that, whether the U.S. government sees it or not, power is shifting from Washington.

own ends while still remaining in the shadows. But now, as events steamroll forward, the magnitude of its ambitions are increasingly being unmasked!

Today we see plans underway for a robust European constitution that would create a federal European government. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former president of France and head of the European Convention, even suggested changing the name of the EU to "THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE."

Whatever the name, a superstate in Europe is fast becoming reality, just as Mr. Armstrong prophesied.

"The next clash of civilizations will not be between the West and the rest but between THE UNITED STATES and EUROPE—AND AMERICANS REMAIN LARGELY OBLIVIOUS," warned Charles A. Kupchan a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (*Atlantic Monthly*, *op. cit.*).

"Not only is American primacy far less durable than it appears, but it is already beginning to diminish," wrote Dr. Kupchan. He describes the European Union, on the other hand, as "an emerging polity that is in the process of marshaling the impressive resources and historical ambitions of Europe's separate nation-states." "Europe is strengthening its collective consciousness and character and forging a clearer sense of interests and values that are quite distinct from those of the United States" he wrote. "For the moment, America remains largely oblivious to the challenges posed by a rising Europe" (*ibid.*).

The *Trumpet* has often foretold the inevitability of the cracks in the trans-Atlantic alliance splitting wide open. Even our parent magazine, the *Plain Truth*, printed this over a quarter century ago: "European antagonism toward the United States and its policies is now in the open. The next few years will bring forth more misunderstanding, conflicts of interest and, at times, outright hostility between the United States and Europe" (March 1974).

The truth is this: "IT IS TIME TO STOP PRETENDING THAT EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS SHARE A COMMON VIEW OF THE WORLD, or even that they occupy the same world" (*Policy Review*, June-July 2002).

America Has Won Its Last War

The *Trumpet* has often repeated Mr. Armstrong's dramatic prophecy that AMERICA HAS WON ITS LAST WAR. We have also said America has already lost its superpower status. How can we continue to say that as the country once again demonstrates the overwhelming superiority of its armed forces?

The world has never seen military power like that exhibited by the United States in the past century. As Micah prophesied, America was strong like "a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep" (see Micah 5:7-9). Even in the Iraq campaign, America exhibits unparalleled strength.

But God prophesies that those blessings will cease, and America's dominance WILL END: "And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds" (v. 11; see vv. 10-15). America's pride in its military power will be COMPLETELY BROKEN (Lev. 26:19). The defenses and armaments America trusts in WILL FAIL: "And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee" (Deut. 28:52).

Of these future events we can be absolutely certain. But we mustn't fail to see how these prophecies are being fulfilled *even now!*

As Dr. George Friedman points out, we must remember that this action in Iraq is not a *war*, but merely a *campaign* in the larger war against terrorism (www.stratfor.com, March 19). Conquering Iraq is not winning the war! The costs America has absorbed for this one campaign—in time, in treasure, in political capital—has been enormous. The global "coalition against terrorism" so painstakingly created after 9/11 *no longer exists*, not even a year and half later. So where will President Bush go next? Even with very real, imminent threats emerging from the other two players in the "axis of evil"—North

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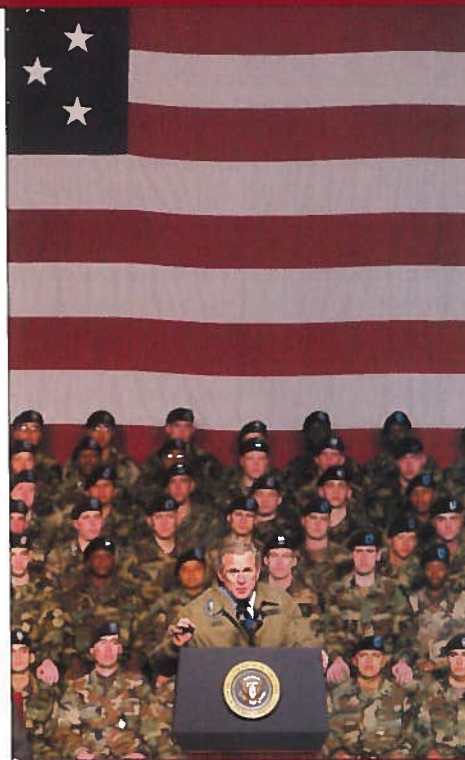
For more on America's future, see "The End of the Free World" under [Article Archives](#).

Korea and Iran—he will hardly be eager to extend the war to yet another country.

Prophecy shows that America WILL NOT WIN the war against terrorism! It is possible that a victory in Iraq will quiet things for a while. But the threat out of the Middle East, ultimately, will only grow stronger, because America simply *lacks the will to deal with it decisively enough*.

In fact, in defeating Iraq the U.S. may actually set the stage for one or both of these prophetic scenarios: 1) strengthening Iran's role as a unifying force with the region; and 2) clearing the way for Europe to act as a post-war "peacekeeper," as in the Balkans and now Afghanistan. Watch the region closely after America accomplishes its mission.

America's influence as a world leader is under powerful attack. Though Britain and Australia remain



WILL POWER How far will President Bush's resolve take America's war on terrorism?

staunch allies, America's friends are few. It has the strength, but it does not have the followers. What it has is a growing array of enemies marshalled against it, doing everything they can to bring mighty America to its knees.

Sadly, its enemies will soon have the opportunity to watch this superpower die—and many will have a personal hand in bringing it about.

But what will take its place? Many nations want to believe they would get a slice of the pie in America's absence. Prophecy, however, gives us the answer. And it should be enough to make everyone on Earth quake with fear!

The Next Superpower

The mighty empires of the past have been the main engine for the advancement of human civilization—its technologies, its refinements. But that engine has been largely fueled by greed and lust, and stoked using the sweat and blood of weaker peoples. Consider—to take the worst example—the crushing might of the Roman Empire, described by the Prophet Daniel as being "strong as iron ... and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" (Dan. 2:40).

The distortions of political correctness would deny this, but it is fact

nonetheless: Against the backdrop of history, the United States is one of the most generous, altruistic and benign of the great powers that have ever existed.

But the *next* great power, the one that will stand in the gap when the U.S. goes down, will exhibit none of America's benevolence. No—prophecy shows that the next superpower will be a European "beast" (Rev. 13:1-8; 17:3-17)—a final resurrection of that iron Roman Empire described by Daniel—which will initiate the greatest holocaust in world history!

What is the HIDDEN CAUSE for the mounting antipathy against America? It is the very real presence of an invisible, yet powerful DEVIL! The Bible shows that *he is directly behind the power that will soon supplant America*. Satan is presently mounting his resistance on as many fronts as he can summon, and empowering the force that will take its place.

Empowered by Satan the devil, this beast will "make war with the saints"; it will have power "over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Daniel says it will move "like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships ... [A]nd many countries shall be overthrown" (Dan. 11:40-41).

That superpower will be CRUSHINGLY VIOLENT! All peoples—not least of whom will be the multitudes of "slaves, and souls of men" in forced subjection (Rev. 18:13)—will live in abject fear of its brutality.

And God will allow these horrors to happen. He will use this United States of Europe—the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, led by Germany—as His instrument to punish America for its national sins. (Request your free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* for more information.)

This violent turn in world events is devastatingly close!

Although he does not understand the EU's future as explained in the Bible, Dr. Kupchan plainly sees where the EU is going: "[T]he EU is ALREADY COMING OF AGE AS A COLLECTIVE FORCE; IT IS ON, IF NOT WELL AHEAD OF, SCHEDULE." ♦

With reporting by
WILLIAM GHANNAM

We invite you to request a free copy of the enlarged, 1980 edition of Herbert Armstrong's *The U.S. and Britain in Prophecy*.



THE FRENCH BETRAYAL

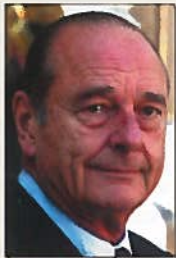
BY STEPHEN M. HILL

WEREN'T FRENCH MEN AND WOMEN captured on film crying in the streets of Paris in the wake of 9/11? Did not, just one year ago, President Bush stand overlooking Omaha Beach in Normandy on America's Memorial Day and say, "Here where we stand today, the New World came back to liberate the Old, a bond was formed of shared trial and shared victory. ... Our security is still tied up together in a trans-Atlantic alliance with soldiers in many uniforms defending the world from terrorists at this very hour"? (www.cnn.com, May 27, 2002).

French President Jacques Chirac echoed similar sentiments in Paris last September when, in a *New York Times* interview, reflecting on New York's terrorist disaster, he said, "It's true that when the tragedy took place, my first reaction was to say, 'We are all Americans.' And I want to say today that those feelings haven't disappeared; on the contrary, they've grown even stronger with the anniversary [W]hen the chips are down, the French and Americans have always stood together and have never failed to be there for one another. That's been the case since Yorktown and it still holds true today. That's the reality" (www.info-france-usa.org; emphasis mine throughout).

It was hardly surprising, then, when Chirac declared that he would veto the U.S. in a United Nations Security Council meeting over going to war with Iraq, that tempers flared.

The American press took the betrayal personally. France-bashing reached new heights, even surpassing previous bouts, such as in 1986 when France refused overflight rights to American bombers for a military operation against Libya, and in the spring of 2002 over anti-Semitic acts in



Chirac



NO SUPPORT The anti-war French public protests in Paris—part of the climax of anti-American sentiment on the rise in France for some years.

France. The reaction of many Americans to Chirac's about-face was summed up in a front-page spread in the *New York Post* that had a photo of a Normandy cemetery and a large headline blaring out, "They Died for France But France Has Forgotten."

Chirac's rash anti-American behavior stirred up a hornet's nest against the U.S., but the causes behind France's stance go much deeper. American journalist Robert Lane Greene realistically pointed to France's fierce national pride when he wrote, "Like Americans, the French believe that their 18th-century revolution more or less gave birth to modern liberty Like the rest of us, the French realize France is not the global power it was 300—or for that matter 100—years ago. ... And, realizing the strength of the competition ... they play their trump cards—among them a veto at the Security Council and a nuclear arsenal—to wield disproportionate influence on the world stage. They don't do this out of a desire to humiliate or frustrate the United States, but *out of a desire to prove that France still matters*. The worst fate the French can imagine is to be ignored" (*New Republic*, Feb. 11).

Of course, France has obvious reasons for not wanting to go to war with

Iraq: Arab immigrants lobby a powerful vote within France; the French at present benefit considerably from the food-for-oil project with Iraq. A more sinister reason is the aid that Chirac has rendered, in concert with Germany, to develop Saddam Hussein's biological weapons capacity.

But there is a deeper reason for France's stand against the U.S. over Iraq, which France shares with the EU. The issue is not really Iraq at all, but whether the world should be expected to revolve around Washington—a prospect which the *Trumpet* has demonstrated repeatedly isn't in the EU's agenda. U.S. military goals in Iraq go against French grand strategy. (Grand strategy is what causes world powers, for example, to support and even arm certain nations they typically wouldn't want anything to do with to *balance* another, more threatening nation.) France and Germany were opposed not to military action, but to *American-led* military action.

Over 3,500 years ago, Jacob declared to his oldest son, the patriarch of the modern nation of France, "Reuben, thou art my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of *dignity*, and the excellency of power: *Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel* ..." (Gen. 49:3-4).

France has too often demonstrated character “unstable as water”—volatile, voluble, ever changing and shifting—a fault that has remained true down to this age.

The word *dignity* in verse 3 comes from a Hebrew word that can mean to “raise up self.” The epitome of this arrogance was the megalomaniac Napoleon seizing the imperial crown and naming himself emperor of France in 1801! He met his Waterloo just 10 years later. The French can be very dignified in the expression of the fine arts, culture and cuisine. But too often this dignity has bred an arrogance for which their reputation has suffered internationally. This arrogance, combined with a certain volatility of natural temperance, has led to the nation never being able to excel as a *leader* of nations.

Six years ago, Roger Cohen, Paris correspondent for the *New York Times*, described France as “hankering for grandeur” (Feb. 11, 1997). He also declared that “France has set itself up as perhaps the nearest thing the United States has to a serious ideological rival in the last decade of the 20th century” (ibid., Oct. 20, 1997). This has dangerous overtones for France’s old allies. Anciently, Reuben was guilty of a compromise that ended with his brother Joseph, progenitor of the English-speaking peoples, being sold into slavery (Gen. 37). There is a striking parallel between the Israelite Reuben’s behavior in the past and that of France today.

The bottom line is, France’s betrayal of the U.S. over Iraq is only the precursor of a much bigger betrayal yet to come. During the final round of world war, France will not fight at the side of its former allies, nor in underground support of them as in World War II.

France’s future is already committed to the EU hook, line and sinker. France is determined to get back into the limelight through a position of influence in the EU. To do so, it has simply aligned with its old foe, Germany, against its old allies, the U.S. and Britain.

Britain and the U.S. should wake up to the reality that their former ally has become a scheming opponent in a powerful European combine that soon will engulf them in its maw! ♦

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For more on France, see “The Mistress of Europe” under [Article Archives](#).

“British troops occupied Baghdad early yesterday morning at the end of a brilliant 100 miles march up the Tigris. With the British army of Mesopotamia capturing Baghdad it has shattered the dream which the Pan-Germans have been dreaming for more than 20 years.” *Times*, March 12, 1917

GERMANY, IRAQ AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

More on the real reasons for the adamant Franco-German opposition to U.S. war plans—and why they are significant

BY RODNEY ATKINSON
SPECIAL TO THE TRUMPET

IT WOULD HAVE SEEMED AN EXAGGERATION to say, immediately after September 11, 2001, that there was a direct link between the attacks on New York and Washington and the crisis in the European Union.

It also would have seemed far-fetched to assert that there was a link between Arab/Muslim expansionism and the new “German Europe.”

However there are, as in all wars, *historic* reasons for certain nations and certain religious or national groups to share an enemy. The Iraq crisis has demonstrated that such links are not at all imaginary.

It also hardly seemed credible, as the democracies of Britain and the United States prepared to remove a dictator in Iraq, that the leader of NATO “ally” Germany should refuse to take a call from the U.S. president, or that a German minister should compare President Bush to Hitler and yet another minister should call him a “dictator.”

Meanwhile, the French president (who personally negotiated the supply of a nuclear facility for Iraq) is contemptuous of the U.S. and insults 10 Eastern European states for supporting the British/U.S. policies on Iraq!

With “allies” such as these, who needs enemies?

The Franco-German enmity should come as no surprise to those who really understand the nature of the struggle against German imperialism and European fascism that raged between 1939 and 1945.

The Iraqi regime under Saddam

Hussein is not a religious regime but an *anti-religious*, secular socialist and nationalist dictatorship—in other words *fascist*, very much in the tradition of Europe in the 1940s. Iraq’s historic and modern links to the German State are even more intimate than those to Jacques Chirac’s France.

Planned in Germany

The 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S. were planned in Germany. Those who see Israel as their enemy would tend to seek sympathy in a nation not exactly renowned for its historic affinity to Jews. Those who see the U.S. as a threat are more likely (given the ranting anti-Americanism of German ministers mentioned above) to see German Europe as a counter or at least a competitor to that threat. They would never see Britain in that light.

During the First World War, Germany and the Ottoman Empire were allies, and German agents were sent to “set the east ablaze” in the hope of creating such a wave of Islamic anti-British feeling that the Muslims would rise up in revolt. In the 1920s, the Germans still ran the officers’ training corps that they had *founded* for the Iraqis!

The vast majority of the supply of chemical factories to Iraq in the 1980s came from Germany! The evidence from an Iraqi defector (BBC program “Correspondent,” March 3, 2001) showed that *Germany contributed 80 percent of the resources needed to establish the Iraqi nuclear weapons program.*

It is also significant that *Germany encouraged and indeed armed Bosnian and Albanian Muslims during the war that broke up Yugoslavia in the 1990s.*

Indeed, Bosnian and Albanian Muslims were recruited into German Waffen SS divisions during World War II.

Of interest in this connection is the significance of the *fez*, the hat which



FAST FRIENDS Over the Iraq issue, Germany's Schröder and France's Chirac quickly unified.

was part of the 1940s *Handzhar* (Bosnian Muslim Nazi) uniform. The *fez* was widely worn in the Ottoman Empire and symbolized both Muslim fanaticism and Ottoman power. By setting up a division of Muslim troops wearing the *fez*, the Nazis were appealing to Islamic fanaticism, and promising a return to the Ottoman spirit. (To show how seriously Himmler and Hitler took their alliance with Islamic fanatics, even the *Handzhar* Waffen SS division's commanding officer was required to wear the *fez*.) *Handzhar* was set up for Bosnian Muslims—the name resurfaced in the 1990s in Bosnia as the German-inspired breakup of Yugoslavia reached its zenith!

According to German documentation of the visit to Hitler by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem on November 30, 1941, the latter told the *führer* that the German Reich was “admired by the whole Arab world.” “The Arabs were Germany's friends because they have the same enemies as had Germany, namely the English, the Jews and the Communists.” “The Mufti welcomed the statement that Germany recognized the aspirations to independence and freedom of the Arabs just as she



Hitler

When the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem visited Hitler on November 30, 1941, he told him the German Reich was “admired by the whole Arab world.” “The Arabs were Germany's friends because they have the same enemies as had Germany, namely the English, the Jews and the Communists.”

Documents on German Foreign Policy

supported the elimination of the Jewish national home” (*Documents on German Foreign Policy, 1918-1945, Series D, vol. XIII*).

Hitler told the Mufti that “Germany was resolved to ask one European nation after the other to solve its Jewish problem and at the proper time direct a similar appeal to non-European nations as well.”

Echo of the Past

In an echo of what is happening today in Germany's refusal to attack Iraq, Hitler's Germany told the Mufti that “the German armies would in the course of this struggle reach the southern exit from the Caucasus. As soon as this happened the *führer* would on his own give the Arab world the assurance that its hour of liberation had arrived.” Today as the new Reich reaches out to Poland, and subsequently to Bulgaria and Romania, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder even dares openly and aggressively to oppose U.S. and British policy against the dictatorship in Iraq!

It is today an insidious tactic of Germany and France—who together have provided Iraq with more facilities for chemical, biological and nuclear production than anyone—to demand that Iraqi refugee scientists, never mind scientists in Iraq, openly expose themselves to death at the hands of Saddam for telling to the international media the truth about the weapons programs they worked on. This is particularly obnoxious when the German secret service knows all too well the nature of the materials supplied to Iraq.

Friedbert Pflueger, foreign-policy spokesman of the main opposition Christian Democratic parties in Germany, recently accused the Red-Green coalition government of deliberately keeping the German and world public uninformed of BND (German Intelligence Service) *evidence of the continued existence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction*. “If we trust our [intelligence] services, and I do, then *we know that there exist weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.*”

In February 2001, the BND compiled a report, and Intelligence Chief August Hanning told *Der Spiegel* magazine that, “Since the end of the U.N. inspections [December 1998], we have determined a jump in procurement efforts by Iraq,” adding that *Saddam was rebuilding destroyed weapons facilities “partly based on the German industrial standard.”* The lists of suppliers to Iraq contain many of the leading German firms, at least one of which, Preussag, is intimately connected to Chancellor Schröder.

As the Franco-German empire in Western Europe (in the disguise of the European Union) consolidates its power over other nations—including the constitutionally castrated Britain—so the French and German governments have become more aggressive and arrogant. The expansion to the east by the European Union was to be the achievement of the German historic destiny frustrated in 1918 and 1945. For France and its Napoleon admirers, the eastern expansion would prove the visionary nature of that “great leader of Europe,” who was stopped in his imperial tracks by Wellington!

But the arrogance of the Franco-German political class never anticipated that the Eastern applicants for membership of the EU would be anything other than sycophants and blind followers of the Franco-German project. The Iraq affair has exposed both the *aggressive nature of the imperialist European superstate* and the fact that those nations that just escaped from the dictatorship of the Soviet Union will not willingly tolerate a similar oppression by the EU.

Those who forget history are condemned to relive it. The tragedy in Britain is that its politicians never even knew any history in the first place. Fortunately the Bush administration is learning fast. The true nature of its so-called Allies on the continent of Europe has never been more evident. ♦

Rodney Atkinson is one of the most highly praised political economists in Britain.

An occasional adviser to ministers of government, he is a prolific author on the subject of the uniting Europe. His most recent books are *Europe's Full Circle* and *Fascist Europe Rising*. For more information, visit his website at www.freenations.freeuk.com.

FAILING TO BRING PEACE

The United Nations is an outdated, corrupt institution fast losing its legitimacy as a peacemaker. Soon it will become defunct—and be replaced by a new world order.

BY RON FRASER
AND ERIC ANDERSON

WORLD WAR I WAS TO HAVE BEEN the war to end all wars. The League of Nations was established at its close to ensure continuing peace. It failed.

Twenty-one years later, a worse global conflict ensued. At the close of World War II, the United Nations was established to keep the peace. For 58 years, the primary purpose of the U.N., as stated in its charter, has been to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.” Yet more than 250 local and regional armed conflicts have occurred since, and no world peace is remotely in sight. Instead, a new threat to peace exists—global terrorism.

“The United Nations is on the verge of demonstrating finally and fatally its moral bankruptcy and its strategic irrelevance,” wrote the *Washington Post*’s Charles Krauthammer. “Having proved itself impotent in the Balkan crisis and now again in the Iraq crisis, the United Nations will sink once again into irrelevance. THIS TIME IT WILL NOT RECOVER” (Jan. 31; emphasis ours throughout).

Why has the United Nations so utterly failed?

All Bark, No Bite

The problem is that, akin to all of the great treaties, pacts and institutions created throughout mankind’s history with the noble intention of institutionalizing world peace, the U.N. contained within it, from its very beginning, the seeds of its own destruction.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the U.N. back in October 1995, *Time* magazine passed comment. “Never again would one country bulldoze a path of conquest over a neighbor. Never again would the great powers lock in a titanic death struggle ravaging the continents. More than that,

the causes of war would be extinguished. Tyranny, injustice and deprivation would never again blot out the light of the world. Governments of good faith would band together under the universal benevolence of something called the United Nations.

“How beautiful. How brave. How naive” (Oct. 23, 1995).

How naive indeed! President John F. Kennedy, addressing the U.N. in September 1961, pragmatically recognized that if the U.N. vision failed to materialize, mankind would face dire consequences. “Mankind must put an end to war—or war will put an end to mankind. ... Today, every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable. ... The mere existence of modern weapons—10 MILLION TIMES more powerful than any that the world has ever seen, and only minutes away from any target on Earth—is a source of horror, and discord and distrust. ... Together we shall save our planet—or together we shall perish in its flames!”

Sir Anthony Parsons, British ambassador to the U.N. from 1974 to 1982, realistically appraised the organization thus: “The U.N. has been a disastrous failure It set the standards and adopted conventions on everything you can think of—torture, women, children, civil rights—but does nothing to enforce them” (*Time*, op. cit.).

And there is the central core of the U.N.’s failure. It simply lacks the vision, the motivation, the *will* and the *power* to enforce its decisions! Thus it has progressed not one inch, since its inception, toward its primary purpose of “[saving] succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” In fact, in certain instances, it has been cynically used as a platform upon which to further the prospects of that scourge.

No Justice

The impotence of United Nations leaders to enforce U.N. resolutions has



THE WAY OF PEACE ... The *Swords Into Plowshares* sculpture outside U.N. headquarters depicts the biblical vision of peace being brought to the entire world.

led to the organization becoming a sounding board for the selfish goals of petty demagogues and tin-pot nations that realize they can hold the chief human benefactors of mankind, the English-speaking peoples, to ransom and work overtly for the destruction of their individual and collective power.

The cruel cynicism of European nations working in concert with Third World nations has ousted Anglo-Americans from key U.N. posts and committees. In 2002, the U.N. decided that the U.S. was unfit to serve on the Human Rights Commission, replacing it with Sudan! A brief look at Sudan’s record on human rights reveals it as one of the world’s prime offenders in this arena.

Then this year, the U.N. managed to vote 33 to 3 in favor of electing the terrorist-subsidizing nation of Libya to chair its Human Rights Commission!

Such actions by this pretentious world body do not just render it an abject failure, but leave it a sad laughing-stock to anyone with common sense.

To add to its sins, at a time when (despite all the liberal-socialist media and political comment to the contrary) the CIA, MI5 (UK intelligence agency) and BND (German secret service) all possess ample proof of Saddam Hussein's possession of weapons of biological warfare and mass destruction, the U.N. has elected *Iraq* to chair its *disarmament committee!*

But why worry? What does it matter? If all the U.N. is capable of is passing ineffective resolutions with no intent whatever of backing up their implementation, what does it matter whether it be Iraq, Saudi Arabia or outer Mongolia chairing these committees? After all, the U.N. has passed 17 resolutions over the past 12 years demanding the disarmament of Iraq, and had the current U.S. president not had the courage to step out and quell Saddam's crazy cruelty, who knows where it all may have ended.

What is more, there exists no world body to hold the U.N. to account. So this toothless tiger, this moribund mass of self-congratulatory, cynical fat cats representing the world's aspirations for peace, continues on as not more than a gravy train for the world's diplomatic corps, fiddling away while the world burns in the brushfires of local wars that soon will join in the greatest of conflagrations ever witnessed by man!

A *Providence Journal-Bulletin* (Providence, R.I.) editorial that described the U.N. Security Council as a "hypocritical and ineffectual debating society," commented, "We hope that some way might be found to make the United Nations ... much more effective

"The U.N. has ... set the standards and adopted conventions on everything you can think of—torture, women, children, civil rights—but does nothing to enforce them."

**Sir Anthony Parsons
Former British Ambassador to the U.N.**

in dealing with its original core mission—*protecting world security* If such repairs aren't made, the United Nations will go the way of the League of Nations, whose failure to deal seriously with fascist aggression paved the way for World War II" (March 18).

That's a scary statement. Scary—but real, oh so real! And this is not just an isolated view.

Here is international security affairs analyst Stephen Blank's view: "[T]he U.N.'s role (or lack of a role) in the Korean crisis indicates *its essential uselessness at keeping the peace* either there or in Iraq. ...

"Thus the U.N. validates Winston Churchill's observation that each of the appeasers of the 1930s sought to appease Adolf Hitler and the other dictators in the hope that others would be eaten before their turn came up. ...

"If appeasement of those who would rip apart international security continues, something will indeed turn up, *but it will not be peace*" (*Asia Times*, Feb. 14).

This astute critic compares the time we are in now to the great time of appeasement in the 1930s that led to the world's greatest war. Like its old progenitor, the failed League of Nations, the U.N. has been constantly tested and challenged by petty tyrants, with the same results. In respect of Iraq and North Korea, Blank comments, "Certainly it is obvious to any unbiased observer that the U.N. is utterly unwilling and unable to confront either of these aggressors of its own accord so *it is a useless reed insofar as the defense of peace is concerned*" (ibid.).

World's Last Chance

"I attended the San Francisco Conference in 1945, where world leaders attempted to form a world organization of nations. They called it 'The United Nations.' There I heard chiefs of state ring out the warning that this was the world's last chance.

"But it has failed. The United Nations has no power over the nations. It has no power to settle disputes, stop wars or prevent wars. The so-called United Nations are not united. This effort has degenerated into a sounding board for Communist propaganda. Man has failed his last chance!

"Now God must step in—or we perish!" (Herbert W. Armstrong, *The*

Wonderful World Tomorrow—What it Will Be Like).

Such was the summation of renowned religious leader Herbert Armstrong when reflecting on mankind's best efforts to obtain world peace. In the final year of his life, Mr. Armstrong, an unofficial ambassador for world peace who visited more world leaders in the decades of the 1970s and '80s than any other person, was present at the 40th anniversary celebrations of the United Nations. He was one of the only four in attendance on that occasion who had personally witnessed the founding of the U.N. in San Francisco in June 1945. This wise, articulate and visionary apostle of God looked beyond the inevitability of the failure of the U.N. to a far better age: "This 40th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations may trigger events to bring on the world's last colossal world violence and trouble, and usher in at last, after 6,000 years of human trial and error and woes and sufferings, a UNITED ONE WORLD, AND WORLD PEACE AT LAST—a world truly to be built by the Lord Eternal" (*Plain Truth*, October 1985).

We are 17 years on beyond that 40th anniversary of the U.N. It has passed its 50th anniversary. Looking back, we would have to admit that the intervening time has witnessed some of the most dramatic of U.N. failures.

"Except the Lord Build the House"

In the north garden area of the United Nations building in New York City rests a sculpture by Russian artist Evgeniy Vuchetich called "Let Us Beat Swords Into Plowshares," a gift from the then-Soviet Union presented in 1959. The bronze statue, based on the age-old message of Isaiah 2:4, depicts a man forging a sword into a plowshare, representing mankind's desire to utilize the materials and energy once used for war for the purpose of benefiting all men.

"The United Nations has no power over the nations. It has no power to settle disputes, stop wars or prevent wars. ... Man has failed his last chance! Now God must step in—or we perish!"

**Herbert W. Armstrong
(1892-1986)**

Worldly governments have constructed a towering building to house a world organization to produce and preserve peace. But there is an underlying reason why this structure can never succeed.

Christ said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13).

Think about it: God did not build the U.N. These world leaders have *not* sought His guidance. Their meetings are *not* opened by prayer to Almighty God, but by a moment of *silence*. (Prayer might offend some of the atheistic members.) God has *not* planted this organization. It shall, therefore, *be rooted up*. All human efforts to prevent World War III, apart from God, will prove futile.

A little over 4,000 years ago, men organized to build a *high tower* to coordinate world domination. God intervened and broke up their building (Gen. 10:8-11; 11:1-9). At the end of this "last hour" of human rule on Earth, God will have to intervene, with force, to save man from the horrifying end to which his failed attempts at world government would ultimately bring him (Matt. 24:21-22).

The U.N. was doomed from its genesis because *it left God out of its plans*.

This is the bottom line: No man or organization built by man can ultimately bring about peace. Only man's Creator can and *will!* That is the reason the U.N. is sinking into "irrelevance."

The good news is that following the ultimate disintegration of the United Nations—which has failed dramatically to guarantee global peace—the united family of God is destined to impose, under the King of kings, Jesus Christ, a NEW WORLD GOVERNMENT, AND WORLD PEACE AT LAST. ◆

We invite you to request a free copy of Herbert Armstrong's book **The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.**



CORRECTION

On page 11 of the February 2003 *Trumpet* was a picture of the Vatican during Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer's canonization. The caption incorrectly implied that Balaguer was German; he is actually Spanish.

The New Arms Race

☞ Your literature has opened my eyes to how the world and everything in it is coming to a head; I only hope that I and the ones I care about are prepared for Christ's return—I shudder to think otherwise. ☞

West Burlington, Iowa



I WANTED TO SINCERELY CONGRATULATE the PCG in all the hard work and time it took to get the rights to 19 of Mr. Armstrong's books and booklets. We need to thank Almighty God for this victory so that the PCG can continue to deliver the awesome gospel of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. We are in dire need of this gospel because we are in the end times. Ever since reading the *Plain Truth* and *Good News* magazines back in the early '80s, I've always felt that Mr. Armstrong was an apostle of God, preaching the true gospel. I am so happy that the PCG has the copyrights to Mr. Armstrong's teachings inspired by the only true God. Now more than ever do I believe in the inspired Word of God.

Chicago, Ill.

I HAVE ALWAYS READ AND LISTENED TO Herbert Armstrong and am happy to find his work has not been forgotten. Thank you for keeping the "plain truth" coming under its present name.

McLeansboro, Ill.

THE ARTICLE "DOES GOD EXIST?" WAS A hard-hitting, logical approach to this topic. It's hard to imagine how any rational person could not give the evidence for an ultimate creative God at least some serious consideration.

Reno, Nev.

I ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT GOD EXISTS; NOW I have scientific proof as well as my faith, thanks to your article "Does God Exist?"

Helena, Ga.

Is Islam a Threat?

THE *TRUMPET* FEATURING ISLAM IS A REAL eye-opener. I have passed my copy on to a few intelligent people, who have told me that it contains the best documents they have read on the subject.

Etowah, N.C.

IN THE FEBRUARY 2003 ISSUE, YOU MISSED the boat in your article "Is Islam a Threat?" by describing Osama bin Laden as a Muslim who lacks formal religious education and has no authoritative religious position. Bin Laden quotes the Koran and refers to the examples of Muhammad with skill and precision. It is true that the Muslim today who proclaims that Islam is a religion of peace has to turn a blind eye to many specific verses in the Koran that order the faithful to kill the infidel. Those we call Islamic fundamentalists, radical Islamists or Muslim militants are growing in number in every part of the world. The fundamentalist can silence the Muslim dissenter very quickly and leave him with real guilt. The ones we call "moderate" Muslims are apostates. This is how bin Laden refers to them.

Brockville, Ont.

IT HAS BEEN SO MEANINGFUL TO ME TO READ current events that are happening around the world with a prophetic perspective. The Personal by Mr. Gerald Flurry "Lessons From Nineveh" is so meaningful and is just what America needs to hear. I regret that I know of no one—ministers, the president, governors, legislators or our newscasters—who is urging America to confess and repent so God can be able to stem the terrorism and other things that are plaguing America.

Ochlocknee, Ga.

Letters to the Editor must include the writer's name and address and should be sent to The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mailed to letters@thetrumpet.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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GERALD FLURRY

“The Largest Audience Possible”

Excerpts from a February 1997 *Trumpet* article, when the PCG first printed *Mystery of the Ages*

IN A LETTER TO GOD’S CHURCH DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 1985, Mr. Armstrong wrote this: “Since last December I have been working diligently on the LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN MY LIFE. IN REAL FACT I FEEL I MYSELF DID NOT WRITE IT. Rather, I believe God used me in writing it. I CANDIDLY FEEL IT MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK SINCE THE BIBLE! We want to reach the largest audience possible with this book. I know you will feel the same way when you read it.

“This new book *Mystery of the Ages* unveils all these mysteries. It puts the many different parts of the ‘jigsaw puzzle’ together. IT IS, IN FACT, A SYNOPSIS OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE. It is my prayer that you will read it along with your Bible—that it will make your Bible come alive and understandable. And with God’s Holy Spirit dwelling in you, I feel sure that it will. I AM NOW IN MY 94TH YEAR AND I FEEL THAT THIS BOOK IS THE MOST VALUABLE GIFT I COULD POSSIBLY GIVE YOU. This book is a partial expression of my thanks and gratitude to you for being a co-laborer with me and Jesus Christ. With all my heart, I do appreciate and thank God for your part with me in the wonderful work in these closing days” (emphasis mine throughout).

A little over a month later, Mr. Armstrong wrote in a co-worker letter, “With the writing of the new book *Mystery of the Ages* God has helped me this year to DO THE BEST WORK OF MY 93 YEARS OF LIFE!” (Nov. 25, 1985).

Mr. Armstrong was sick during the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles. A tape was played of his sermon the previous year. It was preceded by a videotaped segment about *Mystery of the Ages* in which this book was called Mr. Armstrong’s “MOST IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT WORK”! This was said about three months before his death.

Each member and co-worker was given a hardback copy. It was run serially in the *Plain Truth*. Ads were placed in trade journals around the United States. Full page ads were run in the most prestigious business paper in the U.S.—the *Wall Street Journal*. There were extensive ads in magazines and newspapers.

Mystery of the Ages was like the magnificent SUMMARY OF ALL Mr. Armstrong’s work—THE ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ENTIRE MINISTRY. This book, more than any other piece of literature, was what Mr. Armstrong and God’s work were about during the Philadelphia era.

Mr. Armstrong said, “I feel I MYSELF DID NOT WRITE IT. Rather, I believe God used me in writing it.” Those are inspiring and frightening words. If they are true, then THOSE WORDS FLOWED RIGHT OUT OF THE MIND OF THE LIVING, ALL-POWERFUL GOD! Anybody who reads and studies *Mystery of the Ages* would surely have to agree.

Mystery of the Ages sums up God’s work through Mr. Armstrong. Surely Christ must have personally directed and inspired such a critical, end-time message.

I believe our greatest shame today would be rejecting that book!

Mr. Armstrong wanted it to reach “the largest audience

possible.” If you comprehend the message of that book, THIS HAS TO BE GOD’S DESIRE ALSO. We must let God use us to get this book to “the largest audience possible.”

I BELIEVE “THE LARGEST AUDIENCE POSSIBLE” SHOULD BECOME OUR BATTLE CRY TODAY! Now is the great moment for God’s Philadelphians. This is our most critical hour. We must pick up the dropped baton and finish the gun lap! We must stretch and strain to win the greatest race we will ever run!

This must be God’s supreme goal for His Philadelphian elect today. He inspired those words, “the largest audience possible.” That expression came from God’s own mind! You can see that clearly if you truly understand *Mystery of the Ages*. We must not fail God. So much hangs in the balance—even reaching into the universe and living for all eternity.

If you don’t have a copy of *Mystery of the Ages*, please write for one! It is a huge book and it’s free.

Mr. Armstrong asked the ministers to have each prospective member read *Mystery of the Ages* before he or she was baptized. This is the most important book a prospective member could read before baptism. These people can then understand the whole Bible. It will no longer be a mystery.

We will freely give *Mystery of the Ages* to anyone who requests it. We have what I believe time will prove to be THE MOST POWERFUL BOOK EVER WRITTEN ABOUT THE BIBLE! Anybody in the world can easily understand the message. We can now reach any person on Earth and bring him or her to conversion. We can “make disciples” in all the world with one book.

My book *Malachi’s Message* was mainly revealed for Church members and those familiar with what Mr. Armstrong taught. So you can see how, *suddenly*, WE NOW HAVE A MESSAGE FOR BILLIONS OF PEOPLE, not just a few hundred thousand!

Our work now is to get a final warning trumpet blast to every person on this planet, which is plunging headlong to its death! It will take a supreme effort from each member of the very elect to achieve God’s goal for us.

If God’s message is to be thundered around the world during the Laodicean era, the Philadelphia Church of God must do it! Nobody else will! ♦

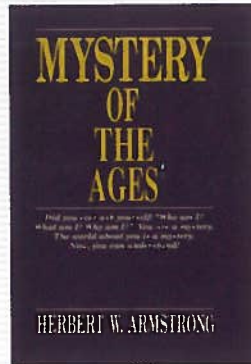
If we do, exciting and majestic miracles will accompany this work and your individual life. Remember, God says, “I am with you always.” The harder we work, the more powerful are God’s miracles.

Can we meet the challenge?

Are you ready? Am I ready? We have an unparalleled opportunity. In terms of numbers of people, we can be the fewest people to do the greatest work ever on this Earth! Most of God’s own people have rebelled against this honor.

In the midst of the Earth’s greatest suffering, we get to announce the return of Jesus Christ. If we properly do our job, our reward will dazzle God’s family for all eternity!

The greatest single gift we can give to the world is *Mystery of the Ages*. Let’s think and work like God and give it to “the largest audience possible”!



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Did you know? You are a mystery. Who am I? What am I? Why am I?"
You are a mystery. Who am I? What am I? Why am I?"
about you is a mystery. Now, you can understand! This is the final and most important book Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, and is the culmination of the basic biblical truth he came to understand in his interest-packed life.

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