


AUGUST 2003

THE NEXT MARKET TO CRASH

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The Philadelphia

Trumpet



THE
END
IS
NEAR
PROBABLY

APOCALYPSE WHEN?

Curiosity and confusion
over end-time events

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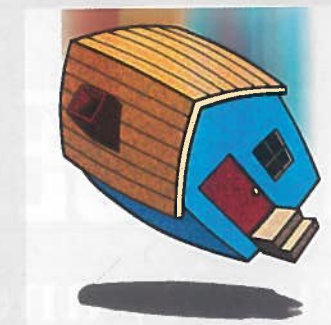
ON THE COVER: A representation of a street corner preacher illustrates the confusion over end-time prophecy (photo illustration by Joel Hilliker)



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What Is Real Success?

WHAT IS REAL SUCCESS? MOST PEOPLE SIMPLY DON'T know! How do you know when you have reached success in life?

Take stock of your own life. Would you consider yourself an example of real success?

Can you measure success in wealth? There are many unhappy rich people in the world. What about fame? The tabloids are full of the sordid details of the lives of celebrities; the glamorous life often pulls people into degradation and despair.

If we are honest, we have to accept the fact that true success cannot be measured by *material* means. Such "success," once acquired, never satisfies in a lasting way, as it appeared it would.

But what *is* success then, if not material?

I would like to offer you a free copy of a very special booklet. It explores the answer to this question—and actually provides a proven, specific, tried-and-true formula for LASTING, GENUINE SUCCESS in life! It gives a method for acquiring a measure of *material* success—but goes far beyond that by defining and then showing how to achieve the *all-encompassing, enduring* success we were CREATED to achieve!

It was written by the late Herbert W. Armstrong. It is one of several works of his that we recently acquired the copyright to print. It is called *The Seven Laws of Success*.

Let me share with you a significant portion of the introduction to this powerful, practical booklet:

DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT THERE MIGHT BE A REASON why so many people make a failure of life?

Are you one who is wrestling with the problem of "making ends meet"? Nearly all of us are. This problem need not mean failure—yet it often leads to it.

It is a fact—the vast majority do wind up failures. Yet none *need fail!*

Take a look at the *facts* in the world.

IS THIS SUCCESS?

Every two minutes someone in the United States attempts suicide. Each day nearly 85 persons *succeed*—but is that success? The World Health Organization estimates that some *one thousand* people commit suicide in the world—*every day!*

Suicides now outnumber murders. Now various organizations for the prevention of suicide are a reality. But the *cause* is individual FAILURE!

“Why are only the very few really successful? Is it mere chance—is it just happen-so—can it be luck? Or are there definite reasons? I am going to tell you why! There are definite causes!”

• HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG •

Only a minority, of course, go to this extreme, but the overwhelming majority do end their lives in failure.

Much of the world is in current “prosperity.” Yet—even within the affluent U.S.—95 percent of businesses fail within five years of inception. Across the world streaks the shocking trend of increasing failures. Scores of millions daily allow the creeping cancer of FAILURE to chain them to a life of unhappy circumstances, from which only death promises release.

But WHY?

WHY are only the very few really successful? Is it mere

chance—is it just happen-so—can it be luck? Or are there definite reasons?

WHY do all but the very few find themselves, by age 60 or 65, dependents? Why must there be old-age pensions, public welfare aid, charities to support the non-crippled, non-handicapped helpless? Why must children so often provide for aged parents—when it ought to be the other way around?

I am going to tell you why!

There *are* definite causes! Seven basic laws govern success! It is high time people come to know them, and *end* this unhappy and needless tragedy!

FINDING THE ANSWER

When I was a young man of 23, I was a member of the editorial staff of a national magazine. I was sent on tours over the United States, covering 10 or 15 states each tour. My assignment was investigating business conditions, reporting workable ideas and facts. I interviewed businessmen and chamber of commerce officials. I discussed with merchants and manufacturers their problems. I searched out ideas and methods that had been successfully applied in sales promotion, public relations, cutting costs, speeding up turnover, increasing profits.

One of the things my editors assigned me to investigate was *the reason* behind the success of the few, and the failure of the many. Some 95 percent of smaller independent merchants were reported by Dun and Bradstreet to be heading toward bankruptcy.

I asked the opinions of hundreds of businessmen. Most thought success resulted merely from superior ability, and failure from the lack of it. But this opinion consigned the big majority to failure from birth without a chance. If a man lacked the ability, he was foredoomed to failure. There seemed nothing he could do about it. I was not satisfied with

◆ PERSONAL

this idea—and later I proved it false.

The manager of the large J. L. Hudson department store in Detroit thought failure generally resulted from lack of adequate capital. A minority interviewed agreed with him. But this, also, made dollars, and not the man, responsible for success or failure.

Actually, investigation showed these to be contributing factors, but only that. A more prevalent factor, I found, was fitting the proverbial “square peg in the round hole.” Most failures were misfits. Most, had they known these seven laws, *could* have made a success in the field where they best fit.

This quest for the *reasons* for success or failure intrigued me. My research on this question did not stop with these editorial tours. Observation and analysis of this problem have continued through the years.

“No human being need ever become a failure. Failures are not foredoomed. Success does not just happen!”

And I know, now, that *no human being need ever become a failure!*

Failures are not foredoomed. Success does not just *happen!* It is governed by *seven definite laws*. If you know them, and apply them, the happy result, in the end, is assured.

Every individual was put on this Earth for a *PURPOSE!* Every person was put here to become a success. Every human *ought* to enjoy the sweet taste of success—to find peace and happiness—to live an interesting, secure and abundant life! And in order that *all* might—if willing—reap such full and abundant rewards, the Creator set in motion actual, definite *LAWS* to produce that desired result.

The tragedy is that through the centuries and millenniums man has turned his back on those laws—those *causes* of the very success he craves! The world long ago ignored and forgot them. Today, most people do not know what they are. *Most people have not followed a single one of the seven basic laws.*

YOU CAN'T BUY IT!

If some recognized authority had a copyrighted plan to sell that was guaranteed to make all who follow it prosperous and successful, I suppose people by the thousands would flock to buy the plan.

One man had such a plan. It was a sort of pseudo “psychological” religion. He promised the plan would make its followers prosperous or rich—the easy way, of course. Its propagator advertised that it had made *him* rich. He boasted of his fine home, his great high-ceiling pipe-organ room. The inference was that it would make its purchasers equally prosperous—but he neglected to mention that it was the naive dupes who bought his bogus plan who made *him* rich.

This man stumbled onto an advertising catchphrase for a headline in magazine and newspaper advertisements, which multiplied responses. He used it for years. But ultimately it wore itself out. This charlatan’s “success” was neither real nor lasting. He was, himself, a colossal failure.

The only *WAY* to true success is not a formula being sold like merchandise.

You can't buy it with money. It comes to you *FREE*—without money, and without price. There *is* a price, of course—your own application of these definite *laws*. It is not guaran-

teed to be *the easy way*—but it is guaranteed to be the *only* way to *real* success!

RICH MEN I HAVE KNOWN

In my lifetime I have had close and intimate contact almost constantly with recognized successful men. From age 18, in early life—within the United States. From middle-age—worldwide. I have read many books and articles written by such men, numerous biographies and autobiographies of the great and the near-great—their experiences, their philosophies. I know how these leaders among men think, how they act, what principles and rules they follow.

One factor characterized nearly every one of these men. They made money. They acquired material possessions. Many headed big corporations. They achieved recognition as being important.

Significantly, most of these men practiced the first six of the seven laws of success. *That is tremendously important!*

I knew two important bankers who accumulated great personal wealth. However, though they were recognized as important during their lifetimes, all of their “success” *died with them!* Some years later, when I inquired about them at their respective banks, no one had even heard of them.

But there is a *real* success that *endures!*

BUT IS THIS SUCCESS?

Yes, I have been privileged to know many of the great and the near-great—especially in the American business world. I have known multimillionaire capitalists, chief executives of great corporations and banks, cabinet members in the national administration in Washington, authors, artists, lecturers, college and university heads.

For the most of them, success meant the acquisition of money and material possessions, and being of recognized status.

One important man I knew was Elbert Hubbard, philosopher, prolific writer, publisher, lecturer, known as “the Sage of East Aurora.” Hubbard preached a *positive* philosophy. He had rare insight and wisdom in purely material matters, and a keen understanding of human nature.

He knew that “important” men craved flattery as an actor enjoys applause. A large share of his fortune was made by writing an almost endless series of booklets, captioned *Little Journeys to the Homes of the Great and the Near-Great*. These were printed, of course, in rare style in his own Roycroft Press. Dozens and scores of America’s rich and famous men paid Hubbard premium prices to write them up in his inimitable literary style.

But was Elbert Hubbard a real success, after all? By



Hubbard

human standards, I suppose he was. He knew and applied the first six of the seven laws of success. He worked hard and industriously, and he reaped a bounteous harvest—of



Armstrong

money, popularity, acclaim. But his fame did not appear to last. One seldom hears of him any more. Hubbard knew material values. But his agnosticism closed the door—and threw away the key—that led to an understanding of spiritual values. He never quite understood the real PURPOSE of life itself. He wasn't sure whether there was a Creator. He was convinced that fundamentalist or traditional "Christianity" was an impractical superstition. He didn't know WHY humanity was placed on the Earth—or whether it just happened! He didn't know man's real potential destiny. He didn't know the *seventh* law of success. And, not knowing or following that seventh rule, he drove himself, by the diligent practice of the six, *in the wrong direction*—diametrically away from true success!

IT NEVER SATISFIED

What was the real *meaning of life* to these "successful" men?

Their goal in life—their definition of success—was material acquisition, recognition of status by society, and the passing enjoyment of the five senses.

But the more they acquired, the more they wanted, and the less satisfied they became with what they had. When they got it, it was never enough.

Some "successful" men of the world maneuver to get their pictures on page one of metropolitan newspapers, or on the front covers of national magazines. This inflates and briefly titillates ego, but it never satisfies for long. There's nothing the public forgets so quickly as yesterday's news!

Such men seek the flattery of others, and engage in back-slapping to invite it. But, like an actor's applause, it doesn't last and leaves them flat, with a gnawing inner hunger for something that will *satisfy!* So they become restless, discontented.

Their bank accounts may be full, but their lives are empty. And what they do acquire, which is never enough and never satisfies, they leave behind when they die!

What is wrong?

Such men started out with the wrong goals. They had not discerned the true values, but pursued the false.

Isn't it about time we learn the true definition of SUCCESS?

Let me tell you the experience of a king. He was a close personal friend of ex-King Saud of Arabia, to whom I have been personally presented. Wealth came suddenly to Sheik Ali of Qatar (pronounced "gutter").

Qatar is a little Arabian country jutting into the Persian Gulf. The big oil boom came to Sheik Ali's little kingdom. It paid the country of 35,000 population \$50 million a year, of

which \$12½ million went personally to old Sheik Ali, age 69.

Now what would *you* do with it, if you suddenly came into \$12½ million a year?

The answer, in all probability, is that you would not do what you now think you would! That much money, coming suddenly into one's hands, usually changes one's ideas completely. That's what it did to old Sheik Ali.

Immediately he began to build big gaudy pink, green and gold palaces in the midst of malodorous mud hovels. They were air-conditioned, ultramodern, even equipped with push-button window curtains!

And now the newly wealthy sheik could avoid the 120-degree bake-oven summers of the desert.

He chartered whole airliners and took with him a retinue so large that his newly purchased palatial villa on Lake Geneva could not hold them all, and they overflowed into various resort hotels.

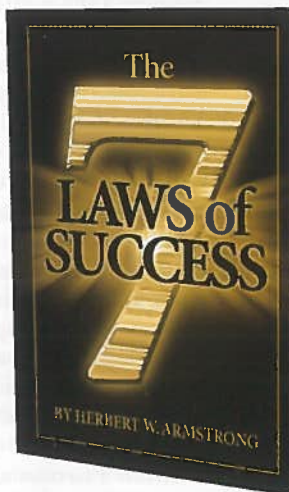
Then Sheik Ali indulged in the \$1,000,000 purchase of a magnificent mansion overlooking Beirut—and the beautiful Mediterranean. When King Saud paid him a royal visit, he presented the king with 16 automobiles. One was embellished with gold. Old Sheik Ali became so generous in his *self-indulgences*, that his debts, over and beyond his fabulous income, soon mounted to \$14 million!

The news stories filtered around the world of how the sheik *just simply could not make ends meet* on a mere \$12½ million a year! About the first of November, 1960, he abdicated in favor of his son Ahmed, age 40. A new advisory council arranged to pay old Ali's debts, and give him a pension large enough only to provide for a mere handful of servants and a few wives.

Poor old Ali! He found it harder to make ends meet on \$12½ million annually than he did in comparative poverty.

Certainly NOTHING in life is more important than to know: What is *real* success—and how to achieve it.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG TRULY WAS A SUCCESS IN HIS OWN LIFE. This booklet is the product of his own personal application of these seven laws. It is filled with the wisdom of experience, yet fundamentally informed by his spiritual understanding.



I urge you to request and begin to apply the seven laws of success contained in this little booklet. As Mr. Armstrong said, "You can't buy it with money. It comes to you FREE—without money, and without price. There *is* a price, of course—your own application of these definite *laws*. It is not guaranteed to be *the easy way*—but it *is* guaranteed to be *the only way to real success!*"



ON THE GROUND
French soldiers march in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

MAKING MODERN MITTELAFRIKA

European Union exploits in the Congo may be more significant than would first appear.

BY ANDREW HESSONG

FOR DECADES, GERMANY HAS HAD ambitions for a Euro-African economic bloc. Back as far as the 1890s, this strategy was referred to as Germany's *Mittelafrika* (Middle Africa) policy.

The idea was to split Africa down the middle through its holdings of German Southwest Africa (Namibia), German East Africa (Tanzania) and Cameroon. During World War I, Germany planned to acquire all European holdings in Africa after conquering the European countries. Such action would have weakened or removed the British hold on sub-Saharan Africa and given Germany access to the vital metals, minerals, labor and other resources inside the heart of the continent.

Germany's devastating defeat in two world wars left this objective unmet. But plans for *Mittelafrika* did not go away.

Post-War Plans

Notice this startling statement from the

May 1961 *Plain Truth* magazine describing Germany's continued aspirations for Africa: "A captured document circulated from the Nazi geopolitical center in Madrid in 1950 outlined plans for the first few turbulent years of the post-war period. 'It should prove possible for Germany to build up a new political bloc out of Europe, Africa and Latin America. The economic advantages and the political possibilities in such a new power combination would put the United States against the wall.'"

The *Plain Truth* then referenced a top-secret document issued by the same Madrid group in October 1951, which stated, "For its industrial development Germany requires—much more than in the past—raw materials, sources of energy and a market with strong purchasing power. All this it can attain only in a unified Europe and through the si-

multaneous development of Africa in a common European undertaking."

Such discussion, so consistent with the *Mittelafrika* strategy, was not only taking place behind closed doors and in underground meetings. Notice this public statement by then-Chancellor Konrad Adenauer on May 20, 1950, recorded in *Rheinischer Merkur*: "Germany has again become a factor with whom others will have to reckon in international affairs. ... There is also a long-range economic goal: the colonization of Africa. ... If we Europeans colonize Africa, we create at the same time a supplier of raw materials for Europe which will be of the greatest importance."

German plans to unify Europe as a means of rebuilding its power base after World War II are well documented. Hindsight shows how this goal was realized by degrees—first using seemingly innocuous economic measures and progressing gradually through political and now military unification. Today we see in nearly full bloom how

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For more on Latin America, see "Re-colonizing Latin America" in the July 2003 issue.

Germany has acquired through softer means much of what it sought to take by force in World Wars I and II.

The question is, has today's Germany relinquished its old desire to acquire African wealth to feed its growing global ambitions? Current events could be providing us some very telling clues as to the answer.

Courting Africa

Since decolonization, Africa has become a political and economic disaster. Post-colonial history has been filled with rank corruption and nearly non-stop bloody war on both political and tribal fronts. Much of the continent has been reduced to a basket case—easy pickings for any nation or group of nations with the wit, will and diplomacy to plunder its rich resources.

Generally speaking, the Western world has not paid serious attention to African conflicts. However, the Soviet Union supported African insurgence forces with guns, armaments, training and Marxist indoctrination in many sub-Saharan nations in an effort to overthrow their colonial mentors following World War II. The United States, in turn, supported various regimes in order to check the growth of communism. Communist support slowed to a trickle after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Rwanda and Somalia debacles in the 1990s sent the U.S. packing from Africa licking its wounds.

Since 9/11, however, America has been forced to upgrade its involvement within certain African regions in the context of its war on terror. Northern Africa, in particular, is a hotbed of intrigue in terrorist circles and provides numerous training grounds for terrorist cells.

But the U.S. is not alone in its newfound interest in the continent. Increasingly, the European Union is focusing attention on Africa, involving itself in peacekeeping missions under the umbrella of the United Nations. With the German Navy already deployed off the Horn of Africa in addition to its regular visits to South Africa, the EU has now moved into Central Africa, in a "peacekeeping" role.

Called upon by the UN, almost 2,000 of the EU's 60,000-strong rapid reaction force have entered their inaugural mission without NATO logistical and arms support. The French-led mil-

itary force is deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Hema and Lendu tribal militias are battling for the mineral-rich Ituri region in the northeast of the nation—the latest round of fighting in Congo's four-year civil war, which has killed an estimated 3 million people so far.

Javier Solana, high representative for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, explained the EU peacekeeping mission as a short stopgap measure to

benefit from the mission would require maintaining a long-term presence, which Solana has already stated is not the mission's intent—or is it?

A look into the *Official Journal of the European Union* reveals that the EU does have plans to be involved in the Congo for the long term ("Council Common Position 2003/319/CFSP," May 8). Article 5 states that the EU will work for rapid disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and



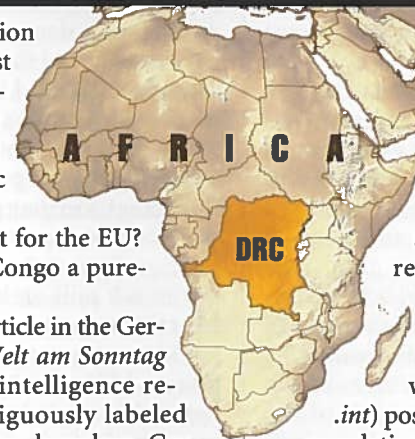
REFUGEE Thousands of displaced Congolese citizens live in refugee camps, like this one in Bunia.

stabilize the situation that would only last until UN reinforcements are in place in September. That is the EU's public line on the matter.

But what is in it for the EU? Is going into the Congo a purely selfless act?

On June 8, an article in the German newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* pointed out that intelligence reports had unambiguously labeled the Congo situation hopeless. Germany has been reunited 10 years, it said, and it's high time that *German economic interests* played a role in its efforts to provide humanitarian aid. In other words, put soldiers on the ground in the form of humanitarian aid and security only where it will lead to strategic and economic benefits for the Fatherland.

This type of thinking cannot be far from the minds of the Eurocrats planning the Congo venture. The problem is, to derive real strategic or economic



resettlement of combatants of armed groups. Far more than a three-month undertaking! The document further states that the EU will support the transitional government in its reconstruction and development of the country.

The week of June 23, the European Union website (www.europa.eu.int) posted an article with recommendations from the International Crisis Group (ICG) regarding the Congo mission. "This intervention ... is on the face of it totally insufficient," the ICG report said. "Only a more forceful and geographically more extensive [EU-led] UN intervention maintained for much longer ... can lead to sustainable peace."

The ICG report said this should be combined with a push toward establishing a transitional Congolese government: "Anything less is likely to leave the Congo divided, insecure, and a

source of further instability throughout Central Africa.” The article then referenced a statement by German Defense Minister Peter Struck, who said that Germany is willing to provide hundreds of additional troops to support the Congo peacekeeping operation if ethnic tensions continue to mount.

The article also stated, “The ICG would like to see the EU-led multinational force—which is made up largely of French troops—to have its mandate *extended far beyond the current September deadline*. The force should also possess ‘the physical capability’ and international ‘political backing’ that would allow it to deal with potential armed resistance and ‘be geared towards restoration of Congolese state sovereignty’” (emphasis mine).

Carefully observe! It appears Germany is positioning itself to use this Congo crisis exactly as it used the Balkans crisis. As time wears on without resolution to the crisis, the EU will be justifiably and legally able, by UN mandate, to keep and even increase a military presence in the “mittel”—in the heart of—resource-rich Africa.

Is this the mustard-seed beginning of a modern version of Germany’s *Mittelafrika* policy?

Vital Strategic Resources

No nation can achieve or sustain superpower strength without access to vital strategic resources. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is, potentially, one of the richest countries in Africa. In addition to diamonds and gold, it contains 34 percent of the world’s cobalt reserves and over 10 percent of its copper.

It is estimated that Africa holds approximately 30 percent of the world’s mineral reserves. It produces over 60 metal and mineral products. It is a major producer of a number of the world’s most precious metals, including gold, diamonds, uranium, manganese, chromium, nickel, bauxite, cobalt and platinum group metals.

But the most vital of its strategic resources, which is being discovered in ever increasing abundance, is crude oil.

With Iraq going further into crisis,

Iran a heartbeat away from becoming a nuclear power and militant Islam continuing to rise, Europe must acquire a stable, inexpensive source of vital crude oil and precious metal and mineral resources. German planners, even back in the 1890s, knew that such vital resources would be plentiful and easily accessible in Africa.

The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) reports that Africa contains over 90 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, representing 9.1 percent of the world’s total reserves. More than 11 percent of the world’s current oil production takes place in Africa, and the CCA reported last year that it expects Africa’s oil production to expand by an amazing 57 percent by 2007.

In a newly released in-depth report on Africa’s oil boom and the poor, Ian Gary of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) assembled facts on the overwhelming oil reserves of the continent. The report said that most of Africa’s current oil growth is in the Gulf of Guinea region, which covers much of western and central Africa. Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa’s largest producer, is planning to top 3 million barrels per day in output, and Angola, the second-largest sub-Saharan producer, is working to double its current 1 million barrels a day output.

Angola’s deep water discoveries have been called the “oil jackpot of the 21st century,” and its proven reserves increased 600 percent between 1995 and 1999, representing the largest increase for any oil-producing nation on the planet for that period. Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to jump oil production from 3.8 million barrels per day to 6.8 million by 2008. Total, the fourth-largest oil company in the world—comprised of Belgium’s Petrofina and Elf, and France’s Total—has approximately half of its worldwide reserves in the Gulf of Guinea area.

It is not hard to see why Europe would be so interested in tapping this resource-rich continent for its own use.

Economic Assistance

Under the Cotonou Agreement, ratified
· *continued on page 28*

It is not hard to see why Europe would be so interested in tapping this resource-rich continent for its own use.

DEATH BY PREJUDICE

Where is the surge in anti-Semitism leading us?

BY GARY RETHFORD

DIABOLICAL HATRED WRAPPED IN the mantle of anti-Semitism is alive around the world once again. September 11, 2001, intensified a growing trend. “I will say to you without hesitation that I am convinced we are facing a threat as great, if not greater, to the safety and security of the Jewish people than we faced in the ‘30s,” stated Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League last year.

The last global outbreak of anti-Semitism began with the rise of fascism and Nazism in Europe prior to World War II. That wave of mass hatred resulted in the deaths of approximately 50 million people, including 6 million Jews. Added to that is the little-reported fact of a Russian holocaust, during which Jews and other minorities, the numbers of which are impossible to estimate, were killed in the Stalin era.

As horrendous as that memory is today’s rising level of worldwide hatred will prove to be far worse. I promise to explode into a global holocaust of such impact that its result will



BRAZEN HATE A Jew looks at a grave defaced with a swastika in France.

dwarf all past events of man's inhumanity to man. This is a time of suffering that will directly impact *you*, unless you take action.

The Resurgent Plague

Almost a year ago, a museum in Germany honoring Jews who died in the Nazi death march was firebombed. Attackers destroyed the main exhibition, which detailed how concentration camp victims were driven deeper into Germany by the Nazis, as the Soviets advanced, with over 700 dying of exhaustion and hunger. Vandals painted large red swastikas and SS symbols on a memorial, and a 3-by-18-foot anti-Semitic slogan at the base of it.

At the time, this was the worst such vandalism in a decade. Since then, such attacks have become common across Europe. Open hatred is once again being directed at Jews. Schoolchildren, Jewish worshipers, rabbis and people presumed to be Jewish are increasingly assaulted by attackers shouting Nazi slogans. Jewish buildings are desecrated with anti-Jewish

slogans and swastikas, and windows smashed. Synagogues and Jewish shops are firebombed.

U.S. News & World Report commented that in France, where a major swell of anti-Semitism has occurred, walls have been defaced with slogans such as "Jews to the gas chambers," and, in Germany, Jews have been advised not to wear anything in public that could identify them as Jewish for the sake of their safety (Oct. 7, 2002).

Politicians throughout Europe and the world are being forced to recognize the *growing anti-Semitism problem* and the need to curb it.

In June, the world's largest regional security organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), held its first-ever anti-Semitism conference. Delegates from the 55 member nations of the OSCE met in Vienna to seek solutions for the recent "worldwide surge in anti-Semitic violence," as the head of the U.S. delegation, Rudolph Giuliani, put it, comparing the anti-Jewish sentiment to the hatred that produced 9/11.

Following on from this conference, at a July session of the OSCE parliamentary assembly in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, the need for action against anti-Semitism was further addressed. In recognition of the intensity of the plague, European lawmakers resolved to lobby their home legislatures to "take action against rising anti-Semitism and hate crimes" (Associated Press, July 6).

Two months earlier, an international conference on intolerance, specifically addressing hatred against Jews, was held in Paris. The conference, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, together with a Jewish rights group, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, opened with a warning that "acts of hatred against Jews, particularly in Europe, have reached their highest level since World War II" (Associated Press, May 12).

At the same time, an international meeting of prominent writers, historians, intellectuals, social scientists and Jewish leaders from around the world convened in New York to address the anti-Jewish problem. As *Newsday* (New York) put it, it "is a sign of the times ... that there were two high-profile conferences [in one] week to try to understand *the resurgence of anti-Semitism around the world*" (May 24; emphasis mine throughout).

Last year registered the highest number of violent anti-Semitic acts in over 12 years, with this year undergoing a further wave of anti-Semitism, according to the 2002/2003 anti-Semitism survey published by Tel Aviv University. Since 2001, France alone has seen 1,300 anti-Semitic acts, as documented by the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

These statistics reflect an anti-Semitism mood smoldering around the world, and particularly in Europe, where, in five countries surveyed, 21 percent of the population have strongly anti-Jewish views and 49 percent believe Jews still talk too much about the Holocaust (58 percent in Germany).

The Barometer of Hate

What does the rising level of anti-Semitism indicate?

An article in the *Washington Post* warned, "Throughout history a constant barometer for judging the level of hate and exclusion vs. the level of free-

dom and democracy in any society has been anti-Semitism—how a country treats its Jewish citizens. Jews have been persecuted and delegitimized throughout history because of their perceived differences. Any society that can understand and accept Jews is typically more democratic, more open and accepting of ‘the other.’ *This predictor has held true throughout the ages*” (June 27, 2002).

The renewed intensity of anti-Semitism in 2002 and early 2003 has been concentrated in Western Europe, North America and Russia. “[I]n recent years, there has been a clear shift in anti-Semitic activity from totalitarian states to *Western democratic ones*” (Anti-Defamation League, May 6).

Last year, a *U.S. News & World Report* article warned, “Europe is sick again. The memory of 6 million murdered Jews, it seems, is no longer inoculation against the virus of anti-Semitism. It has taken hold, on the supposedly liberal left as well as the xenophobic right, all too long unchecked by feeble political leadership with one eye on the vengeful sentiments of millions of anti-Zionist immigrants from North Africa and the Middle East” (Oct. 7, 2002).

Yet, anti-Semitism was not born with the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948. It has a long history. It has surfaced continuously in priestly and political circles, within, especially, the Roman Catholic Church and the murky corridors of political power in Europe—from the time of the first Roman Empire to the current European Union.

It was a militarized Catholic Church that mounted the Crusades of the Middle Ages and slaughtered countless non-Christians in the name of religion. In fact, some maintain that these Crusades had their genesis much earlier, in A.D. 622, when the church fought the Persians and Jews. Suffering defeat and the loss of possession of Jerusalem left the Catholics extremely bitter against the Jews. Thus, anti-Semitism in Vatican circles has a history extending at least 1,380 years.

In the 14th century, the Vatican blamed the Jews for the great plague

that swept Europe, claiming they had poisoned the wells. Since then, many paranoid delusions have heaped a blood libel on the Jewish people, blaming them for all sorts of phenomena, from the “threat” of corrupting national bloodlines to the failure of national



MASS MURDER The most recent revival of European anti-Semitism was the Holocaust.

economies. Some of the most venerated saints of the Catholic Church were among its most vociferous Jew-haters. Indeed, as historian Robert S. Wistrich states, “Nazi anti-Semitism could never have aroused the response it did had it not been planted in groundwater poisoned by Christian theology ... and in satanization of the Jews over many centuries” (*Commentary*, April 2001).

Thus Wistrich links the *priesthood* with the *politicians*. “The emergence of political anti-Semitism in parts of Europe in the late 19th century afforded many Catholics yet another opportunity to revive the church’s declining fortunes” (*ibid.*). All this hatred of the Jew consummated in the engulfing of millions of them in the gas chambers of the great Holocaust during World War II. A plethora of documentation now exists linking *church* and *state* with this horrifying slaughter, by either benign neglect or outright complicity.

One would think that both priest and politician would be eternally repentant for this massive blot on the history of man. But no! That would require a memory of past events, and that is what is, too often and too quickly, disappearing from the public conscience.

That’s one reason the old anti-Semitic rhetoric is back in Germany. The astonishing fact, however, is that it is not just directed against Jews. There is something far more sinister at work today—a rising swell of hate and violence that targets not only Jewish elements, but other nationalities as well.

Assault on the West

Many acknowledge anti-Semitic hatred is rising to new levels, but what the world does not realize is its new *direction*.

Anti-Semitism today, in its broadest sense, and in its newest form, fuels terrorism around the globe. As anti-Semitism increases, so grows the terrorism it spawns—a terrorism that includes America and Britain as its target.

While anti-Semitism is the voice of the problem, terrorism is the fist. And what the world at large does not realize is, *hatred is rising to a level never before seen in human history*.

Daily Mail columnist Melanie Phillips reinforces the fact that the bull’s-eye of anti-Semitism rests directly on the West. “The [recent] Jerusalem conference [on anti-Semitism and the media] heard chilling presentations about a phenomenon barely discussed in Britain: the virulent Arab and Muslim hatred of the Jews. This goes far beyond even the desire to finish off Israel as a Jewish state. *Anti-Jewish hatred plays a crucial role in the fanatical jihadism that now threatens all of us in the West*, pouring out in television programs, newspapers and religious sermons throughout the Arab and Muslim world, and amounting to a new warrant for genocide. ...

“These sick outpourings are not so much religious or even fundamentalist doctrines as rooted in a fanatical totalitarian ideology.

“As [Holocaust expert Professor Yehuda] Bauer observed, the driving aim is the Islamic dictatorship of the world. Realization of this utopia necessitates the *destruction of the foundation creeds of Western culture, Judaism and Christianity*—and especially Israel, the

As anti-Semitism increases, so grows the terrorism it spawns—a terrorism that includes America as its target.

supposed personification of Western global power-lust, which was planted as an incubus on Arab soil as a result of the Holocaust" (*Spectator*, March 22).

As that article correctly states, the new direction of anti-Semitism is pointed at Western culture. Phillips concludes, "The result is the defamation of a people, the greater prospect of its destruction, and the disastrous failure of the populations of Britain and Europe to understand properly the threat that all free peoples now face" (*ibid.*).

The Spirit of Hate

The hatred and destruction wrought by anti-Semitism will never be fully understood until we realize its *spiritual* origin.

There is an invisible spirit realm! The Bible reveals that mankind is fundamentally swayed by Satan the devil, the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), who has tangled the minds of "the whole world" in deceit (Rev. 12:9). This supernatural being hates human beings, because it is in our human race that God has planted the seeds of the eternal future—a transcendent potential that far surpasses any that Satan was ever offered.

In past *Trumpet* articles we have spelled out scriptures that show how God will one day unite all the nations of Israel—and eventually the world—under the throne of David, the *Jewish* king (Jer. 33:14-16). God will accomplish this by grafting the Gentile nations *into Israel* (Rom. 11:17). Jesus Christ Himself said that salvation is *of the Jews* (John 4:22); yet elsewhere, the Bible shows that God wills that ALL MEN be saved (I Tim. 2:4). In short, the biblical teaching is that in God's soon-coming Kingdom, people of *every nation and race* will become SPIRITUAL JEWS—which has nothing to do with *physical* race (Rom. 2:28-29). That is our future! This remarkable truth requires much biblical proof, which may be found in our book *The Key of David* (request your free copy).

It is Satan's *hatred for that truth* that fuels his hatred for the Jewish race today—as well as the Anglo-Americans.

Herbert W. Armstrong accurately foretold the worldwide result of anti-Semitism in the 1930s—World War II. He also clearly saw the prophesied *next round* of anti-Semitism: "The Bible foretells that *third* round—and it spells DOOM for us, as God's punishment, because we, as a nation, have forsaken



PAINT AND PREJUDICE A vandal's mark is left on the preaching lectern in a London synagogue.

Him and His ways! The third round is termed, in prophecy, an invasion by 'BABYLON'—a resurrected Roman Empire—a European Union. I have been proclaiming that since 1927. ...

"This Nazi underground will introduce a new kind of internal warfare and sabotage, *to divide and conquer!* It will stir RACE HATRED, class prejudice, strife among ourselves, religious bigotry while professing to champion religious tolerance—especially toward the religion of the coming United States of Europe" (*Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong*, vol. 2).

Obviously, a new kind of internal warfare—race hatred, class prejudice, and strife—would include anti-Semitism on a new, more deadly level, one that extends beyond Jews to threaten much of the English-speaking world.

Is it happening? Yes it is, and at a rate that should alarm the world!

Far worse than the destruction of the Twin Towers, we are talking about NATIONS falling. Yet the international agencies set up after World War II to prevent any future holocausts are not doing the job of stopping its advance.

Good News Coming!

This world denies the authority of God, but only God can solve its problems. Unless the world begins to listen to God and stops rebelling against His laws, there is no course left to mankind. Anti-Semitism and terrorism will have their way, and—just as the work of God has warned through the years—we are heading toward a GREAT TRIBULATION SUCH AS THIS WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN. It will be *far worse* than World War II and the concentration camps. The level of anti-Semitism—the barometer of a future disaster—is reaching new heights! It is just a matter of time before the explosion.

While America becomes increasingly embroiled in the Middle East, a European consortium of nations continues to grow. Soon, a power that Mr. Armstrong identified as a "United States of Europe" will rule again in the manner of the ancient Holy Roman Empire. Once again, the propagators of anti-Semitism, terrorism and cruelty will march across Europe. At that time, anti-Semitism in its broadest form will come to bear on the nations—especially America and Britain.

The real final solution to the sin of anti-Semitism will be the institution of a new government, built on the foundation of outgoing love to all peoples, and the abolishment of hate. Under this government, Satan the devil—the source of all hate and violence—will no longer have influence over humanity. His rule over this Earth will be over.

Speaking of an event following the destruction of the final resurrection of the Roman Empire, the Prophet Daniel wrote, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44).

Mankind is *not* going to be destroyed—God is going to save us from ourselves. How? By sending Jesus Christ back to the Earth at the head of a perfect government. That government is being formed right now. Write for your free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential*, which will open your eyes to YOUR INCREDIBLE FUTURE. ♦

A HAVEN FOR TERRORISM

While Europe says it wants to fight terrorism, it continues to harbor numerous terrorist groups. How will the Continent counter this scourge, and what will be the result?

BY JESSE FREDERICK

THE WAR ON TERRORISM HAS FOCUSED the world's attention primarily on the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. Still, many are ignorant of the fact that not only Ireland, but also the mainland of Europe is a major breeding ground for terrorists and has been so for years.

Europeans intentionally overlooked the terrorists stationed on their continent during the 1970s and '80s. According to Bruce Hoffman, director of the Washington office of the think tank RAND, "Europe, fearful of potential reprisals, seemed more inclined to provide a *safe haven* for international terrorists than to seek their apprehension" (*Foreign Policy*, September-October 2001; emphasis mine throughout). Hoffman says that "during the 1970s and 1980s ... it was not unusual for European governments to *cut secret deals with terrorists*. In exchange for the terrorists' agreement not to strike within these countries' borders or target their citizens, European authorities often turned a blind eye to activities that would otherwise have invited arrest and imprisonment" (*ibid.*).

Though Europe later took more stringent action against terrorism, its longstanding policies had already swelled the population of terrorists within Europe. The Europeans' unwillingness to deal decisively with terrorists from the beginning created a kind of terrorist utopia. Terrorists simply took advantage of this "terror without consequence" deal by saturating Europe.

The Truth Is Revealed

The September 11, 2001, attacks uncovered the shocking truth about Europe's terrorist breeding ground.

Just after 9/11, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft stated, "[I]t is clear that Hamburg [Germany] served as a *central base of operations*" for the hijackers. Those terror attacks were planned within the *heart of Europe*—

for years, right under the noses of European governments.

This revelation led to other startling discoveries and raised concern that terrorist cells could be operating all over Europe. "It's quite clear that the bin Laden network had developed bases in Europe some years ago and has been busy extending their work," said Professor Paul Wilkinson, head of the Center for the Study of Terrorism at St. Andrews University. "And it's clear from the arrests that have already taken place that we had rather underestimated the

extent to which al-Qaeda and other organizations had already developed a network" (BBC News, Oct. 24, 2001).

As time passed following the September 11 attacks, further truth was revealed about the terrorist cells entrenched in Europe. The July 2002 issue of the *European Terrorism Review* cited proof of terrorist organizations located in such major European cities as Madrid, Amsterdam, Milan and Thessaloniki. Diana Muriel of CNN referred to evidence of terrorist cells operating in Paris and Rotterdam. She also cited information on terror connections in Brussels—headquarters of the EU. (www.cnn.com, Jan. 23, 2002).

The fact is, by turning a blind eye to the actions and operations of terrorists for decades—even buying them off—European governments fostered one of the most extensive havens for terror organizations on the planet.



TRAINING TO FIGHT Soldiers in the Bundeswehr's anti-terror unit, KSK, swim through a lake while training in Calw, Germany. KSK troops have been active in the war on terrorism.

A Pretense for Militancy

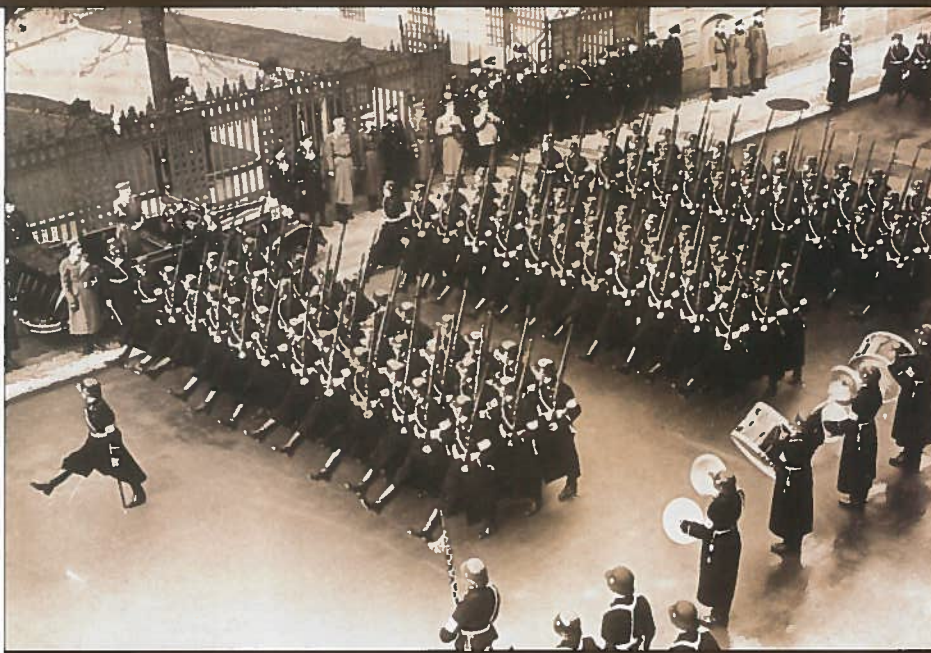
The *Trumpet* predicted six months before 9/11, "In the last few months, the EU has taken full advantage of the worldwide climate of instability, and the present concern that world leaders are showing about the facelessness, illusive-ness and speedy mobility of high-tech terrorism, to increase international support for the development of a Euroforce independent of NATO. ... One result of all this for Europe is that *the increasing threat of modern terrorism could act as a catalyst to spur the EU into forming its rapid reaction force faster than anticipated. Watch for that happening!*" (March-April 2001).

Consider what has happened since that article was written: Terrorist attacks have intensified, and Europe has begun to flex its militarily muscle by sending Euroforce troops into Afghanistan, Macedonia and even Africa!

As terror continues to threaten security within Europe and worldwide, Europe will naturally react by hardening its stance against crime—not only within its borders, but also worldwide, to protect its global investments. Already, it is doing this by centralizing control of its security services (see sidebar) and by building up and integrating its military and police forces. Europe's military is increasingly involved in world affairs. The threat of Islamic terrorism striking within the EU's borders will spur Europe's police force, Europol, to grow stronger.

The chilling fact is, Europe is prophesied ultimately to confront present-day Islamic terrorism head-on using an old kind of terrorism: *revived Nazism!* When Europe, the biblical "king of the north," turns its hand to address the problem of Islamic terrorism, it will do so through decisive BLITZKRIEG WARFARE! (Dan. 11:40-41). At that time, Europe will not single out specific terrorists. It won't be squeamish about civilian casualties. The king of the north will attack terrorism in a storm of fury!

In the meantime, watch for Europe to use the terrorism within its borders as a pretext for increasing its policing and military muscle. And *watch*—as it increasingly assumes tactics even more intrusive and ultimately terrorizing than those of the groups it is presently combating! ♦



HAUNTING PAST German SS troops parade past German Führer Adolf Hitler circa 1940.

Resurrecting the Gestapo

WHEN GERMANY SURRENDERED ON MAY 7, 1945, THE ALLIES WANTED TO MAKE certain that the German killing machine would never rise again. Germany was divided and conquered—its military stripped, its economy in rubble—and the Berlin-based secret services, the SS and Gestapo offices, were supposedly eliminated.

Today, nearly 60 years later, Germany is once again united, has its own military and has the largest economy in Europe—the third largest national economy in the world. And on top of this, the coalition Green Party in Germany recently proposed that the *German secret services once again be centralized in Berlin.*

"A press release of the party [Alliance 90/the Greens] states that the *decentralized structure* of the German Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV)—which had been established as a reaction to the concentration of the secret services during the Nazi era—now makes its activities 'very ineffective' ..." (www.German-Foreign-Policy.com, June 24; emphasis mine throughout).

The last time these secret services were centralized was during World War II—under the name of the SS and Gestapo!

The very reason that the German secret services were decentralized was to prevent another rise of Nazism in Germany. Now, *these safeguards are deemed "ineffective."* When this proposal is accepted, German secret service and intelligence agencies will be united once again in the historic capital of Imperial Germany, Berlin.

"The reconstruction, *modeled on an organization customary during the empire and the Nazi regime and with the objective to encompass the whole continent*, nears completion" (ibid.). Germany is getting back to its roots! Even long before its Nazi past, Germany was the leader of the Holy Roman Empire—the *empire* referred to in the quote above.

Amazingly, even as Nazi Germany was being invaded on D-day, Herbert Armstrong predicted the rise of German-led Europe once again. "When it appeared, after the 'D-day' crossing of the channel, that Hitler faced defeat, *I continued to say that Germany would rise out of defeat*, and ultimately Europe would unite in a modern United States of Europe. No one believed it, then" (*Plain Truth*, February 1970).

Now we can see this fulfillment with our own eyes! A major step is about to be taken by the German government. If the secret services are centralized in Berlin—and this looks highly probable—Germany will be one large stride closer to a complete resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire.

DANGEROUS LIAISONS



What the warming relationship between Germany and Russia means for the world. BY RYAN MALONE

IF HISTORY IS PROPHECY, AS WINSTON Churchill said, then what is happening between Russia and Germany these days should cause grave concern in the United States and Britain.

As the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* stated, "In six separate instances within the last 200 years IN WHICH GERMANY HAS TURNED ON THE WEST, she has FIRST made a pact with Russia to make herself safe from the East" (Lesson 3, emphasis mine throughout).

The strategic relationship NOW BUILDING between Germany and Russia should blast warning signals throughout the world. History's track record in this particular cycle of events is unmistakable: Germany and Russia form an alliance that serves both their needs; Germany uses it as leverage against the West; and eventually the alliance ends with Germany and Russia facing each other in a bloody conflict—witness World War II!

Russia's relationship with Germany and the European Union is a clear signal that similar events are on the docket again for our world. Here is why.

Repetitive Cycle of History

The history of the relationship between Russia and Europe (particularly Germany) is nothing short of remarkable—especially in light of what is currently happening.

As the May 1962 *Plain Truth* stated, "The concept that Germany must ally with the East against the West goes back as early as Frederick the Great"—about 240 years!

In 1872, just after Germany's Otto von Bismarck united the North German Confederation with the southern German states into a single German Reich under Prussian leadership, Bismarck formed the Three Emperors' League with Russia and Austria. This relieved the Reich's fear that Russia might join with rival France in a war fought from both east and west against the newly formed German Reich. But because of Russia's and Austria's differing strategies concerning the Balkan Peninsula, the league broke up six years later.

Bismarck resurrected the alliance for a second time in 1881—only for it

to break up in 1887 due to continuing rivalries between Russia and Austria. That year, Bismarck rushed another agreement—this time separately with Russia—to prevent France snatching Russia away as an ally. This agreement between Germany and Russia, known as the Reinsurance Treaty, continued until the next kaiser, Wilhelm I, sacked Bismarck and rejected his policy of keeping "the lines open to St. Petersburg" (then capital of the Russian empire). So in 1894, Russia did what Bismarck always feared: It allied with France. Twenty years later came the two-front war Bismarck had tried to avoid, and Germany was entangled in a conflict on both its eastern and western flanks. That was World War I.

This is where the modern history of these two nations' relationship begins. In 1922, four years after the Great War, Germany and Russia stunned the world with a pact signed in Rapallo, Italy, which opened complete diplomatic relations between them. "The power balance in Europe had shifted overnight" (*Plain Truth*, December 1978). Through the pact, the German army could use weapons in Russia that were forbidden by the Treaty of Versailles.

Even when Hitler became chancellor in 1933 and a wave of anti-Russianism gripped Germany, the Nazis made a move that seemed contrary to their anti-Soviet policy. Hitler's foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, secretly flew to Moscow in August 1939 to sign a non-aggression pact with Russia's Stalin. "Hitler's eastern flank was now secure. Russia had been neutralized" (*ibid.*). One week later, Hitler invaded Poland, and Russia took the Baltic states. Two years later, Germany violated the pact and attacked Russia.

The history is quite clear. Whenever it has wanted to expand its empire, Germany has always first needed to remove the Russian threat by signing pacts or treaties with it. Whether it was protecting itself from a Franco-Russian alliance in the late 19th century, or trying to extend Nazism across Europe without fear of a Russian attack, Germany has learned that "friendship" with Russia is in its best strategic interest.

Russia—Part of "Greater Europe"

Since the conclusion of the Iraq campaign, the relationship between Russia and Europe has taken on a new

BEDFELLOWS
Schröder addresses an audience in St. Petersburg while Putin looks on.

warmth. This is a not-so-covert attempt to help each other counter increasing U.S. global dominance.

As think tank Stratfor stated, "Having abandoned dreams of Russia as a superpower, President Vladimir Putin and his associates appear to be pursuing a more realistic goal: for Moscow—together with Berlin and Paris—to become a leading voice within a united Europe, a potential superpower. Among other things, Russia is offering to lead the CIS nations in Europe" (May 7).

On May 4, Putin made known his intention of proposing, as Stratfor termed it, a "common European marketplace to include both the EU and CIS," the Commonwealth of Independent States (formerly the 12 Soviet republics of the USSR). Putin said, "We intend to work with our colleagues toward CREATING A COMMON ECONOMIC SPACE TOGETHER WITH GREATER EUROPE" (ibid.).

Putin then met with former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the Kremlin on May 13. "Kohl's purpose during the visit was to make it clear to Putin that the Christian Democratic Party ... and its allies share the current government's strategic goal of creating a united Europe that would INCLUDE RUSSIA AND ALL FORMER SOVIET STATES" (ibid., May 14).

Strengthening Europe—and Russia

Russia currently faces a choice between a stronger alliance with the EU or the U.S. Putin is at a crossroads, but political and economic possibilities reveal which direction he will take. Now the strategic partnership between Russia and German-led Europe will further solidify both power blocs' global weight. It will help propel Europe to superpower status.

A May 7 Stratfor report said, "[W]ith Russia a major ally, Europe likely would encourage the integration of post-Soviet states SO THAT IT COULD EMERGE AS A GREATER WORLD POWER. The major fear in Europe, though, is that if CIS states are not integrated with Russia's help, they quickly could fall under the U.S. sphere of influence—something that already has happened to some new EU members and aspirants from Eastern Europe"

The EU needs Russia—which still exerts considerable influence among

the Central Asian and Eastern European states—if it wants to build itself as a global superpower to rival the U.S. During Helmut Kohl's May meeting in the Kremlin, he even admitted that "the alliance should serve as the engine for establishing the future Eu-

Union. In 2001, the EU received almost 20 percent of its oil and over 40 percent of its natural gas from Russia. Russia is the EU's largest supplier of uranium.

Also, let's not ignore what this partnership will do for Russia. An EU Commission document states, "For the

GUARDING THEIR FLANKS



LEFT Germany's Ribbentrop and Russia's Stalin joke at the signing of the Molotov/Ribbentrop Pact of 1939. **RIGHT** Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Andreyevich Gromyko and West German Minister for Foreign Affairs Walter Scheel sign an accord between their two countries.

rope as a major world power" (Stratfor, May 14).

The strengthening of relations between Russia and Europe is bolstering Europe's power, and thus comes at the expense of the United States.

Back in May 1962, the *Plain Truth* said, "Once a German-dominated Europe is fully established, Germany will be ready to negotiate and bargain with Russia—and behind the backs of the Western Allies if necessary. ... What is now developing is a neutral European power dominated by Germany and allied with Russia! British and American armies will be forced to leave Germany and Europe." It's only a matter of time before the divide between the U.S. and Europe develops into a total pullout of U.S. forces from the Continent, thus marking a new chapter in Euro-Russian relations.

Economic Benefit

Europe won't only benefit politically from its relations with Russia. It will also benefit economically.

Russian trade with Germany is roughly the same as that with America. Energy-wise, the strong economic relationship between Russia and the EU is quite evident: Russia is the largest single energy partner of the European

European Union, it is important to maintain and enhance Russia's role as a supplier of gas and oil and to *strengthen Russia as a secure and reliable supplier through technology transfers and investments to upgrade Russia's energy infrastructure*" (Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, May 13).

As Moscow-based analyst Peter Lavelle said, "[T]here is no doubt about [Putin's] plans for Russia's economic and trade future. Russia's economic future lies with Europe and China" (*Asia Times*, April 5).

Germany alone is responsible for more foreign direct investment in Russia than any other country. Combined with the rest of Europe, the facts are clear. "Of the \$19 billion of foreign direct investment in Russia since 1996, American companies have accounted for just \$4 billion, as opposed to the European Union's \$7 billion," Lavelle writes. "Russia's bread-and-butter politics are solidly focused on economic performance and not foreign policy concerns. This is Putin's political prime directive." In other words, Russia goes where the money is—Europe.

Consider too that most of Russia's foreign debt is owed to European

continued on page 27



GETTY IMAGES

READY FOR ACTION A Japanese destroyer leaves a wharf to provide non-combat support for the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan.

◆ JAPAN

A step ahead of the law

There has been much talk in recent months about the development of Japan's military and even nuclear might. This has long been a taboo subject, following the imposition of its strictly pacifist, U.S.-written constitution after World War II, in which Japan pledged to "forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

But the tide is turning. A perceived decrease in U.S. involvement in East Asia, along with a rising Chinese neighbor and an unpredictable, potentially dangerous North Korean one, has convinced many in Japan that the time has come to officially loosen its pacifist shackles. Several moves have already been made in this direction.

The Japan Defense Agency has proposed setting up a unit of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) dedicated primarily to peacekeeping, anti-terrorism and other overseas operations. Although the SDF currently has a total of 1,900 personnel on missions abroad, under the current law its activities are limited to joining UN peacekeeping operations and providing humanitarian assistance, as well

as providing some logistical support.

However, a look behind the scenes reveals that, although the law places heavy restrictions on Japanese military operations, this emerging movement has already, in the midst of the debate, quietly overtaken its

legal boundaries.

Stratfor remarks that "Japan deployed support ships and even an Aegis destroyer to the Middle East to back U.S. operations in the area—while noting that refueling U.S. warships did not mean Japan was contributing to military action in Iraq, as the U.S. ships burned up the fuel from the Japanese tankers before they began bombing runs in Iraq. And discussions of launching attacks on North Korean missile batteries before Pyongyang launches toward Japan are being referred to in Tokyo as defense, not pre-emptive strikes" (July 14). As Stratfor points out, this is but a semantic ploy.

Further, according to Stratfor, "Japan's fiscal 2004 defense budget reportedly includes financing for the first of two planned helicopter destroyers to replace those currently in service. The new ships are destroyers in name only—they are effectively escort carriers, twice the size of the ships they are replacing, and will be the two largest fighting ships in the Japanese fleet" (ibid.).

This Tokyo is doing in an effort to "get around the constitutional concerns of maintaining a force capable of power projection and belligerence. This is the essence of Japanese defense policy as it evolves even faster in the post-September 11 world. It is becoming a simple matter of semantics to bypass concerns and interpretations of

the constitution. And for Tokyo, the next logical step—the complete revision of the constitution—might not be far off" (ibid.).

It appears that it won't be long before Japan does in fact change its law to accommodate its new reality.

◆ GERMANY

Foreign policy fuel

Since the nations of the oil-rich Middle East gained independence from Britain in the early 20th century, no single Western nation has been able to exert any real control over the region's coveted energy resources. Yet, numerous countries continue to seek to cozy up to the resource-rich Islamic nations of the Middle East.

One nation keen to take advantage of the present destabilization in the region is Germany. Since the U.S.-led campaign in Iraq, the differences between U.S. and German foreign policy over this region have become quite pronounced. The *Asia Times* recently reported that "while the American government is seeking Iran's isolation, Berlin is moving in the opposite direction" (June 11, emphasis ours throughout).

Germany, as we have clearly seen through the Iraqi war, has a mind of its own when it comes to Mideast affairs—thus widening the Atlantic rift. The *Asia Times* article continued, "[T]he Germans now seek to consolidate their ties with [Iran] in pursuit of their national interests in the oil-rich Persian Gulf region." Germany is willing to put its "friendship" with America on the line in order to keep the oil tap open to fuel its giant econo-

my.

Of deeper significance is the swing in German foreign policy, wherein it is now willing to exchange its 50-year-old friendship with the U.S.—the generosity of which funded Germany's rebuilding as a thriving post-war national economy—for that of a roguish nation that is touting its imminent nuclear capability.

Despite U.S. efforts to curb Europe's ties with Iran in May, Benno Bunse, director of Germany's Federal Ministry for Economics and Labor, declared, "[G]iven the solid economic outlook and the good payment experience of the past ... Germany is ready to continue and increase its support to Ger-



CASHING IN Iran's economy minister and his German counterpart sign agreement, August 2002.

man-Iranian economic cooperation" (*Chemical News & Intelligence*, May 18).

This overt slap in Washington's face by Berlin is in stark contrast to the simultaneous diplomatic efforts to rebuild the U.S.-German relationship. It does, however reflect the duplicitous nature of the forces at play.

◆ EU

A turbulent six months

On July 1, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi took control of the reigns of the European Union—assuming the offic

of EU president for the last six months of 2003.

For decades, Italian politics has been renowned for its volatility and controversy. Italy has had 54 changes of government over the past 54 years. Italian politicians are notorious for their abrasive and confrontational approach.

To many, Berlusconi fits this mold. At the time of the transfer of the EU presidency (from Greece to Italy), European news media was saturated with articles belittling the new EU president. From Belfast to Madrid, London to Prague, newspapers printed articles questioning the EU leadership under Berlusconi. A headline from London's *Independent* (June 30) summed up the prevailing sentiment: "Europe United in Disgust as Berlusconi Takes EU Throne"

Looking at his resume, it's plain to see why so many question Berlusconi's ability to lead the EU combine. His political career at home has been strewn with controversy and scandal. Having accumulated for himself an empire ranging from ownership of telecommunications and real estate to various media outlets and a football team, he has been accused of having too many conflicts of interests. Recently, he avoided prosecution for alleged bribery of judges through an immunity law passed by parliament.

Now Berlusconi has more than just his "at home" business dealings and legal problems to fret about.

At the time he took office, many Europeans were concerned about his foreign-policy plans for the EU. Propagating such unconventional ideas as Israel and Russia joining the EU, Berlusconi does not repre-

sent the mainstream beliefs of the Union.

The dominant issues on the agenda for Berlusconi's term in office include: completion of the drafting of the EU constitution, preparing for 2004 expansion, rebuilding the EU-U.S. relationship,



BERLUSCONI

boosting the European economy, and addressing domestic and foreign security issues. With some of these issues having traditionally been somewhat controversial, the question now is, can Silvio Berlusconi refrain from

turning them into highly *divisive* issues?

The appointment of Berlusconi will, no doubt, reinforce the desire of many for more stability and consistency in EU leadership. This will likely accelerate calls for the revolving EU presidency to be replaced by the proposed post of a permanent EU president.

◆ SOCIETY

Legal attack on family

In Canada, on June 10, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld a lower court ruling to legally allow same-sex marriages, finding the traditional definition of marriage as a union between man and woman unconstitutional. British Columbia quickly followed suit.

In the United States, just days later, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that a Texas anti-sodomy law constituted an invasion of privacy and was therefore illegal.

These decisions have unleashed a furor of debate over gay rights, with the question of gay marriage now also being debated in the American press. Conser-

vatives fear that these moves will undermine traditional marriage as the stable underpinning of society.

It is astonishing to see how *quickly* public opinion has become accepting of homosexuality. Most of the gains in gay rights have been introduced within the past decade. Commentators have noted the surprising lack of outrage at moves that not so long ago would have been unthinkable.

David Frum commented in the *National Review* that, in Canada, "There were no protests from the country's religious leaders: only mild expressions of concern. There were no angry editorials in any of the country's major newspapers. The leader of the conservative Canadian Alliance party had no comment, and most of the country's other conservative leaders otherwise kept silent.

"After less than a decade of judicial and political pressure, resistance to same-sex marriage in Canada had crumpled up" (July 14).

Although American conservatives have been more outspoken, the trend in the U.S. in recent years has only been toward more permissive policies.

Why such a quick and *drastic* change of mind? London's *Daily Telegraph* noted that the British government's new consultation paper on homosexual partnerships failed to address the *meaning* of marriage. Could it be that the gay movement is now making such dramatic gains because traditional marriage has lost its meaning?

A plethora of evidence exists to show the destructive effects of marital breakdown. Stephen Baskerville wrote in the *Salisbury Review* that "Virtually every major personal and social pathology can be traced to fatherlessness more than to any other single factor: violent crime,

substance abuse, unwed pregnancy, truancy, suicide, and more. Fatherlessness far surpasses both poverty and race as a predictor of social deviance" (Summer 2003).

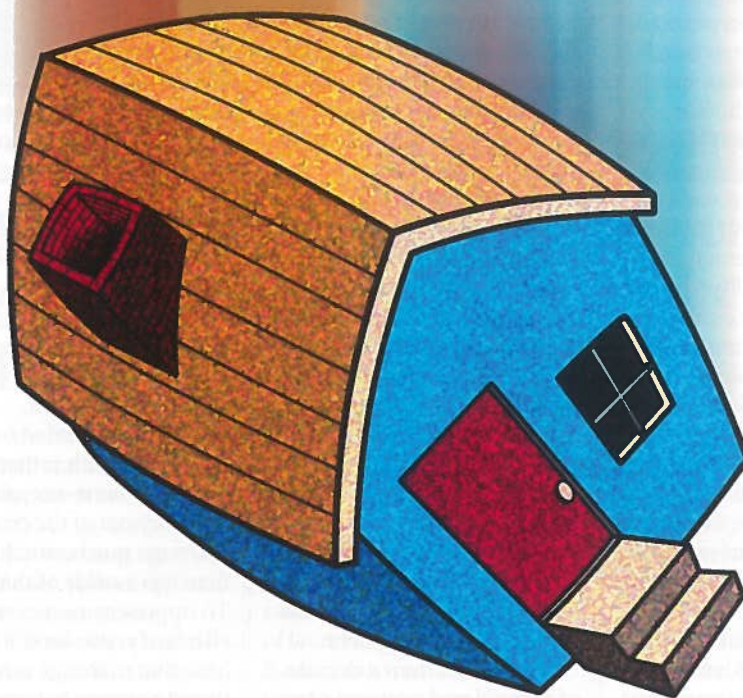
Perhaps there is so little resistance to same-sex marriage now because traditional marriage no longer stands as the foundational institution that it must be in every stable society. With divorce rates in the U.S. stubbornly remaining above 40 percent, it's no great shock that many divorced, cohabiting or single-parent individuals are no longer willing to fiercely defend the institution.

As Frum pointed out, "The hard truth is that the demand for same-sex marriage is a *symptom* of the crisis in marriage much, much more than it is a *cause* of that crisis. To oppose same-sex marriage effectively, you have to believe that marriage is more than a contract between two consenting adults, more than a claim on employers and the government for economic benefits. You have to believe that children need mothers and fathers, *their own* mothers and fathers. You have to believe that unmarried cohabitation is wrong, even when heterosexuals do it.

"Lose those beliefs and the case for marriage has been lost" (op. cit.).



The Next Market to



BY ANDREW LOCHER

THE HOUSING MARKET IS BOOMING. In many Western economies, house prices have risen 30 to 50 percent since the mid-1990s.

This is one of the positive factors driving the United States economy. Mortgage interest rates have sunk to a 45-year low (averaging 5.21 percent for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage in June, according to Freddie Mac). Seldom in recent history have mortgages been so affordable—thanks to the Federal Reserve dropping the federal funds interest rate to 1 percent, also a 45-year low. And Americans are taking advantage: New housing starts continue to outpace last year's levels, with May 2003 increasing 3.9 percent over May 2002 (U.S. Census Bureau). The government

also reported a 12.5 percent increase in single-family home sales this May.

Combined, these factors have created a surge in new mortgages, refinancing and equity loans. The economy is showing subtle signs of improvement. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has risen 20 percent since March.

But there is a cloud in the middle of this silver lining. Now there is growing concern that we are witnessing a building bubble in the housing market that may be about ready to burst—with potentially devastating consequences.

Two-Fold Problem

The *Economist* calls the potential bursting of a housing bubble possibly “the single most important question currently hanging over the world economy” (May 29).

Inflation in the U.S. is hovering around a 50-year low at about 2 percent for May. Inflated house prices, coupled with low inflation, create an environment in which home equity cannot regain its long-term equilibrium through inflation alone. For the market to level out, inflation will have to rise and “house prices will have to fall by at least 20 percent in money terms in most of the countries with bubbles” (ibid.).

Another problem lies in the surge in house prices coupled with an even greater increase in household debt. An alarmingly large number of Americans have tapped equity in their mortgages as a source of additional cash. “In America, Britain and Australia mortgage-equity withdrawal is running at record levels of 5-7 percent of personal disposable income” (ibid.).

With a rocketing increase in both house prices and mortgage debt, homeowners are living on borrowed time. If house prices decrease, homeowners could be left with mortgages in excess of the value of their homes.

Repercussions

For many families, the home is the most stable investment. Already, many have lost from the stock market crash. A drop in the value of their homes would be doubly painful. This is a particular concern for those about to retire who are counting on significant profit from the sale of their home to fund their retirement needs.

But homeowners would not be the only ones at risk if the housing market bubble burst. Lending institutions face a potential increase in mortgage defaults. Banks typically sell their mortgages on the secondary market to either the Federal National Mortgage Association (known as Fannie Mae) or the Federal Home Mortgage Loan Corporation (Freddie Mac). These two federal entities finance the purchase of mortgages by issuing bonds. They borrow money at a discounted rate to buy the mortgages from issuing banks, and then either add them to their portfolio or package them into securities for sale on Wall Street. The result is a substantial return on their investment. So much so, that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are among the 50 most profitable companies in America.

Ironically, they are also some of the most indebted companies, sharing more than \$1 trillion of debt combined.

CRASH

In the late 1960s and early '70s, these two government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) were created by a special congressional charter. The government's intention was to create an environment in which the banks have more capital to loan, thus more mortgages to offer, all in an attempt to stimulate the sale of additional homes. The GSEs sell guarantees to banks, which ensure borrowers will make timely principle and interest payments. This guarantee makes the bonds issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac especially attractive to investors.

The GSEs profit from other benefits that, private competitors argue, create an unfair advantage. Considerable debate about the unique treatment of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae rages between congressional leaders and industry specialists.

Should the housing market falter, default on mortgages could potentially devastate both Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, which control about 44 percent of the collective mortgage debt. A dive in the housing market could be the straw that breaks the back of the American financial system. The structure of both Freddie Mac's and Fannie Mae's charter doesn't include a guarantee of government bail-out should mortgage defaults exceed the amount of cash necessary to pay the holders of their bonds. Many assume the government will bail out the companies, but, by charter, there is no obligation for them to do so.

Should the housing bubble burst, the economic repercussions could be more devastating to the economy than the crash of the stock market, because a greater proportion of privately held equity lies in homes than did in the stock market. Ultimately, this could lead the economy into deflation.

Deflation

In June, Alan Greenspan lowered the borrowing interest rate—for the 13th time since the start of 2001—as an insurance action to prevent the economy from slipping into deflation. "Because deflation appears harder to reverse than it is to prevent, Fed officials seem willing to take out insurance against it, even if they see it as unlikely" (*International Herald Tribune*, June 24). Deflation becomes a greater concern when an economy stagnates. A steady fall in prices might devastate the American

economy by causing a decrease in wages, thus making debt repayment unmanageable. With the interest rate approaching zero, there is little room left for the Federal Reserve to maneuver should a crisis present itself—a crisis such as a housing bust.

"It is true that if the Fed had not slashed interest rates after the stock market collapsed, the downturn would have been much steeper. But by inflating a house-price bubble and encouraging households to borrow more, the Fed has merely delayed the day of reckoning. With households now even more deeply in debt, a fall in house prices would have even more serious consequences" (*Economist*, op. cit.).

Federal Mortgage Agencies

A crash in the housing market would cause great consternation among lending institutions that have inflated the explosive housing bubble.

A dive in the housing market could be the straw that breaks the back of the American financial system.

Government "sponsored" mortgage agencies like Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae hold an inordinate number of mortgages—so much so that a decline in their financial health would have definite and serious implications for the entire American financial system.

Richard Baker, a Republican congressman from Louisiana, expressed concern about the risk these agencies might pose. "He argued that they might eventually land the taxpayer with a bill that dwarfs the savings-and-loan mess of a decade ago. The agencies have been increasing their lending at a 20 percent annual rate in the past couple of years, as, to rather less attention, has the Federal Home Loan bank system. The federal mortgage agencies already have combined debts of \$1.4 trillion. On current trends, by 2003 they will be bearing some of the risk on half of America's residential mortgages, up from one third in 1995" (*Economist*, April 15, 2000).

The Solution

How can this catastrophe be warded off? Some have suggested more federal involvement; others promote less involvement. Some have called for an abolition of tax benefits that encourage investing in the housing market. This was done in Britain, but it is too early to measure the effects. It has been suggested that the countries which offer the greatest incentive, such as the United States and Spain, are at greatest risk of a market crash.

Are lending institutions and GSEs solely responsible for the precarious market condition? "Credit creation by the federal mortgage agencies has been accused of inflating a credit bubble" (*ibid.*). The full scale of the problem is a result of many factors; arguably, greed among lending institutions is a primary cause. But they are only meeting the demand of consumers. Not only are corporations guilty of gambling with their financial future; increasingly, individuals are doing the same.

Western societies tend to want to live beyond their means. Aggressive marketing, incentive programs and pressure to keep up with the Joneses all combine to create an irresistible temptation. The solution rests in individual budgeting, savings and wise investment. As previous *Trumpet* articles have pointed out, statistics suggest that we are sprinting away from simple, economically wise principles.

Should the housing market follow in the footsteps of the stock market, as has already occurred in Japan, economic disaster looms. Japan has struggled for over a decade to regain a robust national economy after the disappearance of so much wealth from its devastated asset markets.

Many economists are keenly aware of the housing bubble. What about you? Are you financially prepared to withstand a crash in the value of housing? Is your house worth less than your mortgage? If so, you may be part of a growing problem that could ultimately crush the economies of the Western world.

Gone are the days of double-digit returns on real estate, just as they disappeared in the stock market. Now is the time to protect yourself by reducing your debt load and increasing your savings so you can weather the approaching storm. ♦



Australia's Security Blanket

Will the U.S.-Australia revived economic and security nexus bail the land down under out of its troubles?

BY GARETH FRASER

OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAS been a dramatic shift in Australia's foreign policy. Prior to the September 11 terrorist attacks, Australia was storming ahead with the EU as its number-one trading partner, accounting for over us\$27 billion in two-way trade for 2001. In the wake of the Twin Towers tragedy, war in Afghanistan, the Bali bombing and the recent war in Iraq, Australia has had a geopolitical reality check.

Other than Britain, no nation has so staunchly supported the United States in the Bush administration's declared war on terror. Australian special forces were among the first troops on the ground in Baghdad. Relations between the two countries are closer than at any time since World War II.

Following the head-in-the-sand policies of the previous Labor (socialist) government, which tried to convince Australians that they were really

destined to become Asians, the current Liberal (conservative) government of Prime Minister John Howard has swung the land down under solidly behind the U.S.

This has not only been in the area of foreign policy. In just two short years, Australia-U.S. two-way trade has been hiked dramatically, now surpassing us\$29 billion annually. Today, America is Australia's leading individual trading partner, ahead of both Europe and Japan. The U.S. is now the prime destination for Australian direct foreign investment; and no other country currently invests more in Australia than the U.S.

Free Trade Prospects

After private meetings in March of this year, President Bush and Prime Minister Howard announced the acceleration of negotiations toward the conclusion of a formal free trade agreement between the two countries.

In July, a week of negotiations took place in Canberra, Australia, at which U.S. officials talked to Australian negotiators with the aim of finalizing a free trade treaty in the first six months of

2004. The estimated benefit to Australia is worth over us\$1.3 billion annually.

Over 239 Australian and U.S. companies have committed their support to the coming agreement. Increasingly, U.S. firms have established regional centers in Australia, particularly to the south in Melbourne and the north in Brisbane, Australia's fastest-growing city. "In many ways, American companies feel quite at home when doing business in Australia. The similarities

in language, culture, business practice and customer expectations provide for an atmosphere in which transaction can be made more easily than elsewhere. As one local observer noted, "I believe the only other country Americans find as familiar and easy to work in is Canada" (U.S. Department of Commerce, April 23).

As an outspoken member of the "coalition of the willing," Australia clearly being rewarded for its loyalty to the U.S.-led war on terror. In May, the U.S. formally requested moving many of its European-based troops to new bases throughout Australia.

Capitalizing on a friendship of over 50 years as allies, the two countries are

SIDE BY SIDE John Howard listens to George W. Bush at a May meeting in Crawford, Tex.

◆ AUSTRALIA

making the most of their relationship.

On the one hand, Australia is receiving the economic and national security shoring-up it so desperately needs, being surrounded by a sea of Asian nations that reflect cultures vastly different to that of this predominantly white British Commonwealth dominion.

The U.S., on the other hand—increasingly unpopular in the rest of the world—by reinforcing its trade and security arrangements with Australia, is able to not only retain influence throughout the Asia-Pacific region from the largest island nation on Earth, but to reinforce it at a time when Asia is searching for its new role in the emerging new world order.

Hitching Their Wagon

For decades, Japan was Australia's most significant post-war trading partner. Then came the EU, seeking a base from which to develop ties in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, following the unification of Germany in 1990. Now, in the post-9/11 world, Australians think that hitching their wagon to America will result in prosperity and preservation of regional identity and security.

But Bible prophecy declares the very opposite.

The Australian economy, so battered by the trade union wars of the 1970s, its dollar significantly bruised through the Asian financial meltdown in the 1990s, is struggling to reinvent itself under the tutelage of America. But it has chosen a mentor with huge structural flaws in its own economy. Australians are seeking a quick fix to past economic woes by aligning with the greatest debtor nation in the world—a country with a staggering national debt headed toward us\$7 trillion!

The fall in value of the U.S. dollar, while creating the appearance that the Australian dollar has gained in strength, is making it tough for Australian exports. This country, despite its brave efforts to raise its profile in the high-tech industries, remains at heart a primary producer. It is heavily dependent for income on the export of its rural and mining products. Drought and a “strengthened” Aussie dollar have hurt Australian rural exports significantly. Akin

to its brother English-speaking nations, Australia once had a “captive market” as its rich rural resources and mineral wealth were exported throughout the great British Empire. That changed when Britain turned its back on the old empire, which had served it so well, and began to court a trading relationship with Europe. There was a profound reason why Australia, as a member of the British Commonwealth and Empire, enjoyed its greatest period of blessings under the British flag.

Australia has faltered in its economic judgment and forgotten the Source of its former prosperity.

As we wrote in our booklet *Australia in Prophecy*, “The wealth of Australia did not come about by pure chance. It was *gifted* to her by a beneficent, supreme Creator God, in fulfillment of His promises to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Australia, the great south land called Sinim in your Bible (Isa. 49:12), was colonized by descendants of Ephraim”

Once rich, prosperous and blessed of God, Australia has forgotten its her-

wealth, power and prestige in the wake of Britain's decline. “Therefore will I be unto Ephraim as a moth, and to the house of Judah as rottenness” (Hos. 5:12). Ephraim is here likened to a moth-eaten coat that, when you try to put it on, just falls apart.

For all intents and purposes, America is Australia's security blanket. With a population of less than 20 million, and a landmass almost equivalent to that of the U.S., as an island nation Australia is simply unable to protect its vast coastline. Australia is most vulnerable to incursion by its Asian neighbors to the north, should they choose to breach that vulnerable coastline. For decades, boatloads of Asian refugees have been floating south to this land of promise, often landing undetected to merge with the increasing Asian population within Australia. Even during World War II, recognizing this great strategic weakness, Australia was prepared to divide its country at the “Brisbane Line” and forfeit its great northern and western inland to the rising sun of land-hungry Japan. If not for the courage and com-

mitment of Allied forces under the control of U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Australia could have then easily become the “white trash of Asia.”

The recent entanglement with Indonesia in East Timor and the deadly Bali bombing is just the tip of the Asian iceberg that threatens, one day, to overwhelm “the sunburnt country.” Today, the U.S. has no General MacArthur to offer, and Australia seems blind to its most immediate, deep troubles in terms

of its bubble economy and its national security. Playing economic chess with the EU, Japan and the U.S. will bring no respite from the coming punishment of *tribulation* that God will bring upon rebellious biblical Israel, the offspring of which Australia is an integral component (Lev. 26:18; Hos. 9:7).

Deep national *repentance* is the *only* way out of the fear and insecurity that lies ahead for Australia. Will Australia heed the warning before it is too late? ◆



BROTHERS IN ARMS Australian soldiers patrol a neighborhood in Baghdad, part of a 2,000-troop contingent deployed in Iraq to aid U.S. forces.

itage and is walking contrary to God's Word, relying on its own reasoning (Hos. 5:11).

False Security

Biblical Ephraim is today like a “cake not turned” (Hos. 7:8). These nations look good on the outside, but they are BURNED OUT underneath, not yet turned over to reveal their shame.

Australia, as one of these Ephraimite nations, is rapidly losing its former



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Apocalypse When?

Why does modern Christianity have so many different messages about the end of the world?

BY DENNIS LEAP

IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN a marked increase in interest in end-time prophecy—especially in the U.S. The Y2K hullabaloo, the terrorist destruction of the World Trade Center and the continued bloody tension in the Middle East have piqued many people's concern and curiosity. Many wonder, *Are we living at the time of the end?*

Yet, modern Christian messages on the subject of end-time prophecy and the chronology of events leading to the return of Christ are both conflicting and confusing. It is a fact that Christians are deeply divided about how the end will come. It is no secret that Christian views on this subject span a wide range—from the laughing scoffers to militant street-corner preachers.

Many mainline Christian church leaders sit in silent embarrassment over the renewed bugaboo about end-time

prophecy. It is awkward enough for them to watch evangelicals and fundamentalists engage in prophecy wars. But some church leaders find it even more humiliating to see evangelicals at odds with evangelicals and fundamentalists pointing fingers at other fundamentalists. Some church leaders and thinkers are trying to come to agreement and publish one unified message. Yet, success has eluded them. Why? The answer is a matter of history.

Before we get into the history, let's briefly look at what is happening now.

Prophetic Controversy

Here are several major questions concerning *the end* under hot debate in many Christian circles. Believe it or not, one big question is: Will Christ return? Others are: Will Christ and the saints rule on the Earth for 1,000 years (known as the Millennium)? When

will this millennial rule take place—prior to, or after, Christ's return? Is there a rapture of the saints?

There are other questions—many others! Go to a Bible bookstore and take a look at Christian publications on end-time prophecy and you'll see what we mean. Each new publication attempts to uncover the mystery behind some prophetic symbol. For example, look at all the books on the subject of the *mark of the beast*; you will find a wide range of conjectures as to what this is: Social Security numbers, microchip brain implants, number tattoos required by the IRS. Look at all the literature trying to answer the question, just who or what is the *beast* discussed in Revelation 13? Answers include the United Nations, the United States, the World Council of Churches, Russia and Iraq.

Of course, all books about end-time prophetic events claim their particular

message is true.

Unfortunately, what is most true is that end-time prophecy literature has become big business, and many are cashing in! The *Left Behind* series, a fictional account of end-time events, is one good example. Some Christian leaders feel that there may be a lot of drama in the books, but there is little Bible. Nevertheless, it is a national bestseller. And the *New York Times* reported that non-fiction books about prophecy increased 71 percent in the eight weeks after the 9/11 attacks compared with the previous eight weeks (Nov. 23, 2001).

Bible Bungle

Yet, despite this surge of popular interest in apocalyptic events, mainstream Christian churches continue to de-emphasize prophecy and the return of Jesus Christ. There are two main reasons.

DIFFERING INTER-pretations of Bible prophecy can be wildly contradictory, leaving many to simply throw up their hands in frustration. To take one example, failed predictions have spawned multiple theories about Christ's Second Coming.

Considerable controversy revolves around Revelation 20:4, the verse that discusses the thousand-year rule of Christ and the saints on the Earth. Here are the predominant theories.

One group, the amillennialists, believes that biblical references to the Millennium are strictly figurative and that there will be no earthly Millennium. Some believe that the millennial rule of Christ occurs in the hearts of believers. Others believe that the description of the Millennium in Revelation refers to Christ's reign in heaven. This has been a dominant belief in mainstream Protestant churches for centuries. It is interesting to note that the Roman Catholic Church "condemned as superstition the belief in a literal, future thousand-year reign on the earth," at the Council of Ephesus in A.D. 431 (Stanley J. Grenz, *The Millennial Maze*).

Another group, the premillennialists, believes that Christ's Second Coming occurs just prior to the Millennium. Premillennialists emphasize a literal interpretation of the book of Revelation. This group believes that worldwide destruction and the return of Jesus Christ are required to save humanity and bring about a new era of peace on Earth.

Opposed to the premillennialists are the postmillennialists, who interpret the Bible less literally. They regard the Millennium as a thousand-year reign of Christian ideals that will end with the return of Christ. In this view, the Millennium will not start suddenly because of cataclysmic events in human history, but will come about gradually through the efforts of human beings. This group believes that through social reform and by upholding Christian ideals, the Kingdom of God will be built on Earth and then Christ will return. Christ will then defeat Satan in a final battle, as referred to in Revelation. Most postmillennialists accept the theory of a rapture of the saints. Some postmillennialists believe the Millennium has already started.

So which view is correct? All claim to be true. You need to prove these truths for yourself from your own Bible! That is where the real, positive, sensible answers can be found. *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, by Herbert W. Armstrong, challenges you to look into the theories and distinguish truth from error. Request your free copy of this book to aid you in this fascinating study.

The first reason is the impact of science—specifically the theory of evolution—on mainstream churches. Many calling themselves Christians have been educated at top secular universities that have replaced a belief in the Bible as the directly inspired Word of God with a belief in the infallibility of the scientific method, which worships human reasoning.

Scholars, even Bible scholars, have come to view the Bible as a great piece of literature with historical value and inspiration but chock full of discrepancies and contradictions, written by men caught up in the history of their times. Craig C. Hill, author of *In God's Time: The Bible and the Future*, writes, "Only later, after some years of study, could I admit that the doctrine of inerrancy [the infallibility of the Bible] does a poor job of accounting for the Bible that it so ardently defends. In passage after passage, I saw that otherwise intractable problems would disappear if only I would admit that real human authors in particular historical settings with specific theological

concerns had authored them. ... If the Bible disappoints us, it is more because of our inappropriate expectations than because of its limitations."

Simply put, intellectuals, heavily influenced by the rationalist and modernist movements, have relegated Jesus Christ to a historic figure who believed and taught the futuristic hopes of Israel's ancient prophets writing during the catastrophic Assyrian and Babylonian captivities. Most Bible scholars view ancient Israel's prophecies, as outlined in the Old Testament, as failed prophecies. Specifically targeted are the prophecies (and promises) concerning God's covenant with David about a descendant ever ruling on his throne. Scholars view these Old Testament prophecies as a historical record of those generations' hopes for a restored Israel, which they believe has never happened and will not happen.

Yet, the New Testament reveals that Jesus Christ referred to and quoted these prophets often. So how do Bible scholars resolve the challenge of prophecy?

Twenty-first century intellectuals reason that man has gained (evolved in) greater understanding and knowledge since post-exilic times and the first century (the period between the Jews' return from Babylonian captivity and the birth of Christ). Many teach that Jesus

Christ was a man held victim by the history of His times. Hill wrote, "Jesus lived and thought within the setting and limitations of his time." If you read Mr. Hill's book, you will see that essentially he is saying Christ supposedly could not see the error in the prophecies He knew and taught. Therefore the prophecies taught by a first-century man hold no meaning for today.

Mr. Hill quotes Christ's prophecy in Mark 13: "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory" (vv. 24-26), and

Puzzling Millennium

APOCALYPSE WHEN?

responds, "It is not incumbent upon modern Christians to believe that stars will fall or that the Son of Man will ride on the clouds." In a sense, he is ridiculing a literal interpretation of Christ's use of prophecy, as if it does not hold up under modern scholarly scrutiny. Such thinking easily can create license to dismiss fundamental biblical truth.

Yet, Mr. Hill says, the *ethics* Jesus Christ taught are timeless and should be followed and pursued. Attempting to reconcile evolution and Christian ethics, many modern Christians believe that the ideals of Christ can be realized through increased knowledge and the advancement of science. In other words, with increased knowledge, all mankind's social problems will just melt away. But any thinking person knows that just the reverse has been true. With our increased knowledge have come increased problems.

Ironically, predictions of a coming cataclysmic end of the world are now the subject of many *scientific* books. Human survival is the number-one concern in our still new 21st century. In one of the most recent books, *Our*

Failed prediction has troubled Christianity since its inception.

Final Hour, Sir Martin Rees, Royal Society professor at Cambridge, writes, "My aim is ... to focus on 21st-century hazards, currently less familiar, that could threaten humanity and the global environment still more.

"Some of these new threats are already upon us; others are still conjectural. Populations could be wiped out by lethal 'engineered' airborne viruses; human character may be changed by new techniques far more targeted and effective than the nostrums and drugs familiar today; we may even one day be threatened by rogue nanomachines that replicate catastrophically, or by superintelligent computers."

So we see that some who are scientifically educated are recognizing the potential reality and fulfillment of biblical prophecy. For over 2,500 years Bible prophecy has shown that the question of human survival would be the number-one concern of the end times. Why is it that science must now trumpet what religious leaders should?

Prediction Affliction

Directly coupled with the influence of science, the second reason traditional churches have rejected prophecy is the frequent failure of prediction, which should be labeled false prediction.

Truly, this has been an embarrassing affliction within many religious movements. In fact, failed prediction, along with other false religious teachings, helped fuel both the rationalist and modernist movements.

Failed prediction has troubled Christianity since its inception, causing many to sit on the sidelines and scoff. Roman Catholics believed that Christ would return at the turn of the century in A.D. 1000. It didn't happen. The date was shifted to 1033. Again, there was no Second Coming. The dates for Christ's return have continued to shift. One of the most famous predictions came when William Miller declared that the Second Coming would occur on October 22, 1844. When Christ did not return, some began to adopt new theories such as the *secret Advent*—but most put end-time prophecy far into the background.

It is no different today. Dates are set for Christ's return repeatedly—but nothing happens. People become discouraged and dismayed. Reflecting the views of many church-goers, Hank Hanegraaff, president of the conservative, California-based Christian Research Institute, has stated, "People who are obsessed with end times have never learned from history. ... [T]hey've been 100 percent wrong, 100 percent of the time" (Associated Press, Oct. 3, 2001).

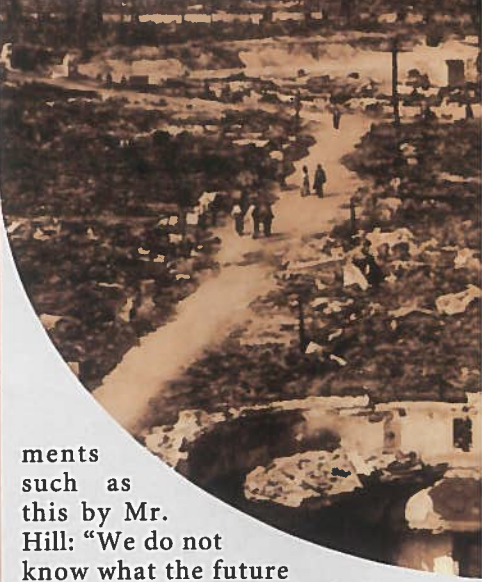
A fair question is, who is wrong—the predictors, or Bible prophecy?

Should we ignore prophecy because of all the failed predictions? Absolutely not!

Jesus Christ instructed His disciples to look for *signs* of the end times, but not to set dates. He stated, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. ... But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matt. 24:33, 36).

These positive affirmations from Jesus Christ should fill us with great hope. Even though God the Father is the only one who knows the date and time of Christ's return, we are not left without clues to the approximate timing of the end. Thus we can reject state-

FORERUNNER The ruins of Hiroshima portend a coming nuclear holocaust prophesied in the Bible—errant prognosticators notwithstanding.



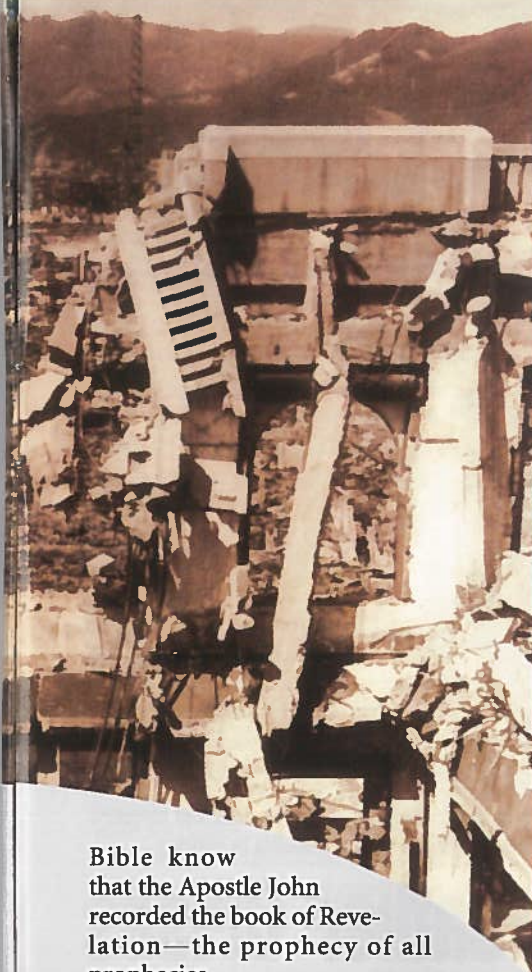
ments such as this by Mr. Hill: "We do not know what the future holds. We do not know if God's reign will commence in one week or in one billion years" (op. cit.).

God expects His people to look for and proclaim the signposts that He has given. Christ also said, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is" (Mark 13:33). What could be clearer? God expects us to watch world events and then take heed and pray as the day approaches.

Christ—A Prophet

One thing must be made perfectly clear. Jesus Christ viewed Himself as a prophet (Matt. 13:57). Many of the Jews also viewed Him as a prophet (Matt. 14:5). His gospel message was specifically about the *future* Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15). Christ was put to death for proclaiming that He was the King of that future kingdom (John 18:36-37). In Matthew 24 He gives explicit details concerning His Second Coming.

Those apostles who carried on with His ministry also conducted a prophetic ministry. The writings of Peter, Paul and John are heavily prophetic. Like Christ, all three preached about the coming Kingdom of God. In addition, Peter's second letter states that the Church has "a more sure word of prophecy" (II Pet. 1:19). Paul's second letter to the Church at Thessalonica specifically deals with end-time events in the Church leading up to the return of Christ (II Thes. 2). Most people with even a superficial understanding of the



HULTON ARCHIVE

Bible know that the Apostle John recorded the book of Revelation—the prophecy of all prophecies.

Revelation is often referred to as the “apocalypse” of John. Some view this as a mysterious book that cannot be understood. In truth, the book is the *revelation* of Jesus Christ given by God the Father for the Church in order to unveil the sequence of end-time events (Rev. 1:1). Our English word *apocalypse* is taken from the Greek word *apokalupsis*, which means an *uncovering* or *revealing* of something unknown.

The point is, true Christian teaching must have a focus on prophecy, especially end-time events. No one needs to be confused or in doubt about the chronology of end-time events—it is clearly spelled out for those willing to listen.

Yet, Craig C. Hill writes, “We should not assume that there is one, uniform biblical eschatology [theology concerned with the last things or end-time events]. Disagreement is not presupposed but neither is unanimity” (op. cit.).

Jesus Christ would heartily disagree. Knowing the Scriptures to have one unified message and also to be free of error and discrepancy, He stated, “The scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35). Christ also stated, “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot

or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matt. 5:18). According to Jesus Christ, the Bible is still very much an up-to-date book and has the only solutions for the life-threatening woes of our time.

So what is the basic problem with all these theories?

The Apostle Peter gives us the answer. He warned, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy [Spirit]” (II Pet. 1:20-21). Let’s be honest. When we see so many opposing messages concerning the Second Coming, what we are seeing is a plague of private interpretation.

All of the effort expended on such views over the years has been misplaced. The Bible always explains itself. Mysterious prophetic symbols are explained in the Bible. Chronological events are clearly charted for those willing to avoid applying their own private interpretation to prophetic verses.

False Prophets

Now, let’s look at the *historical* cause of all the confusion over end-time events. There is only one way to explain all of our modern confusion about end-time prophecy and the return of Christ.

Jesus Christ warned His disciples, “Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matt. 24:4-5). Christ is clear here. From the time of His departure until His return, the world (and the Church) would be plagued with men claiming to speak for Christ and yet spreading insidious deceit. Notice that Christ also said many people would be deceived. Not just a few, but many.

Jesus warned that, immediately before His return, the number of false prophets would rise significantly. He set His disciples on alert: “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before” (Matt. 24:24-25). The chaos within Christianity today can be directly attributed to the rise and influence of false prophets and false Christs. But it all began in the first century.

The apostles knew that false prophets and teachers would infiltrate and do harm to God’s Church. Peter stated, “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (II Pet. 2:1). Paul specifically warned the ministers of the predominantly Gentile churches under his authority that not only would false teachers infiltrate the Church, but some of *them* would become false teachers. At a ministers conference in Ephesus, Paul sadly said, “For I know this, that

**Jesus warned that,
immediately before
His return, the number of
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rise significantly.**

after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-30). Early Church history shows that this is exactly what happened.

Before the end of the first century, the Church was not only scattered because of persecution but also ripped apart because of doctrinal division and dissension. Things became so bad that, by the time John wrote his epistles, the true people of God were being cast out of the Church by false preachers. John wrote from the island prison Patmos, “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church” (III John 9-10). Many who had fellowshiped with the apostles, evangelists and ministers were turned away from the truth and taught false doctrines and fables (II Tim. 4:2-4).

Unfortunately, at the same time, people were turned away from the simple-to-understand truths about the end of the age and Christ’s Second Coming. The once-unified message of

Christianity was fractured into multiple disagreeing voices.

Today we see the final outcome of such division. Religious deceit is reaching its apex right before our eyes.

But you need not be deceived.

You Can Know

There is hope. You can know the full truth about the fulfillment of end-time prophetic events.

Jesus Christ explained how. "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Matt. 11:25). God will reveal the truth on any Bible subject, including prophecy, to those who are willing to obey Him and follow Him like a little child would follow his parents. God also reveals to those humble people who are *willing to be taught* like a little child. Christ was definite that God would not reveal His truth to the vain and scholarly.

You can know that the Bible interprets its own symbols. We don't have to be in doubt about the identity of the "beast," or the nature of the "mark of the beast." You can know that fulfilled prophecy is the proof of the authority of the Bible. You can know the prophetic identity of modern nations such as the United States, Britain and Germany. You can know how God has faithfully kept His promise to King David. You can know for certain that there is a descendent of David ruling on a throne of Israel as you read this article. You can know for certain that Christ and the resurrected saints will rule on this Earth for 1,000 years. You can know the proper chronology leading up to that history-making period.

Here's how: Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* by Herbert W. Armstrong. This informative book gives you the master key that will unlock your understanding of end-time prophecy. This book will make the Bible come alive for you. It will increase your faith that the Bible is the infallible and authoritative Word of God. Also, continue to read the *Trumpet*, which gives you the prophetic significance of the world news happening around you. Remember, there is no cost or obligation. Your subscription has been paid for you. ♦



DELUGED Argentinians evacuate the flooded city of Santa Fe in April. Seven died and farmers lost an estimated \$200 million in what authorities called the worst flooding in history.

The Cause of Weather Crises

Something is dreadfully wrong with our weather. Why?

BY ERIC ANDERSON

STORMS, DROUGHTS, WILDFIRES, CYCLONES, tornadoes, floods, heat waves: Weather extremes so far this year have left thousands dead and multiple thousands injured or homeless. "New record extreme events occur every year somewhere in the globe, but in recent years *the number of such extremes have been increasing*," according to a press release of the World Meteorological Organization, a UN agency (July 2; emphasis mine).

Early in the year, severe drought in Australia resulted in so great a drop in its agricultural yield that experts are saying its export industries could take a decade to recover. Wildfires in the southeast of the country followed on from the drought. At the same time, cold weather in Asia killed 530 people in Bangladesh and 670 people in northern India.

In February, a tornado hit the Congo, killing over 100 people and injuring 1,700. Severe thunderstorms struck India in March, causing 30 deaths and 500 injuries. Winds and

hail uprooted trees, flattened hundreds of homes, killed thousands of cattle and poultry, and damaged crops.

May saw Tropical Cyclone Manou strike Madagascar, with wind gusts of up to 125 mph. The result was 265 fatalities and 85 percent of the buildings in one entire district destroyed. The same month, the U.S. experienced a tornado outbreak across eight states; the reported 412 tornadoes—a record for any one month—killed 42 people in total. Meanwhile, in Argentina, floods killed 23 people and damaged or destroyed 28,000 houses.

In June, a 20-day heat wave hit India, with maximum temperatures reaching 122° Fahrenheit. More than 1,500 deaths were reported. Switzerland experienced the hottest June in at least 250 years.

In addition, this year has seen cyclones in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Fiji and Mozambique; winter storms on the East Coast of the U.S. and a tropical storm in the south; a mudslide in Bolivia; flooding in Venezuela and Bangladesh. And the list of weather disasters goes on.

◆ WEATHER

A Developing Trend

But the climatic disasters seen so far this year are part of a much wider trend developing in the weather.

Consider: During the past 100 years, global surface temperatures have gradually increased. The beginning of this warming trend, along with a 50-year meteorological lull (1910 to 1960 was the mildest period in the past 1,000 years), helped produce greater worldwide agricultural yields at the start of the last century. By the mid-1950s, output had reached record levels. The 1960s saw the birth of the so-called Green Revolution, spurred on by new hybrid seed, expanded irrigation, and chemical fertilizers and pesticides that promised to alleviate world hunger.

But then something unexpected happened. World climates became more volatile in the ensuing four decades. Floods followed droughts. Indiscriminate tornados ripped through cities and farmlands. Hailstorms thrashed crops, and hurricanes lashed coastlines.

As a result of this shift in the weather, there has been a significant increase in economic losses, injuries and deaths. What is more, the promises of nonstop bumper crops underpinned by the agricultural miracles of the '60s have clouded over.

Insurance companies and meteorologists generally accept that the weather is becoming progressively more unstable. Human efforts to improve farming methods, forecast and even manipulate the weather have redoubled. Yet, in the end, these efforts are of no avail.

When wild weather strikes, we suddenly realize that few things affect us more than our climate. History shows that whole societies have risen or fallen because of favorable or nasty weather.

What are the real *causes* behind today's weather upsets? Why are climatic conditions worsening?

The Human Factor

It is accepted by climatologists that climatic change results, in general, from innate variations in nature. For years, scientists have studied signals such as oscillations in high altitude jet streams and ocean currents, as well as solar radiation variation and volcanic activity.

However, many scientists also say humans clearly are agents of environ-

mental change, though they are unclear as to what degree.

Current research has directly linked air pollution to weather upsets. Carbon dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons, smog from industrial activity, smoke from slash-and-burn deforestation in developing countries, widespread replacement of green and open land surfaces



ANGRY EARTH An Indian farmer walks across a drought-ridden field near Bhopal; the devastating effects of a Pacific cyclone in the Solomon Islands in January.

by pavement, asphalt and buildings, and the exhaust of jets, cars, trucks, trains and ships have contributed significantly to climatic variation.

There are many other suspected weather modifying agents, such as crop irrigation and the creation of man-made lakes, which affect the heat balance of the atmosphere by adding water vapor to the air. The influence of diverted rivers, dams, drained swamps and underground aquifers is significant too because of the effect the water-versus-land ratio has on the heat balance.

Not only that; now mankind is attempting to intentionally change weather through various experiments. For example, "cloud seeding" is intended either to produce needed rainfall or prevent cloud water from condensing into raindrops and snowflakes in an effort to head off severe storms and prevent flooding.

Over the past six millennia, we have abused, polluted, tarnished and ruined nearly everything our hands have touched. Indeed, we have "sown the wind"—and are about to "reap the whirlwind"! (Hos. 8:7).

The Consequences

In times past, when severe weather affected a particular area of the world, people simply migrated away from that area. But now, because of fixed

borders and overpopulation, little new land is available anymore.

Today, the world is primarily dependent on the U.S., Canada, Australia, Argentina and parts of Western Europe to supply the surplus foodstuffs to meet the deficits elsewhere in the world. Any time a bad year or two of weather affects these nations, it af-



fects the rest of the world too.

Also, we have narrowed the number of plant species on which we depend for food. According to the World Resources Institute, humans have historically used about 5,000 species of plants as food, but only 150 or so have entered world commerce and less than 20 provide most of the world's food. Just three grass crops—wheat, rice and maize (corn)—account for roughly 60 percent of the calories and 56 percent of the protein that we consume directly from plants. By narrowing our variety of world food crops, we have increased our vulnerability to weather upsets.

In addition, never before has there been such potential for human suffering due to climatic change. The tremendous rise in population the past century has placed more people at risk when an extreme weather event occurs. Rapid growth in coastal populations places more people in harm's way when hurricanes or tropical storms strike. Also, a significant increase in the number of homes and businesses built in flood plains over the past 50 years increases the risk and frequency of high-cost flooding events.

Because of these societal trends, cost-per-disaster figures have risen. In the U.S. alone, 39 weather-related disasters occurred during the decade of 1991-2001 in which overall damages

◆ WEATHER

reached or exceeded \$1 billion at the time of the event. The total damage costs exceeded \$134 billion.

And many climatologists' theories point to bad times ahead.

For example, the New York-based Risk Center predicts that, during the next two decades, La Niña events will be more numerous—spawning harsher winters in the eastern half of the U.S. and more active Atlantic hurricane seasons.

Who Controls the Weather?

Meteorologists may be able to predict the weather in the short term, but they still do not know the extent to which climatic changes or climatic variability may be accurately predicted in the long term. They admit they don't know why major global-impacting weather forces, such as high-altitude jet streams or powerful ocean currents, shift as they do.

Meteorologists are only able to rely on scientific observation, experimentation and reason—physical evidence—to forecast weather in the short term. But this tells only part of the story. There is another little-used source we can turn to for the other portion of the picture. It claims to pinpoint the *causes* of weather cataclysms, and to forecast long-term weather trends. Yet it is a source whose veracity most people would naturally question.

That source is God's revealed Word: the Holy Bible.

Can this Book really tell us the real cause of weather crises?

The God of the Bible claims *He* controls the weather. He challenges us to believe Him! He says He causes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. He sends the snow and ice as well as drought and heat. He bathes the Earth with gentle rain to show His loving concern, yet also sends flood and mildew to punish (Matt. 5:45; Job 37; Deut. 28:22).

The Bible also reveals that God has set spiritual and physical laws in motion, and that He is presently allowing humans to develop their own ways of living—contrary to His laws—and to reap the natural consequences that result from those ways, including weather upsets.

Further, God, in His great purpose, also allows Satan—the god of this

world (II Cor. 4:4)—to have a role in producing catastrophic weather, for man's ultimate learning (see Job 1).

That's right! Whereas humankind, in explaining weather, looks to material causes exclusively—physical phenomena measurable by scientific instruments—the Bible shows that there is a *spiritual* dimension to this question!



RECORD BREAKING Over 400 tornadoes—like the one that passed through South Pekin, Illinois—left unprecedented destruction in the U.S. this past May.

Most people today consider themselves too sophisticated to believe such a thing.

God tells us that the real cause of our upset weather conditions involves *sin*—which is the transgression of His law (I John 3:4). God uses weather to correct and discipline His creation—to help us realize the error in our lifestyle. In the June 1995 issue of this magazine, our editor in chief wrote, “*Why* all these disasters? They are a warning from God to REPENT! The disasters will keep coming until we repent. That is our *only* hope.”

Anciently, wise King Solomon understood the connection between the transgression of God's law and bad weather. When he dedicated the temple of God, Solomon prayed, “When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance” (II Chron. 6:26-27).

Weathermen and news reporters would scoff at the idea that wrong

ways of living—wrong lifestyles, morality and thinking—and chaotic weather are related. They consider themselves wiser than Solomon! But in reality, they, along with the majority of mankind, have been deceived (Rev. 12:9), and will end up being victims of the very prophecies they reject.

What Does the Future Hold?

So what does the Bible forecast? The answer to that question is directly related to the moral and spiritual state of the world. Because that is prophesied to decay (a reality we already see around us), so too is the state of our weather.

The chaotic weather we have experienced in recent decades will soon seem tame by comparison, unless we alter our present course as a civilization. In the near future, our weather is going to go completely haywire (see Rev. 6:5-8; 8:4-12). The powerful forces of nature are going to be unleashed upon a disobedient, nuclear-armed world to bring it to its knees in repentance.

We should consider the worsening weather trend a warning from Almighty God—a warning to the nations today to turn from materialism, false religions and all the sundry sins that are leading us away from the true path of peace and abundant living. We can expect our weather to get worse until we acknowledge our Creator, get down on our knees and pray that God would grant us repentance and give us the power necessary to keep His law.

In Leviticus 26, God promises “rain in due season” and that “the land shall yield her increase” (v. 4)—“IF ye walk in my statutes, and *keep my commandments*, and do them” (v. 3). Were the nations to do so, we would find ourselves blessed with beautiful weather and stable climates. We would not have to fear global warming, crop failures and famine, or being killed in a severe weather event.

We *can* experience prosperous living with pleasant, healthful weather—when mankind is willing to recognize God, His laws and His government. That will mean the dawning of a new age—the wonderful World Tomorrow. If you would like to know more about that soon-coming world, request a copy of our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like!* ◆

states. The *Business Report* of November 18, 2002, reported that the Russian prime minister had signed a deal to exchange Russian debt for Eurobonds.

Is it any wonder that Moscow was so willing to side with Berlin and Paris when the United States was preparing for its Iraq campaign? And is it any wonder, as the international order is being transformed, that Moscow is determined to find a stronger place in this new arrangement as the European Union matures into the next superpower?

Foretold

Ever since the end of World War II, this magazine's predecessor—the *Plain Truth*, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong—has been watching the relationship between West Germany (now a united Germany in the leadership role in a united Europe) and the Soviet Union (now Russia).

Throughout its 50-year-plus history, under the leadership of Herbert Armstrong, the *Plain Truth* warned its readers of another non-aggression treaty between Russia and Germany that would vividly spell out Germany's and Europe's intention to dominate the rest of the Western world.

Take this excerpt from May 1962: "When a Russo-German deal is made, you can be sure that the DOOM of the United States and Great Britain is on the horizon. A German-Soviet agreement—a second Rappallo—would be the GREATEST DISASTER which could befall the West."

The same *Plain Truth* article predicted that a treaty between then-West Germany and Russia would lead to the eventual reunification of Germany (as East Germany was then controlled by the Soviets). Notice this statement: "Trade agreements and a non-aggression pact will be signed with Russia. Germany will again be united and her 'lost lands' restored. The result will shock the Western world!" (ibid.).

Then, in August 1970, the Moscow Treaty—a treaty of non-aggression—was signed between the Soviets and West Germans. The *Plain Truth* heralded this as "the biggest single political event in Europe since the end of

World War II" (August/September 1970). To those who knew the history of such agreements, it was clear that Germany was positioning itself for greater strength in Europe—to resurrect the Reich that had been so humiliated in two world wars. Like all of its predecessors, the treaty altered the face of Europe. It opened the door for more talks on German unification until, 20 years later, that unity became reality.

What You Should Watch

When an overt non-aggression treaty once again is signed between Germany or the EU and Russia, in this new phase of global politics, history will be written before our eyes. Not only will it bring both the EU and Russia to powerful new heights as global players, it will mean that Europe has again secured itself against an attack from Russia.

Where will that lead?

As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in a co-worker letter 42 years ago, "United, these European nations can protect themselves from Russia. They will make a DEAL with the USSR—a non-aggression pact. Then the Germans, who will dominate, remembering it was U.S. power that TWICE defeated them in world war, will attack the United States, destroying OUR CITIES. SO SAYS PROPHECY!" (Oct. 23, 1961).

Bible prophecy states that the U.S. and Britain will be trampled on by Europe. In fact, God singles out Assyria, modern-day Germany, as the key player in carrying out this destruction (Isa. 10:5).

Though it may seem that a renewed Russo-German alliance is unlikely, an understanding of history and Bible prophecy shows that IT WILL come—though it will be short-lived.

Only by Germany forming a strategic alliance—and signing some sort of non-aggression pact—with Russia, will a German-led Eurobeast come to power as prophesied. God prophesies that this European bloc will exert unmatched power over the Western world for 2½ years (read our free

booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy* for more on this).

A German-Russian alliance, however, is a partnership that history—and PROPHECY—shows us will never last, despite its short-term benefits in strengthening both parties. Just as in World War II, *Russia* will have its part in Germany's downfall. Bible prophecy shows that Russia will align with Asia to counter the growing dominance of the unchecked European power. This will mark the end of the coming non-aggression treaty.

A Russian-EU alliance or treaty would strengthen Russia to be a contender on the world stage—one that

will eventually CHALLENGE Germany and Europe in the greatest military conflagration the world has ever seen. This conflict will accelerate the world's race to a nuclear Armageddon—creating such terror that escape from it is something only the return of Jesus Christ could provide.

Remember—the *Plain Truth* in 1962 said another Rappallo pact would be the "the DOOM of the United States and Great Britain" or "the GREATEST DISASTER which could befall the West."

We have already seen a second Rappallo pact—signed in August 1970—which sped along the reunification of Germany and hurtled Europe toward greater cohesion. We can now expect the equivalent of a second Ribbentrop agreement—such as was signed immediately before World War II—and when that happens, it will culminate in World War III!

We can't afford to ignore these trends! God wants us to act upon this understanding of prophecy and seek Him humbly, so we can be protected from these coming wars. ◆

With reporting by JESSE FREDERICK

A Russian-EU alliance

or treaty would strengthen

Russia to be a contender

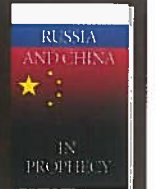
on the world stage—

one that will eventually

challenge Germany.



For more information on end-time events, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*, or read it online at www.theTrumpet.com.



in February, nations in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP Group), through the European Development Fund, will be beneficiaries of an additional 13.5 billion euros in aid by 2007. These European development funds support, among other things, development in infrastructure and transportation, particularly within Africa.

In addition, the European Investment Bank will support economically and technically viable projects within the private sector in the ACP countries with 3.9 billion euros' worth of low-interest loans between 2003 and 2008. These loans are also designed to help stabilize the assisted nations.

In Angola, Germany is making its desire for stronger economic ties known through investment overtures. In an interview with Angola Press Agency on May 17, German Embassy First Secretary Hans-Ulrich Von Schroeter announced the upcoming implementation of an investments protection accord between Angola and Germany. He said, "With the absence of war, potential German investors are in a position to apply in Angola some of their financial and technological resources" (*Africa News*, May 18).

These offers of stability, aid and investment will assist in endearing African nations and governments to the rising world power in Europe.

Watch!

Following on from their military presence in the Congo, will Germany and the EU choose to intervene in other resource-rich nations such as Liberia and Uganda—both rife with bloodshed and instability? Will the EU plow greater investment into the rich oil fields, infrastructure and mining sectors of African nations? Time will show.

Keep your eye on EU efforts in Africa. Bible prophecy describes this European combine at the height of its power—in the time just ahead of us—as possessing great "merchandise," clearly procured by exploiting the resources of those nations it conquers (Rev. 18:11-13). The nations of Africa will be among those.

Watch events in Africa. Watch the EU. Watch for the forging of diplomatic and economic links between the two. Watch for Germany's long-held desire to dominate *Mittelafrika* to come to fruition! ◆



Try, Try Again

☞ For many years, I have received the *Trumpet*, and I enjoy every copy. Your news is always up to date, and over the years I have seen so many of the stories you print come true.☞

E-mail response

I GREATLY ENJOY READING THE *TRUMPET* magazine but am somewhat frightened by the accuracy of your publication. I believe God is truly using this publication and hope that many others will read it.

Spartanburg, S.C.

I JUST RECENTLY STARTED READING THE *Trumpet*. I am amazed at the things I am reading and would like to learn more, much more. I am not a Christian, but I feel God is speaking to my heart and mind very heavily. With so many churches out there, I am very confused as to where to start. But I am very interested in the book *Mystery of the Ages* that keeps being referred to.

E-mail response

THANK YOU FOR THE EDUCATIVE, INFORMATIVE and eye-opening articles in your wonderful magazine. I hope the powers that be will listen and do something about all the immorality suffusing everywhere, which you preach against. What I always ask is: One may have the right to do something, but is it right? How do we look at issues such as lesbianism and homosexuality, not to speak of okaying same-sex marriages in some states? These things are evil and will not last. Nobody remembers Sodom and Gomorrah anymore

Houston, Tex.

Prophecy Comes Alive in Iraq

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR LATEST *TRUMPET* magazine, for which I am most grateful. The write-up on the Iraq war was very interesting. I eagerly look forward to receiving *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Many thanks for being there for mankind across the globe. You have certainly honored Herbert Armstrong's name in the best way possible.

King William's Town, South Africa

I JUST RECEIVED THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE *Trumpet*. Thank you. You quote from Mr. Flurry's 1994 article: "The most powerful Arab country in the Middle East is Iran." Your magazine prides itself on scholarship. You have earned that pride. However, I am surprised that you consider Iran an Arab country. Iranians are Persians, not Arabs.

Ashtabula, Ohio

Our error. The Trumpet does not consider the ethnicity of Iranians to be Arabic.

CARL HILLIKER'S ARTICLE IN THE JUNE *Trumpet* was to-the-point, hard-hitting and excellent—more articles like this, please!

Pennsylvania

THIS MONTH'S *TRUMPET* HAS TO BE ONE OF THE greatest publications I've read. The articles on "After the War" and "Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?" were so accurate that one would not be able to deny that what is happening is God's prophecy coming to pass. We are living in the end times.

Pampa, Tex.

THE *TRUMPET* IS WELL-WRITTEN AND CONTAINS THE greatest knowledge I have ever read. Whenever I pick up any one of these magazines, it's very hard to put it down. Thank you very much for continuing to reach out to bring us this great eye-opener.

Elmsford, N.Y.

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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STEPHEN HILL

“There shall be famines”

Why humankind's most heroic charity efforts fall short of eradicating starvation

THAT MORNING'S ENCOUNTER IS SEARED INTO MY MEMORY. Stepping out of the Hilton hotel in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, and walking down the road took me past a woman sitting on the corner. Her body, stick-boned from starvation, hung in a dejected pose, and her big, dark, hopeless eyes implored intervention. A dead baby dangled from her arms.

According to figures recently released by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization, 6 million children under the age of 5 die each year of hunger and malnutrition. Put another way, an astounding 10 percent of children in developing countries hardly learn to walk before dying of hunger. Many who survive beyond the toddler stage are stunted, and their brains are often severely impaired.

Compassionate people have been saving their pennies to help the poor, and, for decades, thousands of aid workers have been doing an outstanding job in attempting to feed whole nations, even in some cases successfully helping isolated communities become more self-supporting. That said, too often their success is largely cosmetic, rather than lasting. For example, sub-Saharan Africa is still the part of the world that suffers most from famine, despite the multi-billion dollars' worth of aid being poured in. Abject poverty leading to starvation and often death continues its stranglehold to differing degrees on most Third World countries.

Famine is one of the conditions prophesied in the Bible for the last days. When asked by the disciples what it would be like in the end time, Jesus Christ gave as one of the signs, “[T]here shall be famines ...” (Matt. 24:7). Mankind is not capable of breaking the apocalyptic back of the black horse of famine (Rev. 6:5). The statistics tell the story. There are 1.2 billion people—23 percent of the world's population—each subsisting on less than a dollar a day!

Even after desertification and other forms of man-made geological destruction, the Earth today still has enough arable land to produce plenty of food for its inhabitants. Yet starvation continues to be a pervasive problem. Not even promising modern means of food production, intended to provide freedom from pests and bad weather, have been able to solve the problem. Technology, innovation, money—none of these can eradicate famine as long as humanity is plagued by human nature and, in general, lives the way of *get*.

Consider: Famine isn't always the result of drought, pestilence or crop failure, but can just as well stem from financial mismanagement or corrupt government. Take Argentina for example. Last year, as its economy imploded, it was reported that “Children are dying daily of malnutrition in Argentina

as a result of the catastrophic economic crisis in the world's fourth biggest exporter of food. In the past week, images of stunted, emaciated children have scandalized Argentina, long known as the grain store of the world. Meanwhile, the vast, fertile country has increased exports of meat, wheat, corn and soya this year” (*Guardian*, London, Nov. 25, 2002).

Argentina is now undergoing economic reconstruction. But what about other regions such as the economic basket case of Central Africa? They totally lack such hope.

Charities and foreign aid are not the long-term solution. Take charities and U.S. foreign aid out of the picture for just a few weeks, and dependent regions would quickly fall back into the abyss of dire famine. A more fundamental change is required.

Man's government and his rebellion against God have only brought misery, suffering, starvation and death. God's government, underpinned by the immutable Ten Commandments, on the other hand, will bring abundance, prosperity and real happiness forever!

Though some experts predict significant reductions in starvation—through humanity's own efforts—that is not what your Bible reveals. Human greed and ungodliness will ensure it won't happen that way. The Bible prophesies that the devastation caused by end-time hunger will get steadily worse until practically the whole world will be in the grip of hunger when Christ returns.

Hunger crises are about to flare up all over the globe. In fact, it is the *affluent* nations, in particular Britain and America, that your Bible prophesies will suffer the *most* in the future. Their mass sinfulness is prophesied to bring on great curses of famine, starvation and slavery!

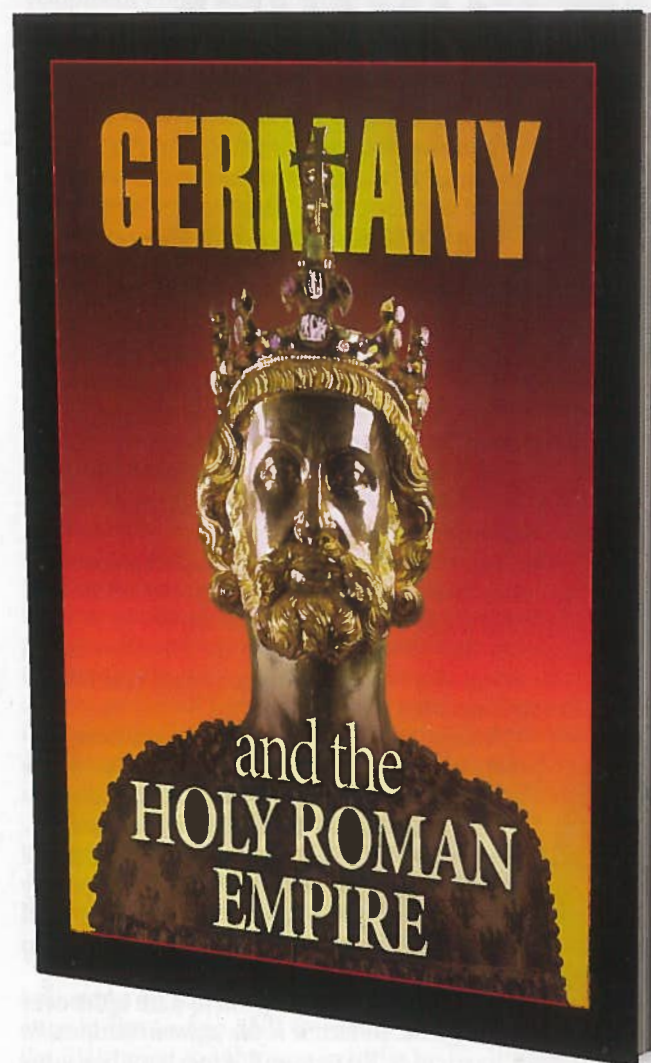
The Prophet Isaiah describes this coming horror: “[N]o man shall spare his brother. And he shall snatch on the right hand, and be hungry; and

he shall eat on the left hand, and they shall not be satisfied: they shall eat every man the flesh of his own arm” (Isa. 9:19-20). Could anything be more horrible than gnawing away at your own flesh because of hunger? Well, yes, it will get even worse than that! “And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend ...” (Jer. 19:9).

Though, in a relatively short time, the whole world will come to know the horror of famine to a degree never before witnessed, there is an escape for the called of God who repent. And soon—very soon—never again will a woman have to beg with her dead baby to survive! Read our free book *Mystery of the Ages* to find the real hope at the end of all this suffering. The world certainly needs the hope contained in its message. ♦



RIDING The third horseman of the apocalypse represents famine.



HISTORY IS PROPHECY

Many people are aware of the atrocities committed by Germany in World War II but would consider them history. They are unaware of the legacy that Adolf Hitler drew upon in creating his Nazi war machine. His was merely the latest resurrection of a war-making empire with a long and bloody history. Did you know that the Bible prophesied of his regime—as well as the terrible emergence of one last resurrection in our day?

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