

*The Philadelphia*

# Trumpet

## Mixing IRON and CLAY



What's behind the EU's  
drive to absorb Eastern Europe?



◆ COVER STORY

**2 Mixing Iron and Clay**

The European Union's radical drive to absorb Eastern Europe is an ancient prophecy being fulfilled before our eyes!

**4 Turkey: Odd Man Out**

**6 Mending the Cloth**

Religious unity between East and West is a tough goal, but one the pope aims to meet.

◆ ARTICLES

**8 "It Won't Work Anymore"**

Peace still eludes all efforts to achieve it in Northern Ireland. Will the Irish question ever be settled?

**9 Aftereffects of an Election**

Germany's September election put a weak and unpopular government back in power. But it also provided a glimpse at where the country is headed.

**12 Trading Places**

The transatlantic trade war is heating up, revealing one superpower on the wane and another on the rise.

**16 The Iron Fist**

Robert Mugabe pins the blame for Zimbabwe's woes on British colonialism, and his disciples love him for it. But his despotism is plunging the country into a new holocaust.

**18 Terror in the Southeast**

The attack in Bali shows why Indonesia matters.

**21 Innocence Lost?**

Australia deals with its 9/11.

**23 Why Christmas Is So Important to God**

◆ DEPARTMENTS

**1 Personal: The Solution to Israel's Problems**

**14 World News Watch:**

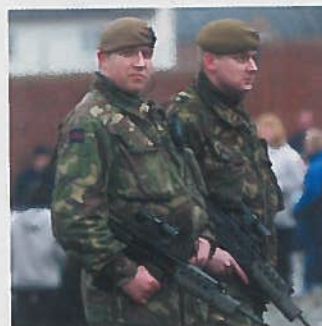
Nuclear Worries — Ties With EU — Third Global Power? — High-Tech Separation — Bad for Bugs and People

**27 Commentary: Signs of the Times**

**28 2002 Trumpet Index**



ON THE COVER: A man stirs a mixture of iron and clay within the expanded borders of the European Union. (Joel Hilliker illustration)



8



16



23

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# The Solution to Israel's Problems

**T**he rage in Israel continues to escalate. The Middle East is on the verge of exploding, and it is going to affect *your life* intensely! You need to understand why.

More effort is expended to bring peace to the Middle East than to any other place on Earth. But as we feverishly reach for peace, virtually the whole world is being drawn into a war.

Is there any solution? Yes, there is.

In May last year, two young Jewish boys were killed in the town of Tekoa, Israel, about 12 miles south of Jerusalem. The boys, ages 13 and 14, were playing in a cave. Later they were found with their hands tied, stabbed and bludgeoned to death with stones. The killers had smeared their blood all over the cave.

Since these murders happened in a biblically famous city, I think it is appropriate that we look at some of Tekoa's history. Its history reveals how to stop violence and crime in the Middle East and in other parts of our world.

Anciently, Jehoshaphat delivered a powerful message in Tekoa. "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; *Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper*" (II Chron. 20:20). The message of how to have peace and joy was thundered to the people, and it happened in the very same town where the boys were murdered. What a paradox!

Do you believe any of our peace-seekers will look into the biblical history of Israel for a solution? Probably not. But it is still the **ONLY** place they will find a solution!

All we must do to be established—nationally or individually—is *believe God*. If we believe God's prophets, we will prosper. We must look to God and God's messengers, or His prophets. The Jews are only one tribe of Israel. We have proven for many years that America and Britain are a part of Israel too. (For more information, write for our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

But Israel has a history of stoning and killing the

prophets—so said Christ (Matt. 23:37). "Religious" people have always been at the vanguard of the murderous persecution of God's prophets.

What a powerful irony. The two boys were savagely murdered in Tekoa. And if we look in the Bible, we see that the solution to this violence today was given in Tekoa!

It's all a matter of faith. Do we believe the Bible is God's Word?

Many people think they believe God, but do not. Do you believe the Bible? The booklet I just offered you—*The United States and Britain in Prophecy*—is the single greatest proof of God's existence and that the Bible is God's Word.

One of Israel's greatest prophets, Amos, was from the city of Tekoa (Amos 1:1). But his own people rejected his message from God and tried to drive him out of the area (Amos 7). His message was only a *type* of one to be delivered today. This latter-day message is also prophesied to be rejected. It is the *last* message that God will deliver (Amos 7:8) before the time of suffering the Bible calls the Great Tribulation (Matt.

24:21; Rev. 7:14). (Write for our free booklet on Amos.)

As with Christ, religious people led the persecution against Amos. It is happening the same way in this end time.

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote his book for this end time (Jer. 30:1-3). Most of his prophecies revolve around the latter days. One of the strongest warnings he wrote was given in Tekoa anciently.

"O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and *blow the trumpet in Tekoa*, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for *evil appeareth out of the north*, and *great destruction*. I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman" (Jer. 6:1-2). Zion is a type of God's Church today. Jerusalem is a type of all Israel—including Britain and America. As Jeremiah warned, the great end-time destruction will come *from the north*. This refers to the king of the north mentioned in Daniel 11:40-41, Jeremiah 1:15 and many other prophecies.

· continued on p. 26



Do you believe any of our peace-seekers will look into the biblical history of Israel for a solution? Probably not. But it is still the **ONLY** place they will find a solution!



The European Union's radical drive to absorb Eastern Europe is an ancient prophecy being fulfilled before our eyes!

BY STEPHEN M. HILL

**N**EW OF THE PRESENT GIANT LEAP in European Union expansion should wake Americans out of their post-Cold War sleep more than fears of Osama Bin Laden, or terrorism!

Last month, the European Commission approved the absorption of Eastern Europe into the European Union. Ten countries, including several that were once dominated by the former Soviet Union, are now set to join the EU in May 2004. The unprecedented move will suddenly increase the number of EU nations from 15 to 25, and the Union will gain 75 million more people.

We are witnessing the emergence of the world's next superpower!

Yet, this coming world-ruling power will be a mixture of *iron* and

**EMBODYING PROPHECY**  
The dream of a Gentile king provides an overview of the past and future.

TRUMPET ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE WILKINS



Mr. Armstrong wrote, "The prophecy of Daniel 2, concerning the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a stupendous image, foretold the rise of other world empires to follow Babylon of 604 B.C. Following was to come the Persian Empire, to be succeeded by the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and it in turn by the Roman Empire of 31 B.C. to A.D. 476. It was restored by Justinian in A.D. 554, first with a Roman leadership, then a French in 800, then the German dynasty of Otto the Great called the Holy Roman Empire. It was followed by the Habsburg Austrian dynasty, and by a brief 'restoration' under Mussolini, when it 'was, and is not, and yet is' (Rev. 17:8), this in turn is to be followed (and is NOW FORMING) by a UNITED EUROPE ... covering both East and West Europe, as pictured by the feet and toes of Daniel 2:44" (Member and co-worker letter, June 22, 1983; emphasis mine throughout).

During his 55-year ministry, Mr. Armstrong wrote extensively about the final resurrection of that empire. "But suddenly, unexpectedly, as biblical prophecy reveals, the whole world

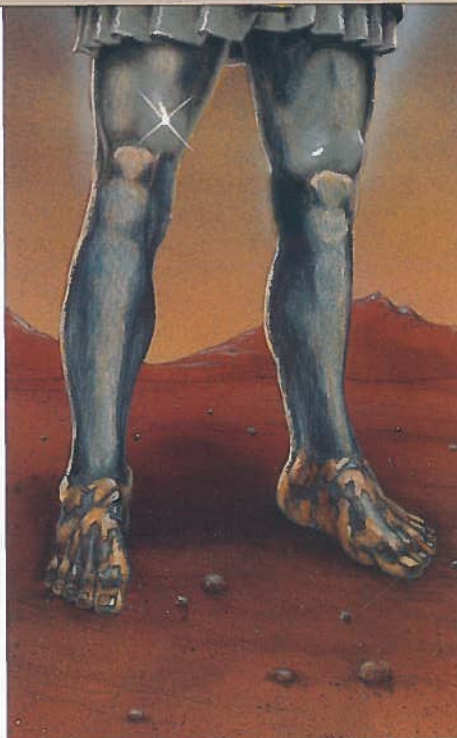
## MIXING IRON AND CLAY

*miry clay* (Dan. 2:33)—an incongruous mix that can only be held together for a short time, and only by ruthless autocratic rulership. This is already becoming visible in the clumsy coming together of Western and Eastern Europe.

Why is this present expansion of Europe—whose final transformation is destined to take the world by total surprise—such an important sign? Because prophecy in the book of Daniel, chapter two, and elsewhere, clearly reveals that this geo-political beast must develop *two legs*—eastern and western—to its empire, before it can kick into action.

### Pre-Announced

Knowledge of such important prophecies was taught by Herbert W. Armstrong from well before World War II until his death in 1986. His words survive him as a living testament to biblical prophecies since fulfilled, and others on the verge of becoming reality.



will be startled and shocked into WONDER, to learn that a new THIRD SUPER WORLD POWER has suddenly burst forth onto the world scene—a resurrection of the medieval Holy Roman Empire by a union of 10 nations in Europe—very possibly five in *Western Europe*, and five broken loose from the Communist orbit in *Eastern Europe!*" (Member and co-worker letter, Dec. 27, 1981). Amazingly, he made these Bible-based predictions long before the fall of the Berlin Wall!

Just a year prior to his death, Mr. Armstrong was still writing about this all-important prophecy. In a letter dated February 25, 1985, he powerfully warned, "For more than 40 years now the *Plain Truth* has been proclaiming an outstanding series of Bible prophecies of something due soon to occur in Europe that will change the whole world and shake up the lives of every one of us. Daniel's



prophecy in chapter 2 pictures 10 nations in Europe in our time right now, as the 10 toes on the two feet of the great symbolic image. Five of these toes picture five nations in Western Europe and five in Eastern Europe.”

Mr. Armstrong went on to hint that rather than rule over specific nations as such, the 10 leaders prophesied to form this end-time union may be ruling over 10 power blocs—divided between an east side and a west side, along the lines of what happened in the fourth century when the Roman Empire was split between Rome and Constantinople.

What Mr. Armstrong was looking for years ago we can now see openly taking place!

In 1985 Mr. Armstrong wrote, “We are now looking for the tenth and last resurrection of the Roman Empire—the seventh head of this Beast of the 17th chapter of Revelation (Rev. 17:12), which is also pictured by the 10 toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s image of Daniel 2:40-44. Since these toes were on the two feet that represented Eastern and Western Europe, there is a strong likelihood that this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will include *Iron Curtain nations of Eastern Europe* as well as nations in Western Europe. They will form a ... gigantic world power probably as great or even greater than the USSR or United States of America” (*Are We In the Last Days?*).

Can the veracity of such astounding claims be proved beyond a reasonable doubt by biblical prophecy—in view of current events in Europe? Let’s look at the facts.

### EU Expansion

The western leg of the EU has been in place for some years. The eastern leg, a possibility on the books since the fall of the Berlin Wall, is currently being set up. Eastern European nations are being taken on board. The nations in question for the next phase of integration into Europe in 2004 are Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, plus the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Cyprus. This, as we will shortly see

again in greater detail, is prophecy in the making!

As previous *Trumpet* articles have indicated, Europe’s new Mediterranean partners will provide important, strategic stepping stones for the Union’s ambitions southward into the



MIKE BEGFORD

ARMSTRONG

Middle East and resource-rich Africa.

The nations that were east of the Berlin Wall and under Russian control during the Cold War will provide a buffer between the EU’s most dominant nation, Germany, and its eastern front with Russia.

So, the move not only builds an eastern leg to Europe’s empire, but gives a strategic and dangerous boost to a nation that, having sparked two world wars in the last century, already controls a fast-rising mega-power. “[T]he Nice Treaty ... changes the power structure, shifting influence from small states like Ireland to large ones, like Germany” (*San Diego Union-Tribune*, Nov. 4).

Noteworthy is the fact that although this mega-power is in the

process of taking on its final shape, Britain continues to show signs of indecision in its relation to the EU. This was true over the adoption of the euro and is very much so over the EU’s expansion. In fact, many British were caught napping. Whereas in many member states knowledge of EU enlargement is between 90 and 96 percent, according to a study conducted for the European Commission in October only 51 percent of people in the UK have even heard of the idea! This goes to show how peripheral Britain can be in EU decision-making on matters that really count.

### Motives Behind Expansion

With its economy having already overtaken that of the U.S. as the world’s largest, the enlarged EU, with an expanded population of over 450 million, will soon greatly overshadow the U.S. in trade and commerce.

The *Seattle Times*, October 17, reported, “A single trading bloc would stretch from Portugal to Estonia. The addition of 75 million people to the 400 million who already live in the Union would increase the EU’s wealth by only 5 percent, because the newly eligible countries have relatively small economies. Nonetheless, the EU bloc is already larger than the United States. Its expansion could increase the political weight of Europe as a counterbalance to the overwhelming dominance of the United States in world affairs.”

Leading political analyst Charles A. Kupchan states the facts plainly: “[T]he EU is making a run at the United States” (*Atlantic Monthly*, Nov. 2002).

It has, after all, been no secret that a principle thrust behind Europe’s direction is to replace the U.S. as the dominant player on the world stage. “Germany’s Chancellor Gerhard Schröder called for a ‘more integrated and enlarged Europe’ to offset U.S. hegemony. According to Romano Prodi, the president of the European Commission, the EU’s executive body, one of the chief

**The EU is “one of the few institutions we can develop as a balance to U.S. world domination.”**

**GORAN PERSSON** Prime minister of Sweden



REUTERS

goals of the union is to create ‘a super-power on the European continent that stands equal to the United States.’ Göran Persson, the prime minister of Sweden, a country that long ago renounced power politics, recently remarked that the EU is ‘one of the few institutions we can develop as a balance to U.S. world domination’” (ibid.).

Europe is making its challenge in a subtle fashion, but with amazing speed. The form in which it will become a serious and threatening rival to the U.S. is fast taking shape. In an indication of its direction, the EU is busily developing its own armed forces, to work independently of the U.S. The plan is to oust the U.S. from any say or power of intervention in all strategic matters directly affecting Europe as soon as possible.

With the ratification of the Nice Treaty, following Ireland’s *yes* vote, and with the support of two thirds of the Union’s population, Europe’s de-



velopment is ahead of schedule. Now the EU's immediate priority is to strengthen its governmental apparatus.

## The United States of Europe

EU member states are busily debating the details of a Europe-wide constitution following the release of its latest draft on October 28. The European Convention, a forum of 105 national and European parliamentarians, plans to have a final draft ready for consideration by EU heads of government at a summit in June next year.

The framework document, published by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French president who is chairing the commission, "raises the prospect of a massive overhaul of the EU" to accommodate the Eastern European countries due to join in 2004 (*Independent*, London, Oct. 29). Clear evidence, according to Euroskeptics, that a superstate is on the way is the formal proposal for the Union to be renamed

the United States of Europe. Other names under consideration are European Community and United Europe.

Up to now there has been a certain vagueness about the internal structures and rigors of EU governmental institutions and the way they should play out their roles. This has been convenient, because it has allowed the union to be flexible and develop quickly, unfettered and unencumbered by limiting statutes and formalities. But now, with rapid expansion on the immediate horizon, the EU leadership considers more checks and balances, along with a formal constitution, necessary for adequate control.

What then does the EU intend to achieve with this new constitution, which is part and parcel of the expansion of Europe?

Part of the goal is to "simplify Europe's Byzantine structures" (*ibid.*).

This is necessary in order to successfully assimilate Eastern Europe without decision-making processes grinding to a halt.

In addition, Europe wants to develop a more clearly delineated global identity, which, it is hoped, will go a long way to giving the EU a single voice on diplomatic issues. The text of the new draft outlines aims to give the EU the legal power to sign treaties and sit on international bodies.

One proposal being considered is dual citizenship, which would give all EU nationals both national and European citizenship—freedom to live and vote in any part of the Union. Most euro politicians are undeterred by murmurs about the technical difficulties, which heel-dragging British technocrats say make such a project untenable.

For the weak-hearted, a long-awaited exit clause would create the option of voluntary withdrawal from the Union for individual member coun-

## • T U R K E Y •

# ODD MAN OUT

**O**F ALL THE NATIONS CLAMORING TO join the European Union, Turkey is being made to feel the odd man out. On October 9 the European Commission released its report on enlargement, giving the green light to 10 more nations joining in 2004. But the report failed to even specify a date to begin talks on Ankara's application for EU membership.

To make matters worse, the 10 nations that received a nod include Cyprus—the divided Mediterranean island, with Turkey occupying the north, separated from the Greek-dominated south. This rubs salt into the wound for Turkey, as it had already threatened to annex northern Cyprus if the island nation joins the Eurobloc before a settlement between north and south is reached. (EU member Greece has pressured the Union to grant Cyprus membership or face a veto from Athens on the whole enlargement process.)

Turkey has worked hard to prettify itself for Europe—reforming its constitution as late as August to better fulfill EU requirements. But these efforts did not earn so much as an acknowledgement in the Commission's report.

This latest snub raises sobering questions about whether Europe is serious about ever accepting Turkey into the Euroclub. Behind all this lies the suspicion that *the EU is really a Roman Catholic club* that does not want to entertain the thought of any Muslim country joining it.



**SNUBBED** Turkey's deputy prime minister speaks at a news conference concerning his country being left out of EU expansion plans.

The main opposition to Turkey's application for EU membership comes from Germany. With over 3 million Turks resident in Germany, significant social problems have impacted the cohesion of the German community, with neo-Nazi groups targeting Turkish ethnics for persecution. Brought in willingly by Germany to solve labor shortages in boom times, the Turks are now becoming an embarrassment, their presence stimulating a right-wing backlash against the further significant immigration of foreigners.

Yet, the EU must tread a fine line with Turkey. Of all the Muslim na-

tions, it is the most moderate, and what's more, it has strategic importance in maintaining equilibrium in a volatile area, as the U.S. and Russia seek to guard against the spread of Islamic fundamentalism northward from Iran, Iraq, Syria and beyond. Mindful of Turkey's strategic location on the Bosphorus, the EU has permitted Turkey associate membership of its club since 1963. Formal membership candidature was only recognized in 1999. Turkey signed a Customs Union agreement with the EU in 1996 and maintains membership of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and NATO.

In view of its strategic location at the crossroads between East and West—with Istanbul, in reality its old capital, Constantinople, the old bastion of the eastern leg of the Holy Roman Empire—the EU will be careful to keep Turkey dangling on a partially baited hook without reeling the nation into full membership of the Euroclub.

RON FRASER



tries. It stands to be seen whether Britain—prophesied not to form a part of the final Eurobeast, still outside the eurozone and always complaining about central EU issues—might welcome this mechanism as a dignified way of bowing out.

A powerful new office of president of the EU, who would report to national leaders, is also being proposed. This idea is not popular among the smaller states, which fear a loss of influence to the larger EU countries.

### Iron and Clay

The sudden expansion of Europe stands to be one of the most startling political feats ever. Yet, questions about the feasibility of the expansion abound. This eastward expansion gives rise to seemingly unsurmountable problems.

The integration of such a disparate mishmash of vastly *different countries and cultures*—many of which, from the Middle Ages up to modern times, were at war with each other—presents a daunting challenge in itself. Comparing, for example, Spain to Denmark, Ireland to Bulgaria, Poland to Italy, Lithuania to France, Cyprus to Germany, Portugal to Sweden, is comparing apples to oranges.

Further, the *economies* of most of the Eastern nations being incorporated are much weaker than the majority of established EU nations, giving rise to inevitable financial nightmares as the integration process proceeds. Fundamental issues to address include how enlargement will be financed and what payments the new members will receive. A major stumbling block concerns the Common Agricultural Policy—the biggest item in the EU’s budget—and how it will be affected by enlargement.

How then are the Eastern nations to be truly integrated, at breakneck speed, into an economic union? How will so many different nations in Europe, with such different cultures, be held together in tight union long enough to fulfill end-time prophecy?

The new composition of the Union—a *mélange* of seemingly incompatible countries—is in fact the fulfillment of prophecy, although precisely which countries will comprise the final Eurobeast may yet shift somewhat.

As described by Mr. Armstrong, the

great image of a man in Daniel 2 symbolizes the four world-ruling kingdoms that have dominated the world from Nebuchadnezzar to this time, the fourth of which—the legs of iron, and feet of part iron and part clay—is the Roman Empire.

“And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, *part of potters’ clay, and part of iron*, the kingdom shall be divided; but



there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And *as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken*. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but *they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay*” (Dan. 2:40-43).

Miry clay and iron don’t make a good compound, just as the new composition of the EU will have difficulty being unified. Scriptures like Revelation 13:11-13 and 17:1-5 show that the mother of all worldly Christian religions, the Roman Catholic Church, will function as glue in this union (see p. 6).

Yet, the cohesiveness of mutual economic benefit within an economic union, bound by a common currency, arm in arm with the diplomacy, manipulation and initiatives of religion under the umbrella of the Roman Catholic Church, won’t be enough.

### Strong Leadership

The composition of iron and clay, being fulfilled by the admittance of Eastern countries, will force the strengthening of the *leadership structure* of the EU. A formidable, powerful leader is going to have to step into the driver’s seat, to give the massive disjointed combine the direction it needs to hold together during the three and a half years referred to in your Bible as the Great Tribulation. The proposed creation of a powerful new presidential position to represent the whole of the

Union augers this occurrence. The present power vacuum at the top of the EU, and the lack of legislated control to limit such an office, if unaddressed, would allow this world dictator unprecedented power when he has worked his way into that position.

The Bible tells us that the man destined to lead Europe will be extremely clever and astute, and will obtain control through flatteries (Dan. 11:21). The man controlling the European bloc will be given great authority. After suffering a sudden mind change (Hab. 1:11), he will achieve an iron grip on his power and become a tyrant, wreaking havoc and destruction (Matt. 24:21).

### Prophecy Unfolding

Note, however, that the Eurobeast—the 10 toes—comes just before the return of Jesus Christ, who destroys all worldly kingdoms and sets up His perfect government on Earth: “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).

Prophecy is unfolding quickly, and that is what the expansion of the EU is all about. Though few know it yet, it is a great sign that Jesus Christ is about to return!

Most if not all the protagonists in the present EU expansion, whether in business, secular government, or the Catholic Church, do not fully realize where history is leading. But you *can* know. Heed the warnings you read in the *Trumpet*, and act on them! ♦





**"FIRST POPE EVER"** John Paul II and Orthodox Patriarch Teoctist meet in Romania in May 1999.

## MENDING THE CLOTH

Religious unity between East and West is a tough goal, but one the pope aims to meet.

BY MARK JENKINS

**E**UROPE IS UNITING ECONOMICALLY, politically, even militarily. But that is not all.

As the European Union looks to absorb the nations of Eastern Europe, it is important that *Trumpet* subscribers also keep their eyes on another unification trend within Europe.

The head of the largest single religious organization in the world has made it his stated objective to secure unity in the church by bringing the Orthodox churches back into the Roman Catholic fold.

Will the pope succeed? Certainly, the groundwork for a degree of unity is being laid right now.

### The Pope's Recent Actions

Lately, Pope John Paul II has made a habit of being "the first pope ever" to visit certain areas, and his reasons are

no secret. He wants to heal the breach in Europe between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox churches—a split rooted in a dispute over the infallibility of the pope that goes all the way back to a ninth-century dispute between the eastern and western churches.

John Paul II visited Bulgaria earlier this year, the first visit ever to the communist country by a pope. While there, he said he had never believed there was a Bulgarian connection to the attempt on his life in 1981, removing a major barrier between Bulgaria and the pontiff. He said to Bulgarian Patriarch Maxim, "Christ our Lord founded a single church, while we today appear to the world divided." One Church. One Europe. This idea of unity is the pope's primary mission. The problem is, Bulgaria is 83.8 percent Orthodox; less than 2 percent of the country is Roman Catholic. If the pope can unify the Bulgarian Orthodox Church with the Roman Catholic Church, he will have converted most of the country! A similar situation exists in Romania.

On October 13, John Paul II and the head of Romania's Orthodox Church,

Teoctist, jointly presided over mass in St. Peter's basilica and "pledged closer cooperation between their two churches" (*Agence France Presse*, Oct. 13). The pontiff expressed the urgency of his mission, saying that the need for a "common testimony of Christians has been made more urgent by a worrying spiritual crisis emerging in Europe and in a largely secularized world." He also suggested to Teoctist that a "solid institutional structure" might help forge unity.

In a historic visit to Greece in May 2001, John Paul II stated, "For the occasions past and present, when sons and daughters of the Catholic Church have sinned by action or omission against their Orthodox brothers and sisters, may the Lord grant us the forgiveness we beg of him." This country has virtually no Catholic population. In Greece, the Orthodox Church holds 98 percent of the population.

### Politics and Religion

So why is the pope seeking this healing now? The split between Roman Catholic and Orthodox occurred a millennium ago! In fact, a Roman Catholic pope has not visited Greece in nearly 1,300 years. Why is this so important to the papacy today?

The pope answers: "Together we must work for this healing if the Europe now emerging is to be true to its identity, which is inseparable from the Christian humanism shared by East and West." But what is this identity?

It is the resurgence of the Holy Roman Empire! The political nature of the church can be tracked all the way back to Justinian's restoration of the empire in 554 A.D., as can the idea of a unified Europe.

The glue that has held the diverse European continent together has always been religion. Thus, the political oneness forming in Europe today is inseparable from religion.

Remember: The Vatican is not simply a religious institution; it is also the oldest continuous *political* institution in Europe. The record of the Vatican wielding and exercising political power is beyond dispute. As time goes on, it will exercise that power to a greater degree than at any other time in history. The groundwork has already been laid in the formation of the European Union.



The present pope has consistently appealed to Catholics to unify behind the movement to unite Europe. When he visited the second-most important European Catholic cathedral, in Galicia, Spain, in 1996, his famous words were "Europe! Return to your roots!" Those roots run deep in a heritage that is steeped in the government-courting Roman Catholic Church, with often more effective control over the lives of citizens than the government itself.

A tribute to the seriousness of the Catholic Church's pro-active role in Europe is not only made obvious by the fact that the Holy See is in constant negotiations with EU officials, but that *all Eastern European aspirants to EU membership have signed a document giving the Catholic Church certain rights within their countries!* These church-state treaties guarantee the church free exercise of its mission within each country. From the outset, this marks the measure to which the Catholic Church wants to gain influence in the eastern leg of the "United States of Europe," or whatever name it will assume.

The Vatican is a formidable political power. It is the only religion on Earth represented in the United Nations. It has already succeeded in having laws of a religious nature passed in Europe. In June 1998 the *Trumpet* spoke of one such law: "Already the mark of this church is bound in European law, awaiting its enforcement. It was upon a German-Catholic initiative that Sunday was legislated as a 'day of rest' by the Brussels bureaucrats, and received the approval of the EU states."

In his booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "It was for obeying God's FOURTH Commandment—keeping the Sabbath—that millions were put to death. The local Council of Laodicea, about A.D. 363, passed this decree: 'Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But, if any be found to be Judaizing, let them be declared anathema from Christ.'

"The church *caused* them to be killed. When the church branded one 'anathema' (a heretic), the state police of the empire began torturing him. Unless he recanted, he was tortured until he died!

"Laws became so strict no man could hold a job, or engage in busi-

ness, unless he worked on Saturday and rested on Sunday."

As the Roman Catholic Church becomes more unified, and wields increasing power, the time when that will happen again draws closer!

### That They May Be One

How important is it to the pope that the Orthodox churches come under his control?

In a May 25, 1995, address, "That They May Be One," John Paul stated, "How can unity be restored after almost a thousand years? This is the great task which the Catholic Church MUST ACCOMPLISH, a task equally incumbent on the Orthodox Church."

Many people, when they think of religious unity, think of *tolerance*. But religious unity and religious tolerance are not the same thing! Make no mistake: The pope does want unity, but tolerance isn't part of the equation.

This church is described as the "lady of kingdoms" in Isaiah 47:5. God exposes the mentality behind these efforts at unification: "And thou saidst, *I shall be a lady for ever* .... Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, *neither shall I know the loss of children*" (Isa. 47:7-8). Scripture reveals that a pope will attain religious unity before the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth.

The likelihood, though, is that John Paul II will not hold his office much longer. The 82-year-old pontiff suffers from Parkinson's disease, among other ailments. Some are gambling on whether he will still be pope in 2003, or whether he will choose to abdicate—assuming he is still alive.

And who will the next pope be? There is no clear answer to that, but we do know this: At present, a staunchly conservative John Paul II has chosen 117 of the 120 cardinals that will select the next pope, a fact that points to the likelihood that an even more conservative pontiff will succeed him.

This church appears benign. But in Revelation 13:11, God describes it as a

beast! It has the appearance of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ—but it speaks like a dragon!

Twenty years ago, Mr. Armstrong had the vision to write, "Bible prophecy says this European unification will be also a union of church and state (Rev. 17). Many European political leaders do not want religious domination, or even participation. But they are coming to realize they cannot be welded together into one great European super nation without the unifying power of the Catholic Church" (Member and co-worker letter, Nov. 22, 1982).

"And he [the church] exerciseth all the power of the *first beast* before him [the military power], and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast .... And he doeth great wonders ... And *deceiveth* them that dwell on the earth by the means of those *miracles* which he had power to do in the sight of the beast [this is clearly a *spiritual power*].

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that *as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed*" (Rev. 13:12-15).

On present indications, the Eastern Orthodox churches are moving toward yielding on papal leadership, though not yet on the doctrine of infallibility. But Bible prophecy does indicate, as we have seen, that the political entity of the Eurobeast will be ruled by *one* dominant church. This implies at least a compromise by the Orthodox churches in their 1,100-year resistance on the infallibility question.

The institution that emerges will be enormously powerful. First Europe will unite, both religiously and politically, and then it will seek to spread that unity over all the Earth.

But not for long. The Almighty God is about to intervene in the mess man has created on the Earth. Jesus Christ will return and establish His Kingdom. He will establish one pure religion. There will finally be a true *peaceful*, lasting religious unity, the likes of which has not been seen in history—but will be reality forevermore. ♦

**"How can unity be restored after almost a thousand years? This is the great task which the Catholic Church must accomplish, a task equally incumbent on the Orthodox Church."**

**POPE JOHN PAUL II**



# "It Won't Work Anymore"

Peace still eludes all efforts to achieve it in Northern Ireland. Will the Irish question ever be settled?

BY RON FRASER

**N**ORTHERN IRELAND IS HAVING A rough time. Revelations of the terrorist Irish Republican Army's (IRA) association with Colombian terrorists led to the arrest of three IRA members in Colombia. In October, a police raid on the offices of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm, revealed proof of that murky enterprise's involvement in spying against the British government. The British prime minister, Tony Blair, then closed down the Irish parliament, and home rule again ceased in Northern Ireland.

Finally, as the British newspaper *The Independent* declared, Prime Minister Blair, having played most of the appeasing cards in his hand, had "no choice but to be courageous" (quoted in *The Week*, Oct. 26). This comment applied to a somewhat assertive speech delivered by the prime minister in October in which he declared that the IRA must renounce violence for good or risk complete abandonment of the moribund Irish peace process. His speech centered on the "Good Friday Agreement," a virtual treaty between the British government, the Catholic IRA-Sinn Fein and the Protestant Ulster Unionists, the success of which is dependent upon IRA-Sinn Fein decommissioning its terrorist armory. He stated that this agreement could no longer carry on "with the IRA half in, half out of the process. It won't work anymore" (ibid.).

But the prime minister stopped short of demanding that the IRA disband, a move that *The Independent* claimed "would be a huge step for them, yet there is no other obvious step available to them" (ibid.).

IRA-Sinn Fein have always got their way in the end. The hint of further appeasement by the British government was obvious to some. *The Week* summed up the reaction of London's *Daily Telegraph* to Blair's speech, "[H]e

still seems keener on dangling carrots before Sinn Fein-IRA than using the sticks available to him. He held out the prospect of dismantling Britain's military presence in Ulster, while making no mention of the IRA's alleged spying activities or its adventures in Colombia. Nor were specific sanctions mentioned, should the republicans choose violence over democracy" (ibid.).

To whom can the British government turn to save face and seek a solution to the Irish question?

There is an avenue available which would enable the British government to wash its hands of the matter and at the same time appeal to IRA-Sinn Fein, though not to the Ulster Unionists.

Britain and the Republic of Ireland (southern Ireland) are both current members of the European Union. Within the context of the various EU treaties they have signed, both nations have a right of appeal to the European Court. In fact, within the terms of the EU treaties, the EU may intervene in such a conflict between member nations to settle it. If this were to happen, and if the EU were to interpose itself perhaps via its rapid reaction force replacing the British military presence in Ulster in a peace keeping role, then a whole new scenario opens up.

## Ireland's Prophetic Roots

IRA-Sinn Fein will not give in. They are the offspring of the ancient Danites, that old Israelite tribe condemned for their idolatry. Scripture refers to them as having rather unique tendencies. "Dan shall be a *serpent* by the way, an *adder* in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward" (Gen. 49:17).

What does this scripture mean? Note the marginal reference in the *Authorized King James*. An *adder* is referred to in the margin as "an arrow-snake." There is *duality* in this analogy. The *arrow snake* refers to Dan's peculiar habit of marking his way. Every Boy Scout is familiar with the practice of marking trails with arrows to assist those who follow to identify the correct path. Dan simply left behind the patriarchal name as a marker "by the way," making it relatively easy to iden-



**SOLUTION?** Will these UK soldiers in N. Ireland one day be replaced by European soldiers?

tify the wandering route of this tribe's migrations from the Middle East to Western Europe and the British Isles.

However, there is yet another aspect to this scriptural analogy. This *arrow snake*, once commonly sighted in the Middle East, was noted for its ability to hide in ruts and holes in the road or "by the way." It would remain concealed in such positions, then *suddenly* leap out and *strike* its prey. With horse-borne wayfarers, the arrow snake could strike with *lightning swiftness* at the horse's hocks. The startled animal would often rear in fright, tossing its rider backward onto the road.

This character trait of Dan shows *cunning*, *deceit* and *subterfuge* as his strengths in attack. *Classic guerrilla tactics!* Not unlike the terrorist tactics of the IRA, as they lie in wait, seeking to spring at any moment to rattle the British government's appeasing methods of seeking peace in Ulster!

## A European Solution?

Britain's prime minister is in a bind with the threat of the failure of his attempts to obtain a solution to the Irish question. Will he play the EU trump card to get his government off the hook? There are some intriguing prophecies that indicate this possibility—and its *outcome!*

The Prophet Jeremiah lived anciently in southern Ireland and built a famous law school at Tarah. Jeremiah's prophecy to the house of Israel, most significantly Britain in this end-time context, seems to point very directly to the Danite Irish-Celtic tactics, exemplified by IRA-Sinn Fein in their horrific terror campaigns. "For, behold, I will send *serpents*, cockatrices, *among you*, which will not be charmed, and they shall *bite* you, saith the Lord" (Jer. 8:17). Here



# Aftereffects of an Election

again is that inference to Dan's serpent-like tactics biting his enemy. The modern-day bite is delivered by bullets and DEADLY PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES!

And yet, in verse 16, we see a military force of such capacity emanating from Dan that it literally "devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein."

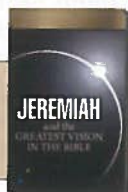
The Irish-Celtic Danites do not, of themselves, possess such power, nor the propensity to develop it. Jeremiah's prophecy, however, indicates that the final resurrection of the old "holy" Roman Empire, even now forming in Europe, will, having settled on the island of Ireland, swarm in a great blitzkrieg across Britain! "The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein" (v. 16).

Could it be possible that, as a last resort, worn down by the cruelly tenacious tactics of an incorrigible enemy, Britain might turn to the EU for deliverance from the plague of Irish terror? Such a scenario is entirely conceivable. And if it does happen, it is just possible that Britain will pull its troops out from tramping Northern Irish soil and hand over the peacekeeping in Ulster to that force which was ostensibly created for peace-keeping missions *with the British government's total endorsement*; the new European rapid reaction force!

Should such a situation become a reality, then, with its troops already deployed in Ireland, the Eurobeast would find itself at a great strategic advantage when it is finally ready to pounce on Britain, in fulfillment of those ancient prophecies of Jeremiah.

Even as the final resurrection of the "holy" Roman Empire rises up before our eyes in Europe, watch Northern Ireland for the end game that may reveal Ulster as the foothold by which Britain's traditional enemy from Europe, frustrated in past attempts to take Britain via the English Channel, finally gains purchase of old England—that "green and pleasant land" long denied Rome but ever claimed by the papacy as "Mary's dowry." ◆

For more on these prophecies, request your free copy of our booklet on **Jeremiah**.



**ODD BEDFELLOWS** Fischer (left) and Schröder listening to a debate in the German Parliament.

Germany's September election put a weak and unpopular government back in power. But it also provided a glimpse at where the country is headed.

BY RON FRASER

**H**AD IT NOT BEEN FOR JOSCHKA Fischer's Green Party, in all likelihood Germany today would have a right-wing chancellor at its helm. But that was not to be. Germany's most popular politician, the socialist leader of the country's "environmentally conscious" Green Party, rallied his troops to gain 55 seats in the Bundestag to help edge Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's incumbent Red-Green coalition back into power.

In fact, Edmund Stoiber, heading the Christian Democratic Union-Christian Socialist Union (CDU-CSU) combine, pegged the same percentage share of the total German electorate as Schröder's Social Democrats, tying at 38.5 percent!

Thus, Schröder barely *scraped* back into the German chancellorship, courtesy of a good electoral boost from his Green partner, Joschka Fischer.

## Eyelash Victory

The Institute for Public Affairs (IPA) published an apt comment on the result:

"The *eyelash* victory of German Chancellor Schröder's left coalition government in the September 22 parliamentary elections was *motored in more ways than one* by the Green Party's leader, Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor Joschka Fischer, the most popular politician in opinion polls" (*In These Times*, Oct. 28; emphasis mine throughout).

As the dust settled following the hype of election, it was the IPA that most correctly analyzed the influence behind Chancellor Schröder's marginal win over his right-wing opponent, Edmund Stoiber. "*Fischer is the man who tamed the Greens' fundamentalist pacifism and engineered the sending of German troops to the Balkans and Afghanistan.* But armed with polls showing the U.S.-planned war on Iraq overwhelmingly unpopular, he got credit for *persuading the ever poll-sensitive Schröder to make German refusal to participate in any military operation against Iraq a central theme of the campaign*—an issue that dominated the campaign's final weeks to Schröder's advantage.

"And when devastating floods ravaged Germany in August, it was the Greens—with a record of warnings about flood dangers—whose control of the Environment Ministry gave the government credibility in its response" (*ibid.*). It was just left to Schröder to call out the TV cameras and stomp through knee-deep water in mud boots. The result? He got the sympathy vote!





**THE CHANCELLOR'S CONSTITUENTS** Men protest in Berlin against a possible U.S. showdown with Iraq. Schröder capitalized on anti-American sentiment in the lead-up to the election.

### Crucial Appointment

Fortune then shone on Fischer, who had coveted a front-line role influencing future EU foreign policy within the German government. Through the vote gained by his party, the Greens, Fischer had delivered the chancellorship to Schröder. It was time for the re-elected chancellor now to deliver. This he did on October 17, announcing that he was naming Joschka Fischer as Germany's new representative to the European Convention. The convention, established earlier this year, is now drafting a constitution to be published in 2003.

The Berlin newspaper *Tagesspiegel* reported that "Fischer won the post under terms of a new coalition pact signed Wednesday between his Greens party and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats (SPD). Fischer is thus expanding his influence over European Union (EU) policy in the Schröder government" (*Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, Oct. 17).

The previous incumbent in the position of Germany's delegate to the convention, Peter Glotz, stated, "This is an excellent solution. *When the biggest member of the EU makes its foreign minister government representative ... it shows what great importance Germany accords the future European constitution*" (*ibid.*).

Perhaps the greatest significance of Fischer's appointment to the convention on the future of Europe is that, in many ways, he is the *father* of it.

"[A] political mega-star joined the convention in the shape of Germany's foreign minister, Mr. Joschka Fischer. Mr. Fischer is not only one of the most charismatic politicians in Europe; he can also claim with some justification to be *the intellectual father of the convention*.

"In a speech at Berlin's Humboldt University 2½ years ago, Mr. Fischer called for a constitutional treaty to determine what should be decided in Brussels and what should be left to national governments. He predicted that an enlarged EU would only function properly if there was 'a constitutional re-foundation of Europe.'

"Regarded as fanciful at the time, Mr. Fischer's speech now appears *prophetic*, and he is clearly determined to ensure that the opportunity for *radical reform* presented by the convention should not be missed" (*Irish Times*, Nov. 5). Fischer's appointment to the European Convention will permit him to powerfully influence convention members to sway the new European constitution's language in favor of *German interests*.

### Influencing Policy

"Gerhard Schröder, the German chancellor, formed a new government yesterday and unveiled an agenda which could lead to new conflicts with the European Union. Mr. Schröder's Social Democrats and the Greens, re-elected last month on a wafer-thin majority, signed a coalition pact to increase borrowing in defiance of EU rules. They

said they would also introduce higher taxes and spending cuts. The 88-page agreement, reached after three weeks of talks, contained a plea to the EU to be 'flexible' in interpreting the Stability Pact" (*Independent*, London, Oct. 17).

The amazing thing is that it was the *Germans*, under Helmut Kohl's chancellorship, who put the squeeze on all other EU members to wriggle into the straightjacket of the EU Stability Pact, with its rigid financial and economic constraints and heavy penalties in case of breach of those constraints. But as the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention. So the mutable Germans, under extreme domestic pressure to revive an ailing economy, plan to simply *break the rules* of a pact which they largely *created*, and to *reject* the stiff penalties this would normally incur!

Obviously, high on Mr. Fischer's agenda will be a changing of the rules to allow greater flexibility in the Stability Pact. On this matter Fischer will be on firm ground, as *none* of the "big three" most influential on EU policy—France, Germany and Italy—are presently able to control their economies within the Pact's rules. *All* are presently in *breach* of them!

But the German government has a strategy to help bail their country out of its present economic woes as the nation slides into recession. One key policy area that Germany seeks to influence within the EU is *industrial* policy. Schröder sees the extension of German industry (particularly into the new eastern sector which the accession of 10 new Eastern European EU member nations in 2004 will provide) as being crucial to his country's economic recovery and resurgence. Fischer may now sit in the box seat, able to use his immense popularity back home, his gray-suited professional image and easy grace to win the hearts of his fellow Europhiles within the convention. Whether the coalition government, of which he is vice chancellor, survives to permit him to do so remains to be seen.

### German Nationalism Returns

A rocky road lies ahead within the ambit of the *foreign-affairs* aspect of Fischer's portfolio, most particularly in relation to the Atlantic alliance. The EU has significantly relied on American largess and U.S. military power for its security since World War II. But



what Washington has failed to see is that, behind closed doors, under the umbrella of the Atlantic alliance, unelected Brussels bureaucrats have been crafting a course for the European Union vastly at odds with the traditional Anglo-American view of the alliance.

A deep divide was created between Germany and America in the run-up to the German elections. This gap is destined to widen. The European Union is bent on a course that will lead, ultimately, to collision with its Western protectors—a *collision* with the most *horrifying* of results!

The strongest indications of the new overt German approach to asserting this difference were contained in the verbal cues inserted into Germany's pre-election debate. Old German invective was dusted off and brought out into the open after 57 years in the closet. A torrent of German anti-American sentiment spouted from the mouths of German leaders, tainted with an all-too-familiar anti-Semitic invective.

"Jurgen Mollemann of the Free Democrats spoke of the 'intolerant, spiteful style' of some prominent Jews. His remarks echoed the anti-Semitism already voiced by former Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping when he complained that Mr. Bush was trying to please 'a powerful, perhaps overly powerful, Jewish lobby'" (*National Review*, Nov. 11).

These anti-Semitic comments were matched by other German politicians with their scurrilous name-calling thrown at President Bush. "... Socialist Ludwig Stiegler suggested that our president was *akin to Julius Caesar*—the firebrand who destroyed centuries of republican government and sought to lay the foundations of Roman imperial rule. Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, the minister of justice, trumped that, declaring, 'Bush wants to divert attention from his domestic problems. *It's a classic tactic. It's one that Hitler also used*'" (ibid.).

As the *National Review* observed, such choices of vocabulary are particularly perplexing to Anglo-Americans, and they raise the prospect of *something palpably evil being resurrected from the ashes of World War II*.

"If even Socialists and leftists are reverting to the nomenclature of a half-century past, has the *specter of German nationalism and belligerence* really vanished?" (ibid.).



**PEACEBROKER?** Joschka Fischer (left) meets with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat August 2001. Fischer's international activities have increased his popularity back in Germany.

Victor Davis Hanson, who contributed the article in the *National Review* from which these quotes are taken, wondered whether Schröder's choice of vocabulary, using terms such as "*click their heels*" and the "German way," stressing Germany as a "modern" country (shades of 1930s Hitler), where decisions will be "*made in Berlin—and only in Berlin*," might not reveal a *repressed nostalgia for Germany's nationalist-socialist past!*

And herein lies the problem. As Hanson astutely observes, "If I were a Frenchman, Pole, Greek or Czech, I would re-examine very carefully the fashionable anti-Americanism of the Continent, dissect it, and determine what, in fact, are its real undercurrents and repercussions—before the spooky German rhetoric is turned on them ..." (ibid.).

#### Weimar Revisited?

The Soviet Union is gone. East and West Germany are united. Berlin is once again Germany's national capital. Traditional demands for *lebensraum* ("living room") are being met by stealth via the institutions of the EU, taking advantage of continuing relationships with the UN, NATO and the IMF, and of U.S. foreign-policy naivety. It takes little knowledge of the past century's history to wonder if, with an embattled, weakened chancellor at the helm of an ailing economy, increasing racial and social tension coupled with a political atmosphere within which

politicians feel sufficiently confident to spout anti-Semitic rhetoric, we indeed are seeing "shades of a weak and decadent Weimar—with the attendant *extreme reaction* to it *looming on the horizon*" (ibid.). It was the weakened economy of 1920s Germany (called the Weimar Republic from 1919-1933) that created conditions ripe for the populous to embrace the rigorous discipline of national socialism.

This same *extreme reaction* could bring down this government, allowing Edmund Stoiber a second run at the chancellorship in quick time. The release of the latest statistics revealing Germany's current economic woes "coincided with publication of an opinion poll which showed Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrat-Green coalition to have dropped in popularity to its lowest level for six months—down 6.5 points from the results it scored in September's general election .... The government is accused of covering up the extent of the nation's financial crisis, and has won no favor by breaking a pre-election promise not to raise tax rates" (*Daily Telegraph*, London, Nov. 14).

As Stoiber opines, this government, re-elected on the thinnest of margins and beset by many domestic policy woes, may be short lived. But its longevity may well depend on whether Schröder allows Fischer to take the high ground on *foreign-policy* issues, thus subsuming Germany's present economic and social difficulties into the political background.



However short its reign, Fischer may well be the key to this weakened coalition government's duration in office; his record indicates that. *Fischer* crafted the Balkan Stability Pact which has resulted in cobbling the Balkan Peninsula into the European Union's first colonial gain. *Fischer swayed the vote to allow German troops to be deployed in Kosovo, Macedonia and most recently Afghanistan* with the prospect that they may soon take over leadership of the peacekeeping force in the still-strife-torn region. *Fischer developed a peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians.*

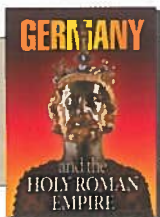
The one thing that Fischer has not yet been able to do is mend the post-election rift with the U.S. Last month, when Fischer arrived in Washington bent on issuing the apologies due for Germany's overt pre-election anti-Americanism, he got the cold shoulder.

As we go to press, with the NATO summit looming in Prague toward the end of November, it remains to be seen if Fischer can provide a sop to soothe U.S.-German relations so that some semblance of reasonable diplomacy may be preserved. Even so, from here on, the relationship between Germany and the U.S. will remain, for Germany, barely the last threads of a relationship of convenience.

Regardless of Schröder's weak domestic political position leading this fragile Red-Green coalition, the fact remains that with *Joschka Fischer* in the post of foreign minister and now also in the box seat at the European Convention, with *Jurgen Storbeck* as head of the new European federal police force, *Gen. Rainer Schuwirth* head of the EU's new military staff, *Horst Kohler* as head of the IMF and *Peter Woicke* chief of the International Finance Commission of the World Bank, the *modern Germany* sits in a seat of power and of increasing political influence, not only within Europe but on the *world scene!*

The question is, how long can this coalition government continue before Germany's present position of power on the world scene is compromised? Mr. Stoiber waits in the wings for the explosion. ◆

For more on Germany's history and future, request *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* today.



## Trading Places

The transatlantic trade war is heating up, revealing one superpower on the wane and another on the rise.

BY JASON HENSLEY

**I**N A RULING BY THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) in late August, the European Union was awarded the right to use a record \$4 billion in trade sanctions against the United States for its violation of trade agreements.

The 30-year dispute revolves around the U.S.'s Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) tax breaks. The ruling follows the WTO's decision in January that some aspects of the FSC are incompatible with WTO regulations.

Europe may find that it was worth putting up a fight for so long. It is increasingly finding itself in a commanding trade relationship with a powerful weapon—one that the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick compared to a *commercial atomic bomb*.

### Revealing History

The United States maintained a trade surplus (exports exceeded the value of imports) until the late 1960s. When a trade deficit appeared, the U.S. sought measures that would close this gap.

One avenue the U.S. pursued was to enact tax laws that would encourage companies to export more goods and services. The tax laws implemented during the 1970s were later found to be in violation of what the U.S. had agreed to under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the WTO's predecessor. In an effort to quell ongoing criticism over the illegal export subsidy, the Reagan administration created a new scheme called Foreign Sales Corporations. These too were found to be in violation of international trade agreements.

In 2000, the Clinton administration developed a solution: It modified the tax code so that it *appeared* as if the U.S.

was adhering to the trade agreements. In reality nothing substantially changed. What was implemented was just another smoke-and-mirrors scheme. Ironically, this is the same type of deceitful initiative that U.S. leaders have condemned when discussing Enron and other ethically corrupt companies.

These trade violations were what led to the WTO's \$4 billion ruling against the U.S.

Given this history, the strained relationship between the EU and the U.S. is no surprise. At issue is more than just a few isolated incidents. There are multiple significant trade disputes brewing between the U.S. and the EU right now.

### Current Disputes

Creating tension are the tariffs on steel imports that the Bush administration enacted in March. The U.S. steel industry, so vital for national security, has endured hard times for decades and is now in dire trouble.

High tariffs on foreign steel entering the U.S. make it less attractive to domestic buyers and force foreign steel producers to seek other markets. The EU fears that its delicate steel industry will be jeopardized. If outside producers of steel, denied access to the U.S., flood the Continent's markets, European companies may be forced to cut jobs, or close plants all together. The steel industry is just as critical to Europe as it is to America.

The Europeans responded to U.S. tariffs by threatening to impose tariffs on a short list of select U.S. products, such as Florida citrus and textiles produced in the Carolinas. If this were to occur, prices of these items would go up in Europe and consumers would simply switch to alternative products. The retaliatory tariffs would most likely trigger the cutting of jobs, which would be politically damaging for the American government. The U.S. averted this action by reaching a concession with the EU to grant a series of special exemptions to select European steel imports.

Meanwhile, the EU has filed another claim with the WTO alleging that America's recent steel protectionist measures violate the trade agreements the U.S. has signed. If the WTO rules in favor of the EU (as expected in March 2003), it could force the U.S. to withdraw its tariffs and abandon any special protection to its ailing steel industry.





**COMPETING INTERESTS** U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, left, and European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy meet in Washington in January to discuss taxes.

The smoldering conflict between the two great powers is also fanned by other trade disputes. (These trade issues are largely a result of measures that the U.S. has taken to curb its trade deficit.) Prime examples are the U.S. import duties levied on European uranium, and the \$51 billion the U.S. has promised to American farmers over the next six years. Then there is the debate that still rages—after a decade—over the EU ban of hormone-treated U.S. beef.

#### Economic Leverage

European-American trade problems are compounded by America's trade deficit and national debt. Europe could use this leverage over the next several months and years as these and other disputes climax.

Astute analysts can clearly see the danger. "The U.S. financial position is rapidly deteriorating, due mainly to America's persistent and growing trade deficit. U.S. ambitions to run the world, in other words, are heavily mortgaged. Like any debtor who borrows more year after year with no plausible way to reverse the trend, a nation sinking deeper into debt enters into an adverse power relationship with its creditors—greater and greater dependency" (*The Nation*, Sept. 23).

Europe, which holds a large portion of U.S. debt, retains more than a threat of using \$4 billion in trade sanctions against the U.S. It wields the power to call in a significant portion of America's

loans. In recent months, Saudi Arabia's wealthy private investors did just this when they recalled as much as \$200 billion in American debt. Undoubtedly this withdrawal weakened the dollar, but as *The Nation* pointed out in the same article, "If Asian money or Europe's were to undertake a similar exit, the financial quake would send damaging tremors through virtually every dimension of U.S. economic life."

This is the power that the EU, one of America's bankers, possesses. Currently it is showing restraint, but the question is, will Europe use its powerful economic weapons against the U.S.? An understanding of human nature and Bible prophecy shows that, under pressure of its own set of economic woes, it ultimately will.

#### Understanding

The one constant throughout history is *human nature*. General Patton, trying to educate his son in this principle, wrote to him in a letter on June 6, 1944, "To be a successful soldier you must know history. Read it objectively, dates and even minute details of tactics are useless. *What you must know is how man reacts. Weapons change, but the men who use them change not at all.*"

"All is vanity," is how King Solomon summed up the thinking of humankind apart from God. It is what consistently leads to war and suffering.

The Apostle James was inspired to write, "But every man is tempted, when

he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (James 1:14-15).

Lust and covetousness are not new. They are the same *causes* that have led to trade wars and hot wars throughout millennia. "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of YOUR LUSTS that war in your members?" (James 4:1).

The economic disputes between the U.S. and the EU are a result of human greed. Bible prophecy indicates that Europe is destined, this time, to come out on top.

The EU will undoubtedly use its economic advantage to place itself in a position of exalted power, as every other nation in the history of the world has done when given the opportunity.

How can we be sure?

The Bible reveals that a rising Europe will have tremendous wealth and economic power, but only for a short while (Rev. 13:4, 16-17; 18:11-15). In the context of trade war, Herbert W. Armstrong stated in 1985 that "Slowly but surely events are working toward a coming conflict between Europe and the United States as prophesied in the Bible" (Member and co-worker letter, May 16, 1985).

Seven years earlier, the magazine Mr. Armstrong founded, the *Plain Truth*, wrote that "Since the early 1950s, the editors of this magazine have warned that a devastating trade war would erupt among the free-world economies; that, as a result of the breakdown of international commerce and the real possibility of a worldwide economic depression, the very fabric of the post-World War II alliance structure would be ripped apart.

"We have warned of the likelihood of both a remilitarized Japan and a powerful United Europe, under German domination, that would ultimately stand apart from—and in opposition to—the United States.

"The stage is being set for these occurrences right now!" (April 1978).

The stage was being set then! Europe, as a political and economic power to offset the United States, is now a reality. Trade conflicts between these two great powers are destined to intensify.

Ultimately, trade war will explode into world war! ♦





**DANGER** Crews recover radioactive containers in former Soviet Republic of Georgia.

tive material. The canisters contain the radioactive isotope cesium 137, to which plants were exposed in secret Soviet-era tests to try and determine the effects of nuclear fall-out on crops. "According to intelligence officials, who fear the

radioactive material could fall into the hands of al-Qaeda, a single container would contaminate a small city and could kill hundreds of people" (*Scotland on Sunday*, Nov. 17). The area would potentially be uninhabitable for decades.

Since the 9/11 attacks, the cause for concern has grown further "with the discovery by U.S. troops of detailed bomb-building instructions in Afghan caves used by al-Qaeda forces" (*Washington Post*, Nov. 11).

The main problem in the drive to recover the canisters is that nobody seems to know where they are. "[T]he search is hampered by a lack of funding and a dearth of information. None of the cesium devices is known to have been stolen, but in some Central Asian states there are no records showing how many of the devices exist or what has happened to them" (*ibid.*). Recent sweeps of Georgia and Moldova by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) turned up fewer than 10 canisters. An IAEA official summed up the dismal situation with, "It is a race against time. We have to get to these canisters before al-Qaeda" (*op. cit.*).

◆ RUSSIA

## Ties with EU

In a move that will strengthen the relationship be-

tween Russia and the European Union, the Russian prime minister signed a deal last month to exchange Russian debt for Eurobonds.

Russian news agency Interfax reported that Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov "signed a resolution ... that opens the way for the exchange of adjusted Soviet-era commercial debt amounting to \$1.1 billion for Eurobonds" (*Business Report*, Nov. 18).



KASYANOV

This deal fully regulates the last part of the debt remaining from the Soviet economy's collapse in the past decade. It has taken 10 years to finally deal with the problem. With the EU—in particular its leading economic power, Germany—already being the prime investor in Russia, this latest deal only further cements their commercial relationship.

One of the concerns of hegemonic European leaders in the past (witness Napoleon and Hitler) has been addressing the question of how to secure their eastern front while they consolidated western territorial gains. With the German-dominated EU expanding via trade and commerce, rather than Germany's traditional method of war (for the time being), this attachment of Russian debt to Eurobonds further consolidates the diplomatic and economic nexus between Russia and the EU. As the future will confirm, this will simply help stabilize the EU's eastern front while it builds the eastward leg of its empire, absorbing the buffer states of Eastern Europe in May 2004 (see this month's cover story, p. 2).

Yet the burning question still remains: Where will EU

eastward expansion stop? The Ukraine would be a pretty good guess. For Russia to give up the breadbasket of its old empire would be suicidal. Watch for ructions over the future drawing of the line between Russia and the EU's eastward push.

◆ ASIA

## Third global power?

China recently made a move that was a first in its long history: It proposed creating a Free Trade Area between itself and its Association of South East Asian (ASEAN) neighbors. This is the first time, as the *Korea Herald* pointed out, that China "has found common interest to engage all the Southeast Asian countries constructively to talk about cooperation, instead of quarreling on issues such as the rival claims in the Spratlys" (Nov. 9). The ground is shifting in Asia.

Globalization has seen unexpected ripples of *regionalization* spread around the world—most evident among EU nations—and Asia is no exception. It is becoming apparent that in an increasingly interconnected world, regions that can extend their power *collectively* will become much more prominent than the nation that stands alone. As the *Herald* pointed out, "There is a growing realization that if ASEAN and East Asian countries do not step up trade and economic cooperation, they may be marginalized" (*ibid.*).

At a China/ASEAN summit in Cambodia on November 4, China and the 10 ASEAN nations signed a Framework Agreement on comprehensive economic cooperation, to be negotiated in detail over

◆ WORLD

## Nuclear worries

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union produced tens of thousands of radioactive devices for a variety of uses. Since the 1991 collapse of the USSR, many of these were simply abandoned as a result of a lack of funds needed to secure the state facilities. It is suspected that post-Soviet poverty tempted nuclear workers to sell materials. In the past decade, numerous worrying reports have emerged about the "leakage" of some of these nuclear devices and materials, many of which have seemingly disappeared. Where are they now, and are they secure?

Recently, several reports have speculated on the answers to these questions—and shown that there is cause for serious concern.

One top Russian official reported in November that several kilograms of low-enriched uranium and a few grams of weapons-grade material were stolen from Russian nuclear sites over the past decade. Also, nuclear experts are rushing to recover an unknown number (estimated between 100 and 1,000) of missing radioactive canisters that could be used by terrorists to build "dirty bombs"—which use conventional explosives to scatter radioac-



the next decade. The proposed free-trade zone is expected to cover "1.7 billion consumers, a combined gross domestic products of us\$2 trillion and \$1.2 trillion of trade volume" (Xinhua News Agency, Nov. 13)—which would make it the world's largest free trade area.

Where does this leave Japan, which continues to struggle with an economy badly damaged by the 1997 Asian financial crisis?

An event that failed to attract as much attention at the ASEAN summit was the highly significant steps taken by historical rivals Japan, China and South Korea toward creating their *own* free trade area. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi noted that he envisaged ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea (comprising a third of the world's markets and making up 20 percent of global trade) emerging as a major driving force in the global economy. He went so far as to say that "Northeast Asian cooperation would call for an end to the sense of rivalry between Japan and China and the beginning of a new age of partnership and co-existence" (*Business Times*, Singapore, Nov. 6).

There are rumblings of change in Asia. Do these events portend the beginning of a unified Asian bloc,



**LANDMARK EVENT** China's premier signs the agreement at the China/ASEAN November summit.

preparing to emerge as a third, great regional world power?

## ◆ EUROPE

### High-tech separation

European integration has taken great strides over the past few years. But each step forward is a step away from the old U.S.-dominated Atlantic alliance which forged the closest of ties between America and Europe during the Cold War years.

Europeans now have their own government, their own parliament, their own judiciary, a federal currency, their own police force and are about to launch their own army. In less than 18 months they plan to add 10 more countries to their ranks. In addition, they are in the process of drafting a new European constitution. All this has taken less than 10 years to bring together.

But true independence from U.S. domination cannot be achieved until the EU separates its information technology from the prying eyes of U.S. surveillance. So the EU is now moving to separate its IT processes from dependence on U.S.-developed systems.

Already working on a separately developed equivalent to the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) and having moved to transfer its computer-based operations from the American Microsoft operating system to a European-developed system, the European Union has now gone one step further. *It is making plans for an EU Internet domain—the .eu suffix for Internet websites.* "The [European] Commission says .eu will complement the existing constellation of so-

called Top Level Domains (.int, .org, .de, etc.), giving users who operate in several European countries a distinctly European identity and relieving them of the burden of registering multiple country code domains. Brussels also claims .eu would indirectly increase consumer confidence among European Internet users, since *European law, data and consumer protection rules would apply to .eu sites*" (*Deutsche Welle*, Sept. 16; emphasis ours).

This is just another step for the EU in the direction of independence from the U.S. The gulf between the old Cold War protector of Europe and its traditional anti-communist allies in Europe is growing ever wider. Watch for further cracks in the Atlantic alliance to appear as the EU, increasingly influenced by a newly assertive wave of anti-Americanism, creates an ever-wider geopolitical gulf between its expanding federal union and its old benefactor.

## ◆ HEALTH

### Bad for bugs and people

British parents have been warned to peel fruits and vegetables, especially potatoes, after a report produced by the Pesticide Residues Committee revealed that about 30 percent of commonly eaten food tested contained pesticide residues.

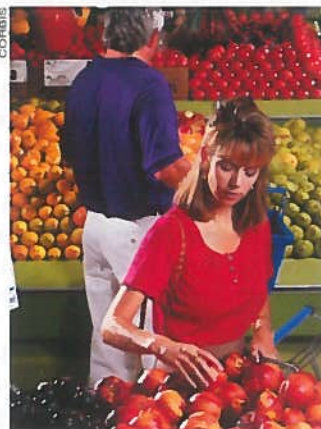
Of the 21 different types of items tested, 14 were found to have at least one pesticide on or in them. A number had more than one, raising concern about possible cumulative effects over time.

The advice to peel fruits and vegetables before giving

them to small children had been originally issued by the chief medical officer in 1997, but was withdrawn early in the year after the Food Standards Agency decided that pesticide residue levels had improved sufficiently. However, tests conducted from April through June this year found that 54 potato samples (out of 103) had traces of pesticides, of which 36 had levels of the herbicide chlorpropham (known to have a toxic effect on laboratory animals) that "could" be above a safety level for humans if cooked unpeeled.

Eight out of 75 pears tested exceeded the minimum safety limit for humans of the fungicide folpet, a possible carcinogen. In addition, while processed baby food is required, by British law, to be free of pesticide residues, many of the fruits used in baby food were found to be contaminated.

This situation simply attests to the legacy of a century of monoculture, artificial forcing of the land, mass ap-



**CAREFUL** Examining produce

plication of chemical fungicides and pesticides and a general loss of the knowledge of ancient, traditional farming practices compatible with care of the natural environment. The effect of these accumulated practices is taking a heavy toll on the health of nations.





# The Iron Fist

**POWER GRAB** Mugabe supporters celebrate days before his March election victory.

Robert Mugabe pins the blame for Zimbabwe's woes on British colonialism, and his disciples love him for it. But his despotism is plunging the country into a new holocaust.

BY ANDREW HESSONG

**F**OR 12-YEAR-OLD DORA, WHO LIVES in a rural town in Zimbabwe, the nightmare began when a Land Rover full of men pulled up to her house around 10 p.m. one night in June. Five "war veterans" and a local police constable jumped out of the vehicle and entered the house. For the next four hours, the men forced Dora's mother and younger sisters to sing praises to their "leader"—Marxist President Robert Mugabe—as they took turns raping the preteen girl. Every time Dora's mother or siblings stopped singing, the men beat them with sticks and heavy whips.

According to Dora, as the men defiled her they said, "This is the punishment for those of you who want to sell this country to Tony Blair and the whites."

Dora's horrifying ordeal actually began in March, when her village voted against Mugabe in the presidential elections. Unbeknownst to the townspeople, who at that time believed they lived in a country where they could support whichever political party they wanted and for that reason voted for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), rape had become the latest weapon of choice among radical supporters of Mugabe's Zanu-PF political party.

Dora (whose name has been changed to protect her privacy) is one

of hundreds of girls—some as young as 12 or 13—who are being violated in the fields and mountains of rural Zimbabwe every month as part of Mugabe's war on his own people. Human rights workers call his latest actions a "systematic political cleansing of the population" (*Sunday Times*, Sept. 1).

Many of the abducted girls are taken to camps run by Mugabe's youth militia, the Green Bombers. These camps were set up before the elections to train teenage boys to harass the MDC. With unemployment soaring and half the country facing starvation, increasing numbers of youths are being enticed to join the militia by false promises of large payments of money. (The food and beer they receive instead is incentive to stay.) At the camps, these girls are beaten and abused, sometimes mutilated, and often used as sex slaves.

The sex crimes committed against women in these militia camps are bad enough, but in Zimbabwe there is an additional, fatal side to the suffering of rape victims: With nearly 40 percent of the population being HIV positive, the molestation is often a death sentence.

Tragically, these atrocities don't receive much attention. They go largely unreported in Africa because a daughter who has been violated is often thought to bring shame on the family and afterward is viewed as "damaged goods." What's more, the pressure to keep silent is especially intense in a tyrannical nation where the

police are at times the ones carrying out the crimes.

Incensed that so many of "his" people voted for the MDC and against him in elections—which he well knows were fraudulent—and further agitated by the international community's appeals for a re-run, 78-year-old Mugabe has sought revenge in the most horrendous way.

## An Issue of Land

Following his re-election in March, the despot, who has controlled Zimbabwe since its independence in 1980, warned the MDC, "We will make them run. If they haven't run before, we will make them run now." Mugabe has already used a myriad of tactics to do just that.

Why is Mugabe harming his own citizens? Why will he stop at nothing to remain in power?

During the recent Heroes' Day celebrations commemorating the guerrilla war against white rule in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), Mugabe revealed part of the answer. He said, "We, the principled people of Zimbabwe, we, the true owners of this land, shall not budge. We shall not be deterred on this one vital issue—the land. The land is ours" (CNN, Aug. 12).

Mugabe is determined to remove white colonialists from "his" land. In his view, any vestige of colonialism, including any form of British rule or influence, must be eradicated. This objective can only be achieved by him maintaining absolute control of the country using whatever means necessary.

Mugabe has received some criticism from the international community and the United Nations, but so far no group or nation has been willing to effectively deal with the situation by taking strong action. Meanwhile, Mugabe continues to shake his iron fist defiantly against all who oppose him.

At the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, Mugabe blasted Britain and the U.S. for criticizing his regime and demanding that the rule of law should prevail. He told world leaders that Zimbabwe was ready to "shed blood" to defend its reforms.

## Breaking the Agricultural Backbone

Over this past year Mugabe's government has approved the seizure of at least 5,200 white-owned farms in an ef-



fort to undo what he termed the “damage” caused by British colonialism. While the decree was being challenged in court as being unconstitutional, Mugabe encouraged his self-styled “war veterans” to invade farms illegally, which resulted in violence and the deaths of a number of white farmers and landowners.

Since that time, another presidential election has come and gone, and Mugabe has moved his farm-seizure policy into high gear. This program, combined with prolonged drought in southern Africa, has devastated Zimbabwe’s once-thriving agricultural economy.

The October 23 edition of *Business Day* (Johannesburg) reported that approximately 94 percent of the black farmers who have settled on the seized white-owned farms do not yet have any maize seed for planting this spring; more than half of the farmers don’t know whether they will get any at all before the planting season comes to an end. Maize is the staple food of most Zimbabweans. The newspaper stated that this has happened “despite the fact that throughout the past two years the Zanu-PF government has promised the new ‘settlers’ on white-owned farms that they would ensure they got seeds, implements, training and even tractors.”

Months ago, the MDC and the white farmers warned Mugabe’s government that removing the highly mechanized, exporting farms would ruin the nation economically. These warnings went unheeded. Mugabe “redistributed” the white-owned farms without the economic means to subsidize black farmers in purchasing seed, fertilizer, machines and other equipment needed to sustain the country’s agricultural output.

This problem has resulted in massive societal breakdown. Because of Zimbabwe’s slide toward lawlessness, and the upsurge in political violence, on top of the decline in agricultural output, 99 percent of foreign investment has vanished. “Each time Mugabe opens his mouth, investor confidence in Zimbabwe nose-dives. ... It is difficult to envisage how a country can ever win back investor confidence on the back of these endless land seizures and threats to nationalize firms,” said a Harare-based stockbroker (*Business Report*, Sept. 20).

As October ended, so did the tobacco season, making the situation even worse. Tobacco is Zimbabwe’s main foreign-currency earner, bringing in one third of the annual hard cash receipts which the economy relies upon. In 1999, Zimbabwe and Brazil were the largest tobacco exporters in the world. Today, of the 1,500 farmers growing the commodity in Zimbabwe a year ago, only about 350 or so remain.

The economy is being sucked into a black hole, with unemployment at 70 percent and inflation at a staggering



140 percent. Reminiscent of the collapse of the deutschmark in the 1920s, it requires ever-increasing amounts of Zimbabwean dollars to buy anything. The problem is being exacerbated as Zimbabwean bank notes are in increasingly shorter supply as black marketers and money launderers hoard

the untraceable bank notes in order to buy hard currency. The currency shortage has also crippled the government’s ability to pay for fuel imports, leaving the vital transportation sector parked in fuel lines.

Any objective onlooker can clearly see that it is the political situation and the removal of the agricultural backbone of the Zimbabwean economy that has left Zimbabwe in ruins. Mugabe’s “land reform process,” which was touted as the riposte to “oppressive” British colonialism and which was promised to benefit the black majority greatly, is instead bringing much of the country to the brink of starvation.

David Cronin of the *European Voice* wrote, “The situation in Zimbabwe is especially desperate. Not long ago the country was regarded as the ‘grain store’ of Africa. Yet ... projections for the 2001-02 seasons indicate that cereal production could decline by almost 70 percent and maize production by 77 percent, when compared to 1999-2000” (Oct. 17-23).

Though there is a pretense of normalcy in the capital city of Harare—a new airport terminal, working traffic signals, shiny new BMWs cruising the boulevards, street cafes serving gourmet cappuccinos—the warning signs are seen in the long lines for bread, sugar and fuel, the absence of maize from food stores, and the number of people loitering around unemployed.

## The New Holocaust

Already, some experts predict that drought, AIDS and famine—the latter two problems exacerbated by Mugabe’s “political cleansing” and land-reform policies—will eventually exact a death toll of 6 to 7 million Zimbabweans, or half the country’s total population. Because the number of expected deaths is even higher than the number of Jews killed by Hitler’s World War II Nazi regime, some observers are calling the situation in Zimbabwe “the new Holocaust.”

Yet, no nation or international force will raise a hand to stop Mugabe. Food aid agencies from all over the globe are rushing to rescue the population only to be handcuffed by the Mugabe regime. Accusing the nongovernmental aid agencies (NGOs) of supporting and promoting the MDC, Mugabe enforced the Private Voluntary Organizations Act of 1997, requiring all NGOs to register with the government. He has also passed laws giving the Zanu-PF-run Grain Marketing Board a full monopoly on import of staple grains.

Those without Zanu-PF cards are not being permitted to purchase maize from the board, says the *Observer* of May 26. A report by the Danish group Physicians for Human Rights “accuses the president’s supporters of denying food to tens of thousands of people in drought-stricken areas, where millions are facing food shortages because they backed the MDC.” The doctors told of Zanu-PF headmen manning a food distribution point at one particular school who made it clear that the food was not for the MDC children, because it was Zanu food.

In another instance, food was promised as a reward for Zanu-PF votes. Many voted Zanu-PF; but since being voted in, the party has reneged on its election promise. A few received food, but most are starving as the situation deteriorates by the day.

The World Food Program halted food delivery of grain after Zanu-PF supporters raided a three-ton consignment for the Insiza region and quickly distributed it to their supporters as part of their political campaign. The Zimbabwean government turned on the aid agency in anger and accused them of being used by the West in a hate campaign against the nation.



Who's to Blame?

Through tirades in his domestic and international speeches, Mugabe lashes out at Britain, blaming it for the current suffering of and injustice toward the people of Zimbabwe. However, many of Zimbabwe's population cannot make that illogical connection. At no time during the rule of Ian Smith or Britain do they recall such high unemployment, starvation and political torture.

The fact is, the population as a whole enjoyed greater blessings under the rule of the "oppressive" British.

Nearly 60 percent of the Zimbabwe population are under age 30 and have no recollection of life under British rule. Most of those who have not been indoctrinated with the Zanu-PF hatred of colonialism, and particularly those who live in urban centers, cannot relate to evils of "white imperialism." While watching Mugabe's government officials parade around in new Mercedes-Benz automobiles, they struggle to afford or even find food. One youth said, "[It's] not British imperialism that's doing that to us. That's our own government. For the young people in this country, Robert Mugabe stands accused" (*Washington Post*, March 1).

Those who oppose Mugabe find themselves in the same category as the white farmers who opposed the land seizures: "enemies of the state," or "pawns for the white man." Or, as Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the MDC, has been labeled, "a white man masquerading as a black," or a "tea boy for his white boss" (*ibid.*).

Unwilling to bow to a people that opposes his goals, Mugabe has had to show his true colors—a dictator in the guise of a "democratically" elected communist/socialist. He took drastic action and began "systematic political cleansing of the population." To heighten his chances of winning the presidential election, Mugabe had the voting laws altered. Only those who could prove they rented or owned their own home or could present a utility bill in their own name could vote. With 70 percent unemployment, most young people are forced to live at home, thus disqualifying them from voting.

Mugabe also unleashed bands of "war veterans," many of whom are too young to have fought in the 1970s independence war, along with gangs of

youth trained to be more "patriotic" in Mugabe's youth camps, to roam areas of known MDC support terrorizing, raping, maiming and in some cases killing MDC supporters. Between February 2001 and February 2002, approximately 125 Zimbabweans were killed in political violence.

Laws were enacted to restrict freedom of expression, association and assembly. Journalists, foreign and domestic, are now required to obtain accreditation from the government. Over the past year, a large number of journalists were refused accreditation because they were perceived as tools of the "Western imperialists" and as being responsible for Robert Mugabe's negative international image.

Early in Mugabe's land-reform process, some turned to the justice system. Shortly thereafter, the world witnessed the forced resignation of the country's white chief justice, Anthony Gubbay, along with four other justices.

In February, the *Daily News*, Zimbabwe's sole independent daily newspaper, was damaged in a bomb attack along with a private printing firm, the Daily Press, which had been producing flyers for the MDC. In 2001, Information Minister Jonathan Moyo had vowed that the government would silence the newspaper once and for all for its carrying of opposition political advertising material. In August this year, the private radio station Voice of the People was silenced by a bomb blast that completely incinerated its offices in Harare.

At what point will Mugabe halt this madness? The fact is, he and his cronies are willing to take the country to rock bottom. They speak of "taking the system back to zero" and of drastically reducing the 12 million population. Last August, the Zanu-PF organization secretary, Didymus Mutasa, said, "We would be better off with only 6 million people, with our own people who support the liberation struggle" (*Sunday Times*, *op. cit.*).

Elusive Solution

Is there any hope? After Mugabe, then what?

When Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980, many thought self-government would be the solution to the country's perceived woes. Instead, Zimbabwe has deteriorated dramatically to where it is today: a sickly country teeter-

ing on the brink of collapse, economically and financially, politically and socially. Tyranny, disease, starvation and exploitation is the story of the nation.

One man's rule over the past two decades has largely destroyed Zimbabwe. Horrifically administered, the leadership which at first embodied the hope of the country has itself destroyed hope.

But would the MDC provide the answer? Indeed, can any human government solve such acute problems? "What experience and history teach is that people and governments never have learned anything from history or acted on principles from it" (Hegel, *Biography of History*). Throughout history, the rule of mankind has time and time again tended to tyranny.

Why have human beings proven incapable of righteous leadership? "The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good*" (Ps. 53:1). Refusal to acknowledge the government of God is why human leadership ultimately fails.

But, God is not unaware of mankind's incapability to rule: "If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be a higher than they" (Eccl. 5:8).

And this power "higher than they" will come to the rescue of mankind's inept rulership (Isa. 35:3-4). Christ will return to this Earth to implement the only form of government that will provide national solutions. Then, the corrupt, sick, starving nations of Africa such as Zimbabwe will blossom abundantly (vv. 1, 6).

These nations will learn the right way to live, "for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3). There will be no more civil war, no more tribal violence. Rather, the people will "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks ... neither shall they learn war any more" (v. 4).

Then, no government will take advantage of its own peoples (Isa. 9:6-7). There will be no more political cleansing, intimidation, torture, rapes or discrimination. Never again will a power-hungry, inhumane dictator be able to hold to ransom his own land. ◆

• With reporting by ERIC ANDERSON



# Terror in the Southeast

The attack in Bali shows why Indonesia matters.

BY RYAN MALONE

**I**NDONESIA: THE FOURTH MOST POPULOUS nation in the world; the most populous Islamic country; home to rich resources like petroleum, natural gas, oil, coffee, copper and gold; and now, a hub for terrorism.

The October 12 attack in the nightclub district of Bali—a hotspot for Western tourists—brought to light the fact that Indonesia is a vital al-Qaeda stronghold.

This country is no stranger to conflict. Separatist violence has raged there, especially since President Kemsu Suharto left office in May 1998. But, despite its enormous Muslim population, militant Islam has not been a major threat to Indonesia's stability.

The Bali attack, which killed nearly 200 people, changed all that.

It is true that Muslims in Southeast Asia are more tolerant and pluralistic than those in any other Muslim nation. When Arab traders came to the area in the 13th century, they converted many of the natives to Islam. Though these Muslims resided in an area with Buddhists, Hindus and Christians, they learned to live in relative harmony and tolerance with them.

However, there exist four vocal, extremist minority groups that believe one or more of the following: that liberal Indonesian Muslims have erred from strict Islamic law; that they must wage a spiritual *jihād* throughout the archipelago either through peaceful or non-peaceful means; and that an Islamic state must be set up in southern

Asia incorporating Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the southern part of the Philippines and Thailand, and even the northern part of Australia.

When Suharto took over the country in the mid-1960s, he was befriended by the West for helping them stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. He even backed Muslim groups to achieve that end—but always remained able to repress Islamic extremism.

When economic troubles and internal rioting forced Suharto to step down four years ago, numerous conflicts erupted—and it was only a short time before radical Islam took hold of the nation.

## A Prediction Fulfilled

Despite the fact that the majority Muslim faction is *moderate*, nearly all Muslims in Indonesia are angry about the United States' policy in Israel. This—combined with poor living conditions affected by a high birthrate, illiteracy, economic turmoil and low productivity—factors into the formula for the rise of radical Islam.

That is exactly what this magazine predicted would happen. In an article titled "Why Indonesia Matters," written just after Suharto relinquished power to B.J. Habibie, the *Trumpet* drew attention to the importance of this archipelago nation and the significance of these events: "In Suharto's absence and newly appointed President B.J. Habibie's per-



**FROM TOURISM TO TERRORISM** Indonesian forensic police inspect a destroyed building after the blast at Kuta beach.

ceived weakness, power-grabbing in Indonesia is the name of the game, and radical Islam may be closing in .... Even after Suharto's resignation, enormous forces of anarchy, especially radical Islam, remain active in the streets of Indonesia, only awaiting a spark to re-ignite them" (*Trumpet*, July 1998).

Suharto, through his dominant military, violently quelled any social or political protests. But now, violence reigns across the island bridge—inter-ethnic violence, violence from autonomy-seeking regions, anti-Chinese, anti-Communist, anti-Christian and anti-Islamic violence.

Another development since the close of the Suharto era has been increased piracy in Indonesian waters. This too was predicted in the *Trumpet*: "Indonesian society is in danger of completely unraveling, and that could potentially mean heavily armed 'rogue elements' breaking off from the Indonesian military to threaten international shipping in the world's busiest waterway .... In that event, a large portion of world trade is at risk. In fact, over half of all international shipping travels through Indonesian waters" (*ibid.*).

These waterways are some of the most important in the world, especially the Strait of Malacca. But they have also become the most dangerous. Increased piracy has been the major impetus behind the rapid expansion of several major navies in the region, including those of Indonesia, Japan and India.

"Time will tell if, in the absence of Suharto, a close relationship forms between Indonesian leaders and Islamic militants. If it does, the world could be in for real trouble!" (*ibid.*). This "close relationship" has been evident in Megawati Sukarnoputri's current government, which came to power in July





## ◆ INDONESIA

2001. Her vice president is sympathetic to the more radical views of Islam, and she has felt unable to crack down on militant sentiments while still keeping herself alive politically (though she did enact some tough anti-terrorism legislation immediately after the Bali attacks).

"Indonesia is like a ripe plum, just waiting to be picked and added to the radical Islamic camp. ... Watch Indonesia and the world of radical Islam! Great change is on the horizon!" (ibid.). Today we have evidence of a strong connection between the minds behind the September 11 attacks and those behind the attacks in Indonesia. The main culprit in the Bali attacks is Jemaah Islamiyah, recently identified by the U.S. State Department as an official terrorist organization with links to al-Qaeda.

Though the Bali bombing was clearly aimed at Western interests, the target being a prime destination for Australian tourists, Indonesia itself felt some serious consequences.

The tourism industry in Indonesia has significantly waned following the terror attack, with the Australian government now telling tourists to stay out of the country. As tourism had been Bali's major source of income, the absence of tourists is further damaging an already weak economy, which never regained strength after the economic fallout of 1997's Asian economic meltdown. And, in a vicious cycle, the deteriorating economy tends to encourage more militant Islamic sentiment. Sadly, Indonesia has become a breeding ground for disgruntled terrorists.

### Why Indonesia Matters

But why does all this matter?

Certainly this unrest and increased militancy among Islamic extremists barely measures a blip on America's nightly-news radar screens. Even when four Americans were killed in the Bali blast (along with nearly 90 Australians as well as other tourists), U.S. news broadcasts gave the attack maybe a minute for two or three evenings before going back to the story about which planes and intelligence devices the Pentagon would use to catch the Washington sniper.

But this is still big news outside the tunnel-visioned U.S. media. The truth

**"Al-Qaeda has taken advantage of the political instability, and has looked upon Indonesia as a new frontier."**

• ZACHARY ABUZA •

is, *Indonesia matters*. Asia has always known that. The Bali blast confirmed it.

Instability in Indonesia can mean instability for Asia—economically and strategically. The main reason has to do with Indonesia hosting so much of the world's trade traffic in its waters. For instance, oil shipped from the Middle East to nations like Japan (which obtains 75 to 80 percent of its oil from the Middle East) travels through Southeast Asia. Nearly 27 percent of China's foreign trade passes through these waters as well. Both Japan and China also receive many natural resources from Indonesia, as well as Australia.

Both have offered to help Indonesia in a limited manner since the attacks. Japan reacted immediately to the bombing, sending its Terrorist Response Team to help in the investigation. China offered to help arm the Indonesian military.

Other Asian nations are also very cognizant of the threat posed by Indonesian instability. In 1999, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus South Korea, China and Japan agreed that they would commit more firmly to protecting Indonesia's stability. This year, their two-day summit in November began with the release of a joint declaration on terrorism: "We resolve to intensify our efforts, collectively and individually, to prevent, counter and suppress the activities of terrorist groups in the region." In addition to their own countries being free from terror, they need Indonesia—the guardian of these priceless sea lanes—to be stable as well.

In the same month as the Bali attack, a series of bombings throughout the Philippines killed more than 20 people. During the past decade, Islamic extremists, especially al-Qaeda, have formed a second front for terrorism within Southeast Asia. The radi-

calization of Islamic cells within the region was triggered by the Afghan-Soviet war, where many hundreds of Muslims from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines joined the fight alongside the mujahideen (Islamic guerrilla fighters).

As Zachary Abuza of Simmons College observed (as quoted in *The Age*, Nov. 12), "The fact is, since the early 1990s, al-Qaeda has found Malaysia to be a convenient base for operations." (Malaysia is currently trying to disassociate itself from Islamic militancy, even to the point of possibly hosting a U.S.-planned counterterrorism center.) Indonesia, with its political and economic instability, was ripe for this too, as we suggested might happen in the *Trumpet* of July 1998. Abuza continued, "Al-Qaeda has taken advantage of the political instability, and has looked upon Indonesia as a new frontier."

### What Lies Ahead for Indonesia?

Because of its separatist violence, its growing rise in militant Islam, and its strong link with al-Qaeda, Indonesia has the eyes of the entire world. Be assured that the U.S., as it continues its war on terror, will keep a more watchful eye on Islam on its "second front" as well. It well knows that the attack in Bali was intended for Americans as well as Australians.

Yes, Indonesia's future is critical to the rest of Asia, Australia and even the U.S. Its future, however, is as *uncertain* as it is critical.

When examining Bible prophecy, we know that the entire Anglo-American world (Australia included) is headed for serious trouble—an economic and internal downfall that will lead to its collapse in a coming nuclear world war (see story, p. 21). Indonesia certainly will have some influence in what is prophesied to happen to these English-speaking nations—as the West continues what will be an exhausting war against militant Islam.

With Indonesia now providing fertile ground for extremist operations within the global network of Islamic terror, it is possible that this country will become a factor in the rise of the prophesied "king of the south" (Dan. 11:40). As we have written in numerous articles, radical Islam, led primarily by Iran, is that "king of the south" which figures prominently in end-time prophecy.



MEGAWATI



According to Bible prophecy, the king of the south—though on the rise now—will have its heyday for only a short span, after which it will be conquered by a “king of the north”—a united, Catholic-dominated Europe which will overrun the Middle East and northern Africa (vv. 40-43).

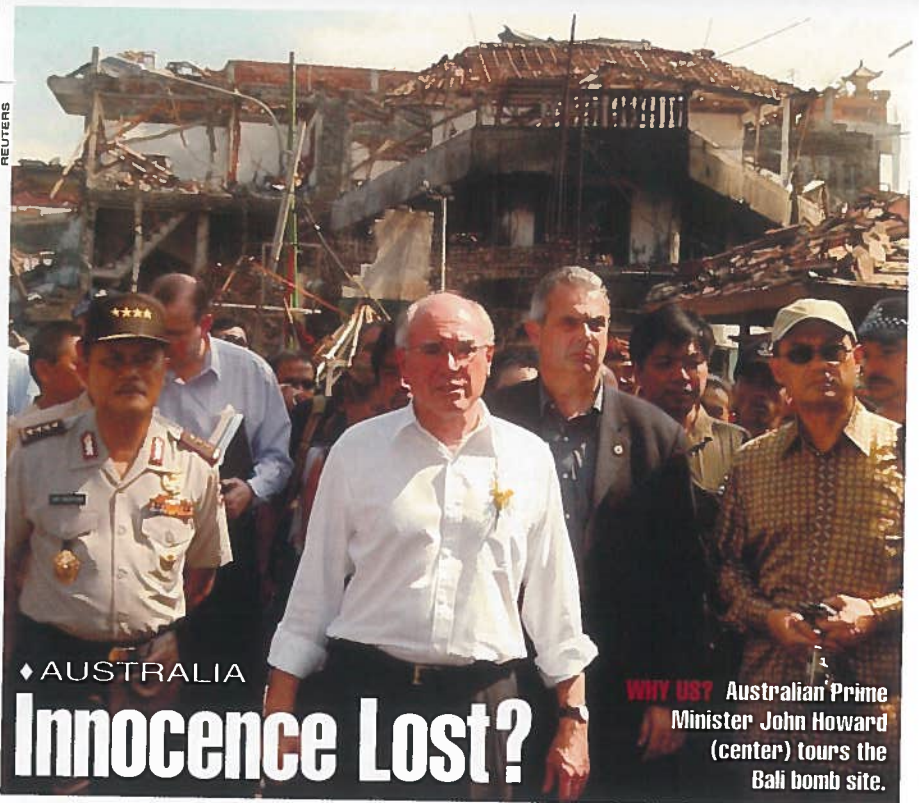
The degree to which Indonesia will be affected by this European victory is unknown. What is sure, however, is that the peoples of Indonesia are mentioned as being part of another giant alliance—known as the “kings of the east” (see Revelation 16:12 and Ezekiel 38)—to come against the king of the north.

Many of those who inhabit Indonesia today are descendants of biblical Gomer and Phut (both identified in Ezekiel 38:5-6 as key players in this coming Asian alliance). And even if this Islamic country does initially align with the king of the south, it will ultimately become part of the massive Asian combine, led by Russia and China, in the final great clash that annihilates the king of the north.

Daniel 11:44 states, “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” A Sino-Russian-led conglomerate, which will include certain of the Indonesian peoples, will clash with this European bloc.

There are two probable geopolitical reasons for this. 1) Asia will most likely be greatly affected by Europe’s ultimate control of the Middle East, and thus the world’s oil production. Indonesia is an oil-rich country. Its strategic importance as a supplier of energy to Asia will be greatly increased at this time. 2) Indonesia, as well as other Muslim countries in the East like Pakistan, the Philippines and Malaysia (descendants of which are also listed as part of the eastern alliance), would probably show interest in joining this bloc in reaction to the king of the north’s trampling over its Muslim brothers to the west.

As far as the near future is concerned, the *Trumpet* has shown that the U.S.’s war against terrorism will by no means eradicate it (see last month’s issue). Extremist elements in Indonesia will only grow more brazen, converting more of the moderate Muslims over to waging *jihad* in the East. These elements will propagate as the king of the south extends its global influence. ♦



◆ AUSTRALIA

## Innocence Lost?

**WHY US?** Australian Prime Minister John Howard (center) tours the Bali bomb site.

### Australia deals with its 9/11.

BY RYAN MALONE

**A**MERICA HAD ITS 9/11. NOW, AUSTRALIA has had its 10/12. The “lucky country” has been forced to deal with the same sobering issues, the same haunting questions: *Why us? What did we ever do to them?*

Ever since its independence from the Dutch in 1949, Indonesia has been wrought with internal strife and bloodshed. From Aceh in the west to Papua in the east, violence thrives. Much of the hatred stems from anti-West, anti-Christian sentiment.

But Bali was not this way. Bali was an oasis in a desert of destruction. It was considered an ideal vacation spot by Westerners in the region, particularly Australians.

That’s why the October attack on Bali, though in Indonesia, had little to do with the issues being violently disputed throughout the archipelago. Though the bombing did have dreadful effects on Indonesia—shock waves of which were felt throughout Asia—the attack was aimed at the West because of its current campaign against terror. The majority of the fatalities were Australian citizens—nearly 90 out of the over 190 killed in the blast. A small handful of Americans also died.

After 9/11, the question of what provoked the attack was answered in a

way that kept the U.S. looking totally innocent: *There are terrible, evil people out there who cannot stand that we Americans give all our people freedom to vote and to choose the way they want to live and dress.*

The “good blokes” of Australia justify their dark day the same way: There are evildoers out there who want nothing but to harm us “fundamentally good-willed, good-hearted people,” as Paul Gallagher put it—a man who lost six friends in the Bali attack (*International Herald Tribune*, Oct. 18). The same article stated, “For Australians, Saturday has become the day of innocence lost. It is a popular saying here that Australians have been in 19 wars, but started none of them. The idea of being a quiet but dependable ally appeals to the national image....”

Innocence lost? Islamic extremists wouldn’t think so. Australians are certainly that “dependable ally” to the current war on terror—the war that aims to extinguish Islamic extremism from the world.

In fact, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld called them a “steadfast ally” in an October 29 press conference. Australia, according to Rumsfeld, was one of the first countries to join the alliance, and it fought alongside U.S. forces as they uprooted the Taliban from Afghanistan. Australia “has demonstrated a clear commitment to combating the evils of terrorism,”



## ◆ AUSTRALIA

Rumsfeld said. American ties to Australia “have never been stronger.”

Though always strong allies with America, Australia began an even deeper embrace of the U.S. after 9/11. The 2002 white paper on foreign affairs issued by the Australian government ranked the U.S. as its number-one ally.

Fact is, Australia *needs* the U.S. It is in a uniquely awkward position as a primarily British-Irish-populated island neighboring Southeast Asia. What’s more, Australia has approximately the same population as the state of New York, yet it is spread out over an area as big as the United States. So when it comes to exploiting its rich resources and defending its wide open coastal borders on all sides, it dangerously lacks the capital and manpower.

Last month, the U.S. and Australia opened negotiations on a free trade agreement which would bring the two economies closer. Australian authorities have described the bid as “the most significant national initiative” in more than 50 years (*Australian Financial Review*, Nov. 13).

The argument in Australia seems to be now over the conundrum, *do we engage with Asia more to battle terrorism in the region, or do we pull further away?* Whatever the answer to that, Canberra already feels it needs a strong bond with America—even though this puts Australia at odds with its neighbors. As was evident at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit this November, Australian-Asian relations are at an all-time low due to Australia’s travel warnings and armed raids on a few Muslim homes in Australia. Several Asian countries resent Australia, perceiving it as America’s little lapdog that can throw its weight around in the region.

So what is the solution for Australia? Where can it turn to diffuse further terrorist threats? The answers to these questions lie in the real reason **WHY** terror has struck the “lucky country.”

### Why Terror Down Under?

Australia makes up part of the end-time nations of biblical Israel (write for your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). The patriarch Israel’s heritage would primarily be recognized through his grandsons Manasseh—who was prophesied to become a great nation, the United

**The solution to Australia’s vulnerability is not deeper friendship with the U.S., or greater coordination with other Asian governments to stop terror in the region, but rather a stronger relationship with Almighty God!**

States—and Ephraim, who was to become a company of nations (see Genesis 48:16, 19), a perfect description of the British Empire. God also identifies the migration of Ephraim as being to the north and west of Jerusalem in certain isles (Isa. 49:12). This same scripture also discusses those of the “land of Sinim”—translated in the Vulgate as “Australi,” or “Australia.”

Yes, Australians are among those Westerners associated with the British Crown (New Zealand, South Africa and Canada as well) who make up this major, prophetically significant tribe of Israel that is mentioned frequently in end-time prophecy.

In one of these prophecies, God discusses the many blessings that would come upon the nations of Israel if they obeyed Him (Lev. 26:3-13). But, if they turned away, God said, “I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you **TERROR**, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it” (v. 16).

The U.S. was first to fall victim to this so dramatically in September 2001. But Australia came next on the list with the deadly Bali attack in October this year. God has appointed **TERROR** over the nations of Israel—not just the U.S., but Australia too! “And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you” (v. 17).

It’s not just because Australia is an American-sympathizer and a Western-oriented country that it is a victim of terrorism. It’s because it is being cursed by God!

Australians need to understand that the solution to their vulnerability in the Asian neighborhood, and in a world

increasingly unsafe from terrorism, is not deeper friendship with the U.S., or greater coordination with other Asian governments to stop terror in the region, but rather a stronger relationship with Almighty God!

In World War II, U.S. troops under General Douglas MacArthur helped save Australia from certain defeat (when Australia was ready to concede the northern two thirds of its continent to the Japanese). But ultimately, the U.S. will not be able to bail out its brothers. God has clearly prophesied that the nations of modern Israel will fall because of their disobedience to Him.

God is bringing these curses to awaken Australia! The attack on Bali is only a small beginning of what will plague this once-great nation in the near future. More terror will strike—and *within the borders* of this vast, vulnerable island continent.

Not only is the Bali attack a prime example of God’s curses on Australia, it is also an example of the deepening civilizational divide on the geopolitical scene—between Anglo-America, radical Islam, Europe and Asia (see article, p. 19). As Islam rises in global strength and influence, as Europe rises quickly to superpower status, and as Asia modernizes economically and militarily, we see these battle lines being drawn.

When a major terrorist attack like 9/11 or 10/12 strikes, it brings this reality home: In the mind of the terrorists, Anglo-America is lumped together as one enemy. Whether it is U.S. support of Jewish Israel, or Australian support of Christianized East Timor, the lines are being drawn. God will allow this, as He plans to use the collective downfall of the Anglo-American peoples to bring about end-time Israel’s repentance.

Yet, if we repent individually, we will not have to suffer the same fate as the Anglo-American world. God will see to it that we are counted among *His* grouping of faithful, loyal followers—and He will protect us from the coming atrocities soon to grip this world! ◆

**For more information on prophecies relating to Australia, request your free copies of *Australia in Prophecy* and *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.**





# Why CHRISTMAS Is So Important to God



BY CARL HILLIKER  
AND MARK JENKINS

**T**HE TRADITIONS SURROUNDING Christmas stir warm feelings in the hearts of many—young and old alike—all over the Earth. Families come together. Shoppers go into a frenzy. Kids await the day they'll receive their presents. There is no other time quite like it.

The attachment people feel to these days isn't surprising. After all, these traditions have been going on for hundreds of generations. Consider the following description in the Bible: "[F]or one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jer. 10:3-4). That description, clearly describing a Christmas tree, was recorded in the book of Jeremiah hundreds of years *before* the birth of Christ.

But consider the opening of verse 3: "For the customs of the people are vain." Vain? This couldn't be talking about Christmas, could it?

What does God think of Christmas? Rest assured, He is very interested in this holiday and its yearly celebration.

Most people simply follow the customs of their family, region or nation without knowing where those customs originated or why they are kept. Most never ask about the origins of Christmas, why people exchange presents on this day, or even whether this holiday really represents the birth of Jesus Christ, after whom it is named!

Does the Almighty God command its observance? If not, does He *forbid* that we partake in it?

Let us obtain the true facts about Christmas.

### Historical Perspective

The date of December 25 is widely associated with the birth of Jesus Christ. But is this really the correct date of His birth?

When Jesus Christ was born, "there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). December is in the midst of a cold, rainy season in Judaea. The shepherds always brought their flocks in from the fields and mountains to be corralled by mid-October at the latest, for their protection. Song of Solomon 2:11 and Ezra 10:9 and 13 show that winter was a rainy season, thus confirming that the shepherds would not have been in open fields on December 25.

Why then would Christ's birth be celebrated on this day? The *Encyclopedia Britannica* states, "The reason why Christmas came to be celebrated on December 25 remains uncertain, but most probably the reason is that early Christians wished the date to coincide with the pagan Roman festival marking the 'birthday of the unconquered sun.'"

In addition, the *Catholic Encyclopedia* makes many startling admissions. Here are just a few:

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church ...." That's right—Christmas was *not* instituted by Jesus Christ, nor was it observed by

any of the apostles personally instructed by Christ.

In fact, we are told that "The word for Christmas in late Old English is *Cristes Maesse*, the Mass of Christ, first found in 1038." That is 1,000 years after the death of Christ.

"The first evidence of the feast is from Egypt" (not Jerusalem). About 200 A.D. Egyptian theologians began celebrating the birth of Christ on the 25th of Pachon, which corresponds to May 20 by our calendar.

The truth is, the early Christians did not observe birthdays—not even Christ's birth. The Christian theologian Origen (185-232 A.D.) asserts, "[I]n the Scriptures sinners alone, not saints, celebrate their birthday."

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* also states, "Pagan customs [not Christian customs] centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas."

As you can see, secular and Catholic history shows that, originally, Christmas was definitely NOT about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. In order to find the true origins of Christmas and the traditions surrounding it, we must look back even further to another historical source: the one true source of living knowledge—the Holy Bible.

Don't just take what we say for granted; check everything you read here. Open your Bible! Go to the library and see for yourself that the information we provide is not simply our opinion: It is FACT!

### True Origins of Christmas

Jesus Christ was not born on December 25. But this date is not without origin. It can be traced back to Genesis and a man named Nimrod.

Nimrod, grandson of Ham and son of Cush, was the founder of a great false religious system that has always opposed the truths of God. Genesis 10:8 says that Nimrod "began to be a mighty one [or tyrant] in the earth." He set out to conquer and exploit other people by forming the first "kingdom" on Earth at Babylon in Shinar (v. 10). Nimrod also built the infamous tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9). Why did he build that mighty tower? And what does it have to do with the birth of Christ?

Nimrod was "a mighty hunter before [or against] the Lord" (Gen. 10:9). Josephus, the prominent Jewish historian of



the first century A.D., wrote, "Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God .... He also said he would be revenged on God, if He should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach!" Nimrod's teachings challenged the veracity of the clear covenant that God had made with Noah and sealed with the sign of the rainbow, that He would not again destroy the Earth with a flood (Gen. 9:11-13).

God intervened at the tower by confounding the languages and foiling the plan for this "one world" government.

Nimrod rebelled before God in everything he did, but especially in the establishment of a great false religion. Nimrod not only wanted to lead his people, he wanted to be worshiped by them. It is said that he married his own mother, Semiramis. She became known as the "queen of heaven" and Nimrod as the "divine son of heaven." He claimed to be the "savior" of all mankind and came to be worshiped as their messiah—their great deliverer. The problem was, he was attempting to save man from GOD, not from their sins! Nimrod was an outspoken rebel against all that God stood for, and, Josephus reported, he taught the multitudes that it was "cowardice to submit to God."

Nimrod's plan was to bring all mankind under his rule. As Nimrod's empire grew, the righteous lineage of Noah and Shem was in danger of ceasing to exist. Shem's son Asshur had already rebelled and joined forces with Nimrod to build the notorious city of Nineveh (Gen. 10:11, 22).

Shem is said to have executed Nimrod, cut his body into pieces and sent the pieces to all the mighty cities of his empire as a warning against following Nimrod's evil plan for a worldwide empire and a false religious system. Semiramis went into hiding for a time, but she returned with an elaborate "mystery" religion, a system that was to become widespread.

While Nimrod was alive he put himself in the place of God, and when he died Semiramis saw to it that he was still worshiped as a divine hero and given the name *Baal*, which means

master or lord. That is the name of the false god found throughout much of the Old Testament.

Shortly after Nimrod's untimely death, Semiramis gave birth to an illegitimate child, which she claimed was begotten by a "spirit" as a rebirth of Nimrod. This "mother and child" soon became the chief objects of worship throughout the world. There are many versions of this story, one for each nation and tongue as they were scattered from Babel by God, but whether they worshiped the mother and child under the Egyptian names of Isis and Horus, or the Roman names of Venus and Jupiter, or under the eventual Christian names of the "Virgin Mary" and the "Christ child," it was the same old Babylonian mystery religion. Even in China, Japan and Tibet, the counterpart of the Madonna and child were worshiped long before

claimed that Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts on each anniversary of his birth, which happens to be on December 25. This is the true origin of the Christmas tree, and the pagan history behind the gifts people place there to this day! This is why the Prophet Jeremiah knew of the "Christmas tree" so long before Jesus Christ was ever born.

Again we witness the remnants of a custom established centuries before the birth of Christ, yet promoted into Christianity with no scriptural instruction to do so.

## Christmas and Christianity

History reveals that for 300 years after the death of Christ, Christians were few in number and often persecuted by the governments controlled by the pagan majority. This all changed when the Roman Emperor Constantine began to accept Christianity in 313 A.D. Although he wasn't baptized until on his deathbed in 337, he was the man most influential in bringing "Christianity" into the mainstream of Western culture.

For hundreds of years prior to Constantine, the Roman Empire had celebrated many pagan festivals. "In the Roman world the Saturnalia (December 17-23) was a time of merrymaking and exchange of gifts. December 25 was also regarded as the birth date of the Iranian mystery god Mithra, the Sun of Righteousness. On the Roman New Year (January 1), houses were decorated with greenery and lights, and gifts were given to children and the poor. To these observances were added the German and Celtic Yule rites when the Teutonic tribes penetrated into Gaul, Britain and central Europe. Food and good fellowship, the Yule log and Yule cakes, greenery and fir trees, and gifts and greetings all commemorated different aspects of this festive season" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*).

Is it coincidence that these customs are so closely associated with Christmas to this day?

Mithra, also known as the "god of light," the "grand deliverer" and the "heavenly light," was the central figure in a "mystery religion" with elaborate rites and ceremonies that became an

**WHOSE MASS? A Christmas tree next to St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican**



the birth of Christ! Every Christmas season you will hear many hymns such as "Silent Night" having this age-old mother-and-child theme, though there is no biblical admonition to worship Mary, Jesus's mother.

Semiramis also claimed that a full-grown evergreen tree sprang up overnight from a dead stump, symbolizing the new life of Nimrod. She



Aside from the fact that God does not command Christmas, aside from the fact that Christ wasn't born on December 25 and that its customs are steeped in paganism, does it matter if we keep Christmas for the "right" reasons?

integral part of Roman paganism and "a principal competing religion of Christianity until the 300s" ("Mithra," *World Book*).

As stated, the tradition of gift-giving at this time predates Jesus Christ. The wise men were presenting gifts to Christ because they were coming before a king—they certainly were not presenting *each other* with gifts.

What about "good old St. Nick"?

Nicolas is derived from the Greek words *nikos* and *laos*, which together mean conqueror or destroyer of people. The original conqueror or destroyer of people was Nimrod. Yet another of Nimrod's names was *Sanctus* or *Santa*, which means saint. Nimrod set himself up as a saint, stealing a title that God reserves for the those who are faithful to obey Him. The facts show that Nimrod is the true origin of the widely accepted "Saint Nicholas," or the "Santa Claus" that is so central to Christmas observances around the world. Any other explanations—and there are a number of them—are simply modern-day stories that conceal the truth behind these ancient "mysteries."

When Jesus Christ said that the "doctrine of the Nicolaitans" was a "thing I hate" (Rev. 2:15), He was condemning the same Nimrod-inspired Babylonian mysteries that had become a counterfeit "Christianity" for thousands of years. The Nicolaitan doctrine had become so appealing that some members of God's own church in Pergamos were becoming deceived. Jesus Christ had to admonish them to repent (v. 16). Today, those same doctrines are still deceiving people who think their Christmas customs are pleasing to God.

We need to understand that every one of the pagan customs that now pollutes mainstream Christianity began out of deliberate rebellion against the Creator God, the same Being who came to this Earth to educate us with the truth and save us out of our deception and our sin. Every year during the Christmas season, newspapers and magazines openly proclaim the pagan connections to

many of these holiday customs.

How can professing Christians continue to worship Jesus Christ with a religious system He HATES?

#### God's Command

Christmas is a pagan festival. That is absolute fact. Research any Christmas custom and you can quickly discover the pagan origin. Some people, unfortunately, take offense when these things are pointed out, but God commands His faithful Church to proclaim such things (Isa. 58:1).

Yet those Christians who know these pagan origins are quick to respond, "But we do not worship any pagan sun-god today! We are simply honoring the birth of Jesus Christ."

How does God answer such reasoning? Aside from the fact that God does not command Christmas, aside from the fact that Christ wasn't born on December 25 and that its customs are steeped in paganism, does it matter if we keep Christmas for the "right" reasons? "Take heed that you be not ensnared to follow them [the pagans and their customs] and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do likewise.' You shall not do so to the Lord your God; for every abominable thing which the Lord hates they have done for their gods" (Deut. 12:30-31, *Revised Standard Version*).

Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

It's time we face facts! This world is deceived, just as God prophesied it would be (Rev. 12:9). Satan is the power behind this deception. Satan has successfully pawned off the old customs of the Babylonian mystery religion as being pleasing to Jesus Christ.

The book of Revelation is an end-time book. In chapter 17 we are told that Jesus Christ will one day pass judgment upon a "great whore" bearing the title MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS

OF THE EARTH (v. 5). This is the great false Babylonian religious system that Nimrod founded and its many false religious variations or denominations throughout the world!

Can there be any doubt what Jesus Christ thinks of this church? Every inhabitant of Earth has been made to suffer to one degree or another by the deceptions created by its "abominations."

Revelation 18:4 carries this plea: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, *Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*"

Right now, God is sending out that same warning message to all who will listen: *Come out* of all these pagan practices disguised as Christianity. Don't partake any longer of those sins. The celebration of Christmas and its customs is just one of those sins. It seems harmless, but those who stay in such deception will eventually have to face the wrath of Jesus Christ.

It is no wonder that Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7:13-15).

Popular opinion should not prevent individuals who know the truth from turning away from a festival season steeped in paganism. Jesus said that, in order to be His disciples, there would be times when we would need to forsake the desires of our family and friends and follow Him (Luke 14:26-27).

God does give us a command to memorialize Jesus Christ: He commands us to observe the day of Christ's death (1 Cor. 11:24-27)—not His birth. God also commands that we keep other holy days, a listing of which can be found in Leviticus 23. Please feel free to write us for more information on the subject of God's holy days.

You now have a choice: You can continue keeping Christmas year after year, accepting the influence of your family, friends, neighbors and *Nimrod*, or you can accept the commands of the Eternal God by learning more about the days that He *commands* us observe—His holy days. ♦



This is how the Great Tribulation—the worst time of suffering ever on this Earth—will begin. World War III will be triggered in the Middle East.

The trumpet is to be blown in *Tekoa*. The trumpet symbolizes a warning. And what is the warning about? The “GREAT DESTRUCTION” coming from the north.

There is also to be a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem, a high place in the *Tekoa* area. So there is a double warning about the terrifying destruction from the north—that the enemy is about to come, unless we repent.

The “sign of fire” symbolizes nuclear destruction in this end time. Remember, it is called “great destruction,” or the worst destruction ever (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22).

“Thus saith the Lord, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth” (Jer. 6:22). God raises up a great nation to punish Israel for their evil. “They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are CRUEL, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion” (v. 23). They are a “cruel” nation—against God’s own people and the nations of Israel. And that is not all. “We have heard the FAME thereof: our hands wax feeble; anguish hath taken hold of us, and pain, as of a woman in travail” (v. 24). They are famous for their cruelty. That is why the people will agonize as a woman giving birth to a child!

Who could that be in this end time? The same nation—Germany—that started World Wars I and II and demonstrated the greatest cruelty we have seen to this point in time. (Write for our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

How can we prevent this crisis of all crises? “Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the OLD PATHS, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken” (vv. 16-17). God’s Laodicean Church and the nations of Israel were shown the “old paths” but refused to walk in them. God also set watchmen over us to blow the trumpet about the coming Great Tribulation. You are reading a watchman’s message right now! But our people said, “We will not hearken.”

What are the *old paths*? This applies spiritually and physically.

God’s Church had God’s truth revealed to them in this end time. But most of them have rebelled and forsaken that truth—the *old paths*.

The nations of Israel—mainly America, the British peoples and the Jewish nation—have a history with God. No other nation has ever been called by God to set a righteous example for the world. No other nation was ever given such a commission!

But Israel has rejected those *old paths*. We now lead the world in drug usage, crime, divorce, pornography and every other pathology.

This is why God will punish us as no other nation has been punished, if we don’t repent.

“Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my LAW, but rejected it” (v. 19). They have rejected God’s words and law, the Ten

Commandments. You can’t *reject* or *not hearken* unless God’s truth was proclaimed in your presence.

Herbert W. Armstrong preached the true gospel around the world as a witness (Matt. 24:14). God’s Word and law were taught. We now “prophesy AGAIN,” after God’s message was stopped by His own people (Rev. 10:11).

Still, the nations of Israel have rejected that message. They still act very religious—but it is not a *lawful* religion (Jer. 6:20). And the religions in Israel have done away with God’s law, or Ten Commandments. They also reject the government of God that teaches that law.

And now the nations of Israel seek peace in the Middle East and in their own cities. But there is no peace (v. 14). There will never be peace until they hearken to God’s words and law!

That includes peace in our nations’ deeply troubled families.

Our people continue to commit the worst abominations and are not ashamed (v. 15). America sends its pornography around the world on the Internet and in movies. It is far ahead of any other nation in spreading this filth, but still is not ashamed!

We need to wake up and see what God thinks about our sins. We were *chosen* by God to lead the world in keeping God’s Word and law. Instead WE LEAD THE WORLD IN REJECTING GOD’S WORD AND BREAKING HIS LAW—THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WE WERE *CHOSEN* TO DO!

Strong marriages and families are the foundational strength of any nation. Drugs and pornography help to shatter this institution and destroy our nations’ godly values.

That is *why* we blow the trumpet. The solution to our crime and other problems is revealed in the history and prophecy of *Tekoa*. God has established this trumpet-blowing work (v. 27).

How bad will it get? “Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul DEPART from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a LAND NOT INHABITED” (v. 8). If we don’t heed God’s message, He *departs*. That is the worst possible news! Then the land of Israel becomes desolate—“a land not inhabited.”

A land without inhabitants? That is a description of nuclear destruction. After the attack, the remainder of our people will be taken out of their own land as slaves.

This terrifying prophecy has never happened in our history. But it is about to happen, and is prophesied in over a hundred Bible prophecies! How can a rational person not look into these warnings from God?

You are reading the same message that Amos and Jeremiah taught.

In the end, there is good news. All this terrifying destruction will unfold immediately before the greatest event of all: Christ’s return.

God has promised to *protect* us individually or nationally if we repent. May the great God help you to heed this urgent and terrifying message!

To order your free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s booklet **The United States and Britain in Prophecy**, please visit our website, [www.pcog.org](http://www.pcog.org), or look on the inside cover of this magazine for information on ordering by phone or mail.



**CORRECTION** The picture on page 12 of last month’s issue was of North Korean delegate Kim Yong-dae, not Kim Yong Nam.



GARY RETHFORD

# Signs of the Times

The Washington sniper is caught. But why is America becoming so violent?

AMERICA HEAVED A COLLECTIVE SIGH OF RELIEF AT THE capture of the two Washington D.C. sniper suspects. With heavy hearts, the families of those who were the targets of the insanity tried to go on with their lives.

It was a fearful time. During the manhunt, one writer described his 6-year-old grandson as being afraid to leave the house. Leonard Pitts Jr. wrote, "He's scared of being shot. Sign of the times. ... He used to run out every morning to get the newspapers. Now he pauses at the front door, peers in every direction, darts to the tree in the middle of the yard, looks carefully around its trunk, then makes a dash for the end of the driveway" (*Charleston Gazette*, Oct. 19). Eric was assured by his grandfather that the sniper would not get him, although Pitts knew it was a "crazy promise" to make.

Now, October's horror has begun to blend into the past. Joggers have gone back to their routine, sports teams are competing back at their usual locations, shoppers fill the malls (just in time for the holidays), and people can drive into filling stations without fearing for their lives. It looks like the terror is over—or is it?

Even as the shooting suspects were placed under lock and key, new reports of violence appeared: A student at the University of Arizona-Tucson school of nursing opened fire, killing three people before taking his own life. He was angry because he couldn't take a midterm exam. An Oklahoma high school senior, after getting scolded for driving his pickup truck recklessly near children, broke into his father's house, took a 20-gauge shotgun, and, as neighbors came to the door to talk to him, opened fire on them. He then went on a spree, shooting six more people. In New Jersey, someone walked into a high school, shot a student in the stomach and walked out. These shootings all occurred within a four-day period at the end of October.

The desperate truth is, the signs of the times are more and more violent! *USAToday* reported that crime percentages were up in 2001 for the first time in a decade: "Murder, rape and every other violent criminal act except aggravated assault rose last year, the FBI said Monday in reporting the first year-to-year increase in overall crime in a decade. ... The 15,980 murders represented a 2.5 percent increase over 2000, while forcible rapes were up less than 1 percent and robberies rose 3.7 percent" (Oct. 28). Nationally, as well as internationally, violence is on the rise.

In His day, Jesus Christ rebuked the hypocritical Pharisees for not being able to read the signs of the times: "He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It

will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" (Matt. 16:2-3).

The signs of the times reveal increasing violence. Today, no grandfather can give a real guarantee that his grandson will not be attacked. Law enforcement cannot guarantee the safety of the community or the nation.

The Prophet Ezekiel warned of these days: "Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (Ezek. 7:23).

Why is our land so violent? Why is there terror in the land? That is the question we need to be asking. It is a mistake to accept this as normal.

God records this promise to all who respect Him and obey His commandments: "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow [or bullet] that flieth by day .... A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. ... Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee ..." (Ps. 91:5-10).

Can it be that the people of this nation have NOT made God their habitation? COULD THERE BE ANY OTHER REASON?

We live in an age that increasingly stresses to our young people, *Do your own thing*, without a godly system of values or

virtues. If this does not change, the signs portend that events will only get worse. God has this warning for us: "Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled. Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none" (Ezek. 7:24-25).

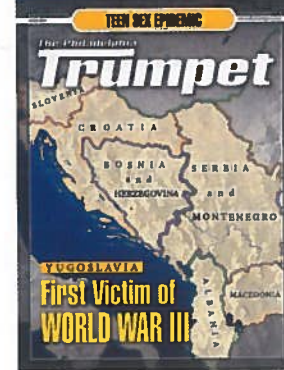
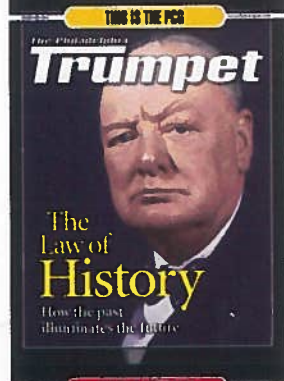
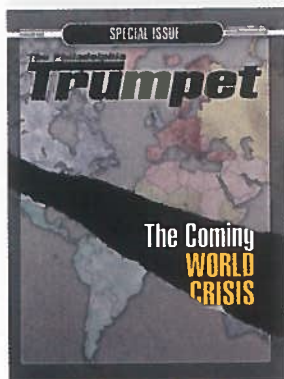
We are told that unless we turn to God in repentance, *destruction comes!* That is the sign we should be seeing. God is talking about national calamity of unbelievable proportions.

Humans cannot promise safety, but there is a way of protection. You, individually, can receive the protection you need. You need not fear "the terror by night, nor ... the arrow that flieth by day." God is the only guaranteed source of safety for you and your loved ones. For all who turn to Him, God has another promise: "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler" (Ps. 91:2-4). If we turn to Him, we will not be victims of the times.



**VIGILANCE** A police officer sits at a Maryland playground the day after the Washington sniper killed a bus driver nearby.





# 2002 Index of *The Philadelphia Trumpet*

Subject	Title	Author	Issue	Page No.
Aids	World News Watch: Outsmarting the Cure		Sept/Oct	15
America	America the Cursed	Ron Fraser	August	2
	A Target for Criticism	Gary Rethford	November	9
	What President Bush Doesn't Know!	Joel Hilliker	November	7
America and Britain	The End of the Free World	Ryan Malone Stephen Hill	January	8
Argentina	World News Watch: Hard Times		June	14
Asia	March Toward Armageddon	Ryan Malone	January	24
	World News Watch: Third Global Power?		December	14
	Up for Grabs	Ron Fraser	Mar/Apr	13
Australia	World News Watch: Curse After Curse		February	15
	World News Watch: Gambling Their Future		Sept/Oct	15
	Innocence Lost?	Ryan Malone	December	21
	World News Watch: Uneasy in Asia		November	14
Balkans	Germany Rules the Balkans	Gerald Flurry	January	2
Bible	Is the Bible for Real?	Ryan Malone	Mar/Apr	24
Britain	World News Watch: Family Breakdown		Mar/Apr	15
	Imperial Losses	Gareth Fraser	Mar/Apr	10
	What Was Missing at the Jubilee?	Ron Fraser	July	20
China	World News Watch: Overtures to the West?		November	15
Christmas	Why Christmas Is So Important to God	Carl Hilliker Mark Jenkins	December	23
Church	Commentary: Should You Join a Church?	Wik Heerma	February	29
Churchill, Winston	Personal: Churchill the Warrior	Gerald Flurry	Mar/Apr	1
Colombia	World News Watch: Few and Difficult Options		Sept/Oct	14
Corporate Fraud	Corporate Punishment	Jason Hensley	August	4
	No Isolated Case	J. Tim Thompson	Mar/Apr	4
	The Stench of Deception	J. Tim Thompson	Mar/Apr	2
Creation	Oceans of Design	Carl Hilliker	August	26
Cuba	What's Ahead for Cuba?	Eric Anderson	July	11
Culture	Commentary: The Death of True Culture	Ryan Malone	Sept/Oct	29
Democracy	The Demise of Democracy	Ron Fraser	November	2
Economy	All That Glitters	Ron Fraser	Sept/Oct	10
	As the Dollar Drops	Donna Grieves	August	7
	An Asian Monetary Union	Ryan Malone	August	10
	World News Watch: Bleeding Off the Chart		June	14
	World News Watch: Capital Flight		July	15
	World News Watch: Economists Unimpressed		Mar/Apr	15
	Commentary: A Frightening Equation	Ron Fraser	July	29
	Last Hour Economy	J. Tim Thompson	Mar/Apr	5
	Power of the Merchants	Ron Fraser	Sept/Oct	9
	World News Watch: Record Default		February	14
	Rising in the East	Ron Fraser	August	8
Elderly	One Testimony	Stephen Hill	August	19
	Out With the Old?	Stephen Hill	August	18
Euro	Enter the Euro	Stephen Hill	Mar/Apr	6
Europe	Europe's Right-Wing Swing	Eric Anderson	May	6
	World News Watch: High-Tech Separation		December	15
	World News Watch: A Racial Powderkeg		February	14
	Return of the Royals	Ron Fraser	August	12
European Union	World News Watch: Anti-Iran Good for EU		Mar/Apr	14
	Crisis in Rising Europe	Rodney Atkinson	February	10
	The Face of European Security	Jason Hensley	Sept/Oct	7
	World News Watch: Growing as Superpower		August	14
	Justice in the Balance	Gareth Fraser	June	20
	Mixing Iron and Clay	Stephen Hill	December	2
	The Rise, and RISE, of Europe	Ron Fraser	January	15
	World News Watch: The "Rule of Men"		June	14
	Silence the Critic	Ron Fraser	November	24
EU and America	Trading Places	Jason Hensley	December	12
EU and Ireland	World News Watch: No, But Yes, in Ireland		November	15
EU and Latin America	World News Watch: Latino Connections		Mar/Apr	14
EU and Russia	World News Watch: Ties With EU		December	14
Evolution	The Fraud of Evolution	Mark Nash	Mar/Apr	16
	The Improbability of Evolution	Mark Nash	Mar/Apr	19
Family	Parents: Why Teens Rebel	Joel Hilliker	July	21
	Commentary: Today's Greatest Conspiracy	Stephen Hill	June	29
Germany	Aftereffects of an Election	Ron Fraser	December	9
	Germany's Prussian Ambition	William Ghannam	June	6
	The Grand Design	Ron Fraser	May	9
	Shades of Hitler	Ron Fraser	Sept/Oct	2
	World News Watch: Skin of His Teeth		November	14
God	The Reality of God	Ron Fraser	Mar/Apr	21
Great Multitude	Commentary: The Great Multitude	Joel Hilliker	January	29
Health	World News Watch: Bad for Bugs and People		December	15
	Quality of Life	Zrinka Peters	November	20
Herbert W. Armstrong	The Legacy of Herbert Armstrong	Stephen Flurry	February	21
Heroes	Commentary: Not-So-Super Men	Ryan Malone	November	29
History	Personal: Contempt of History	Gerald Flurry	January	1



Subject	Title	Author	Issue	Page No.
	Failing at History		June	27
	The Law of History	Gerald Flurry	February	2
Human Nature	Don't Read This Article!	Joel Hilliker	August	25
Insects	Stung by Curses	Stephen Hill	November	25
India	India's Biblical Identity	Ryan Malone	May	17
	Understanding the Kashmir Crisis	Ryan Malone	May	18
	What's Ahead for India?	Ryan Malone	May	16
Indonesia	Terror in the Southeast	Gareth Fraser		
Information Warfare	The Penetrable Fortress	Ryan Malone	December	19
Iran	Personal: Center of World Terror	Martin Slaman	May	21
	World News Watch: Revolution in the Air	Gerald Flurry	February	1
	The Two Faces of Iran		August	14
Ireland	World News Watch: Another Concession	Joel Hilliker	June	10
	World News Watch: Apology Disdained		February	14
	From Good Friday to Good News		August	15
	"It Won't Work Anymore"		June	10
Israel	Anti-Semitism Revives!	Gareth Fraser	Sept/Oct	11
	The Battle for World Opinion	Ron Fraser	December	8
	World News Watch: Fences and Neighbors	Ron Fraser	May	13
	Personal: The Solution to Israel's Problems	Jason Hensley	July	18
Latin America, Africa	The Resource War		July	14
Leadership	Personal: Leadership and Terrorism	Gerald Flurry	December	1
	One Father's Example	Mark Jenkins	January	20
	Why This World Lacks Leadership	Gerald Flurry	June	1
Lifestyle	The Sin of Idleness	Dennis Leap	Sept/Oct	19
	Commentary: Stimuli Addiction	Dennis Leap	Sept/Oct	16
Malta	World News Watch: Caught in Europe's Path	Stephen Flurry	August	22
Media	Personal: How We Use Television	Joel Hilliker	August	29
	Commentary: A Monster in Your Home		August	14
	The Trouble With TV	Gerald Flurry	August	1
	Personal: Where Media Bias Is Leading Us	Mark Saranga	Mar/Apr	25
Middle East	The Beating Heart of Prophecy	Dennis Leap	July	25
	What Is Happening to the Middle East?	Gerald Flurry	May	1
Mildew	A Growing Problem	Joel Hilliker	January	12
Mystery of the Ages	Continuing to Fight		May	14
NATO	Building Europe's Military	Stephen Hill	Sept/Oct	26
Nuclear Threat	No Flesh Saved Alive	Dennis Leap	February	24
		William Ghannam	July	7
		Eric Anderson	November	12
		Mark Jenkins		
	World News Watch: Nuclear Worries		December	14
	Commentary: Seven Minutes to Midnight	Gerald Flurry	May	29
Pakistan	World News Watch: Gwadar Port Underway		July	14
PCG	The Church's Beliefs		February	20
	This Is the Philadelphia Church of God	Eric Anderson	February	16
		Mark Jenkins		
Pornography	World News Watch: Right to Porn Upheld		June	15
Prophecy	Personal: 9/11: One Year Later	Gerald Flurry	Sept/Oct	1
	The Coming World Crisis	Ron Fraser	January	5
	Last Hour's First Minutes	Ron Fraser	January	6
Royal Family	Personal: The Awesome Secret Behind the Queen's Golden Jubilee		July	1
	Coming Soon: A New Royal Family!	Gerald Flurry	July	1
	Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon: Queen Mother	Gareth Fraser	Mar/Apr	9
	God's Eternal Covenant With David	Ron Fraser	May	26
	World News Watch: Kaliningrad Tug-of-War	Ron Fraser	Mar/Apr	11
Sex	Failing Sex Education	Gareth Fraser	July	15
	The New Teen Sex Epidemic	Zrinka Peters	August	22
	Why Sex Ed Is Mandatory	Stephen Flurry	June	22
Slavery	Modern Slavery	Eric Anderson	June	24
Stoiber, Edmund	"As If He Had Already Won"	Stephen Hill	July	16
	Personal: Continue to Watch Stoiber	William Ghannam	August	16
	World News Watch: An Election to Watch	Gerald Flurry	November	1
	A Warning for Eastern Europe		Mar/Apr	14
	Why You Should Watch Edmund Stoiber	William Ghannam	August	17
Strauss, Franz Josef	Two Opposing World Views	Gerald Flurry	May	2
Terrorism	A Sinister Web	Gerald Flurry	May	4
		Gareth Fraser	November	16
		Ron Fraser		
Turkey and EU	Odd Man Out	Ron Fraser	December	4
Vatican	How Deep a Wound?	Ron Fraser	June	16
	Mending the Cloth	Mark Jenkins	December	6
	The Unifying Power	Eric Anderson	January	22
Violence	Commentary: Signs of the Times	Gary Rethford	December	27
Weather	Acts of God?	Eric Anderson	Sept/Oct	20
	America: A Year of Weather Woes	Eric Anderson	Sept/Oct	22
	A Decade of Billion-Dollar U.S. Weather Disasters	Eric Anderson	Sept/Oct	24
	World News Watch: El Niño Returns?		February	15
	Europe: Storm Before the Storm	Stephen Hill	Sept/Oct	21
	Heaven as Iron, Earth as Brass	Eric Anderson	May	24
World War II	WWII: The Unnecessary War	Gerald Flurry	Sept/Oct	4
Yugoslavia	First Military Victim of World War III	Gerald Flurry	June	2
	How German Fascism Conquered Kosovo	Gerald Flurry	July	2
	The Kosovo Disaster	Gerald Flurry	February	6
	A Nice Gift From NATO	Gerald Flurry	July	5
Zimbabwe	The Iron Fist	Andrew Hesson	December	16





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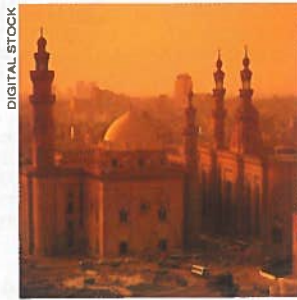
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## Coming in future issues of *The Philadelphia Trumpet*

### ◆ GLOBAL RISE OF ISLAM

Terrorist activities from the Mideast to Russia to Indonesia have brought to light the growing popularity of radical Islam among Muslims worldwide. This religion has many Western nations up in arms. What are Islam's roots? Is it really a threat?



### ◆ GLOOMY OUTLOOK FOR GERMAN ECONOMY

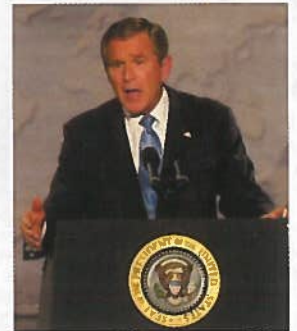
On the verge of recession, Germany has been called the "sick man of Europe," causing major concern in Brussels. What does it mean for the EU in light of its imminent enlargement; and what does it mean for Schröder's chancellorship?

### ◆ HOW SERIOUS IS BRITAIN ABOUT THE EURO?

Tony Blair and his allies are pushing hard to adopt the euro, while the majority of the population opposes the idea. Can Britain play a vital role in the EU? What does prophecy have to say about what will come of Britain's participation in the EU?

### ◆ 2002-2003: A LOOK BACK AND AHEAD

2002 was a year of dramatic changes: stronger political and economic union within Europe, worldwide weather disasters, the weakening American economy and the unveiling of corporate fraud in U.S. businesses, the continuing campaign against terror and frightening flare-ups in volatile areas such as the Mideast and Kashmir. What lies ahead for the coming year?



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