

JANUARY 2003

A DICTATOR IN YOUR MIND?

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The Philadelphia

Trumpet

2002

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The critical stories
your nightly news missed

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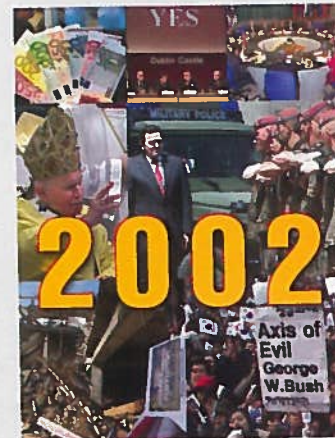
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PERSONAL FROM

Gerald Flury



Hebron's History— Key to Peace

One of the most violent cities on Earth is Hebron, in the West Bank. But there is something utterly different and deeply hopeful about this city. It has a profoundly rich history. That history contains the key to peace in Hebron—and the whole world!

In his article “Hebron’s Clash of Extremists,” from the November 22, 2002, *Boston Globe*, H.D.S. Greenway stated (emphasis mine throughout), “Hebron has long been a tough and intolerant town prone to extremes. Its 130,000 Arabs are sullen and resentful, and the 450 Jews living in the city, backed by 6,000 more in Kiryat Arba, the Jewish settlement that overlooks the city, are as militant as any settlers in the occupied territories.

“Both [Arabs and Jews] are uncompromising and prone to violence. Jewish settlers, armed and believing that God promised Hebron to them, regularly come into Arab quarters to trash shops, paint stars of David on the walls, and sometimes kill Arab bystanders. Meanwhile, Palestinians bide their time and assassinate settlers when they can.

“The Jewish settlers in Hebron, many of the most fanatical from the United States, have often been the despair of Israeli governments of both the right and left. ... Nowhere in the territories is the powerlessness of the many in contrast to the power of the few so vivid.

“Friction is exacerbated in Hebron by the Cave of Machpelah, home to the tomb of biblical patriarchs, ASSOCIATED WITH ABRAHAM AND SARAH AND HOLY TO JEWS AND MUSLIMS ALIKE.

“Last Friday’s ambush killing of 12 Israeli soldiers, policemen and security guards, who were protecting settlers ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM PRAYER, was only the latest outrage in the long history of Hebron bloodletting. Both sides acted predictably in the aftermath. Islamic Jihad, which brooks no peace with Israel and defies the Palestinian Authority, claimed responsibility. The Israelis moved their army back into Hebron and began leading away blindfolded youths. Settlers set up tents to begin a new and troublesome settlement on the site of the shootings, and Palestinians across the territories were pho-

tographed cheering in the streets while others stayed indoors waiting for the inevitable Israeli reprisals. And so THE DREARY CYCLE OF DEATH AND VENGEANCE MARCHES ON. ...

“Would that the Palestinians could get their act together, give up the armed struggle, the hideous suicide bombings that have brought their cause nothing but ruin, and give the Israeli peace camp a chance.

“In divided Hebron, however, there will be little support for political compromise. THE ISLAMIC JIHADIS AND THE MILITANT ULTRAS IN THE SETTLER CAMP BOTH BELIEVE GOD SPEAKS

ONLY TO THEM, AND THEREIN LIES THE CURSE OF OUR TIMES.”

And so, with the recent violent attacks of religious extremists in Hebron, we see the “dreary cycle of death and vengeance” marching on. Both sides claim that God is with them. Both sides believe they are fighting for God and His cause. But which side, if either, is right?

Nobody will ever win the war on terror by simply going after the *symptoms* of terrorism or trying to stop the buildup of terrorist weapons and terrorist networks. What is needed is to first begin to understand the *cause* behind the violence.

Here is what Martin Sieff wrote November 18, 2002, for United Press International: “On any given day, the sense of mutually reciprocated hatred between the Jewish and Palestinian Arab communities there is so intense you really do feel you could cut it with a knife—if you don’t get stabbed first. It crackles overhead, intangible but unavoidably real, like a diabolical form of high voltage electricity.

“Jews and Arabs alike revere Hebron as the burial place of their mutual ancestor, the patriarch Abraham, celebrated in the Bible and Koran as the founding father of both peoples.

“Yet nowhere is the hatred between them more unrelenting and unforgiving. Compared to the 100,000 Palestinian Arabs and 400 religious-nationalist Jewish settlers in Hebron, the Hatfields and the McCoy’s look like Mother Theresa and Albert Schweitzer.



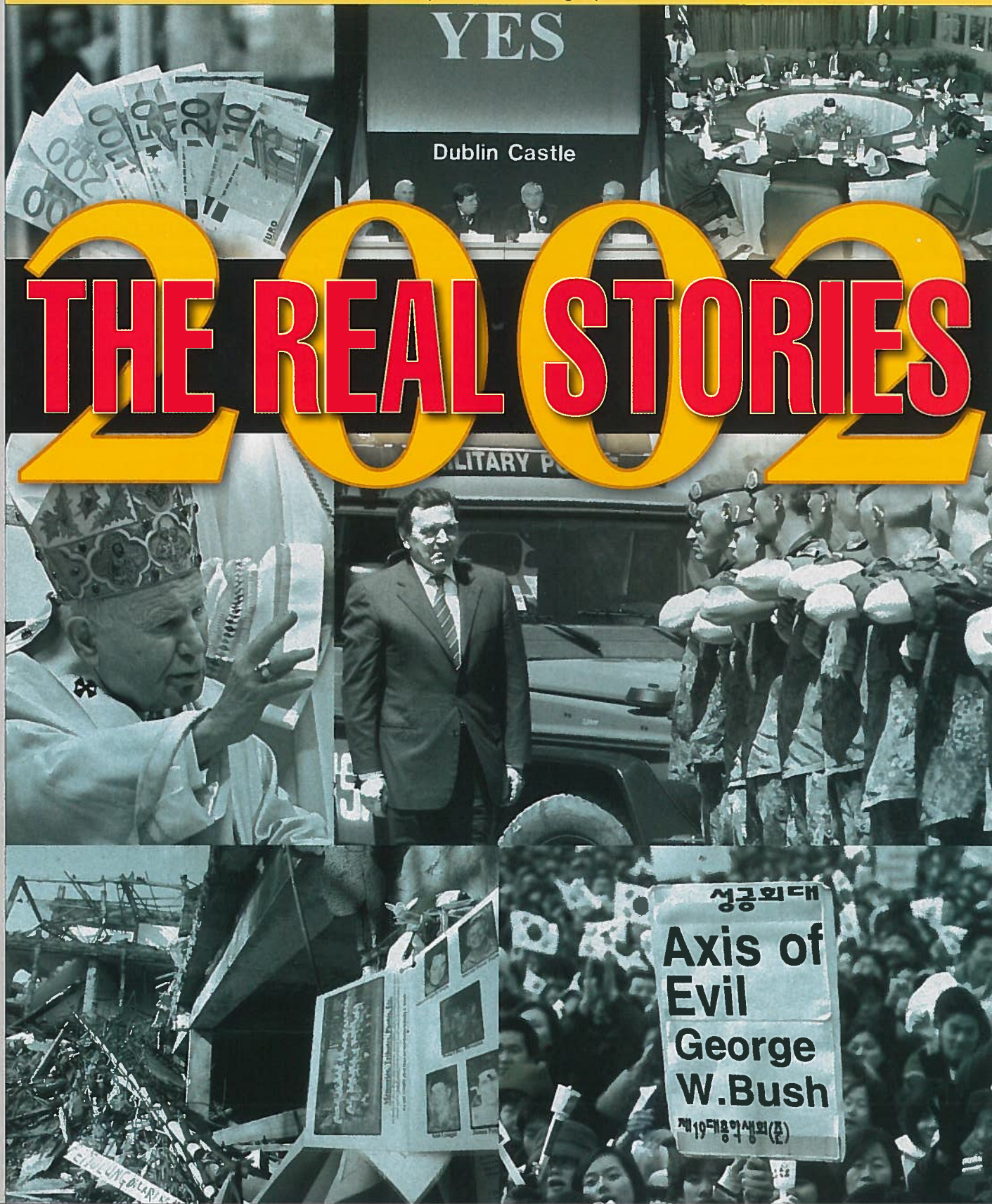
“In divided Hebron ... there will be little support for political compromise. The Islamic Jihadis and the militant ultras in the settler camp both believe God speaks only to them, and therein lies the curse of our times.”

• BOSTON GLOBE, NOV. 22, 2002 •

• continued on p. 27

COVER STORY

As major American news networks continued to compete for ever-dwindling audiences in 2002, it seemed the real news of the year went largely unnoticed. **BY RON FRASER**



WHAT REALLY DID HAPPEN last year? If you got your news from mainstream American sources, you would have a pretty short list—war in Afghanistan, corporate fraud, Catholic Church scandal, the Washington sniper, homeland security, Saddam, Saddam and more Saddam. Sprinkle in anthrax scares, Israeli and Palestinian bloodletting, the occasional comings and goings of senators and congressmen and members of the White House staff, and there you have it, as far as the major networks were concerned.

Was that *really* everything of consequence that happened last year?

No! Actually most of the biggest stories—the stories that will shape the world in the months and years ahead—were virtually overlooked! Events are happening daily that are quickly altering the dynamics of international relationships—relationships that are destined to have a powerful impact on *your* country, *your* life—*your* pocketbook, *your* standard of living, *your* family, *your* loved ones—in the near future!

It is *these* events that we cover in this magazine, committed to bringing you “tomorrow’s news today.”

Bible prophecy culminates in the depiction of a time called “the latter days.” “The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly” (Jer. 23:20). The phrase “consider it perfectly” would be more clearly rendered from the Hebrew “*understand it thoroughly*.” We now live in a time which our editor in chief identified in the November 2001 issue as the biblical “last hour.” It is a brief age when the world ultimately coalesces into an armed camp featuring four great power blocs—the Anglo-American democracies, the king of the north, the king of the south and the kings of the east. It is a time when we may *understand* the prophecies for the latter days *thoroughly!*

The world is simply in the process of evolving a new geopolitical order, eventually to divide along the lines prophesied in your Bible!

With this perspective, let us now take a bird’s-eye view of the *real* news of 2002, the news that will continue to shape events during this coming year and on into the foreseeable future.

EUROPE

WE LEAD OUR ANALYSIS OF THE PAST YEAR with a survey of events in Europe. Still largely ignored by the U.S. media, developments across the Atlantic are ultimately destined to make front-page headlines in the American press.

The year commenced with much hype within the European Union about the launch of the *European single currency*, the euro. Although the fledgling currency experienced a rocky start, it did reach par with the dollar by mid-year. In a portent of things to come, billions of dollars were transferred by Arab interests from U.S. holdings for conversion into euros.

Meanwhile, an Associated Press report stated, in relation to international economic difficulties, “[I]t is no secret that the world economy is in serious difficulty.” The U.S. opened the year still in recession; Japan tottered along in its economic straitjacket; Asia stagnated; Latin America wobbled; and it was noted that, amid world recession, the EU had no mechanism to establish an expansionist fiscal policy at a time when it drastically needed one to avoid being dragged down by the decline in aggregate world demand. The seeds of imminent economic and social disruption in Europe were being sown.

The year also witnessed a rise in awakening to the right-wing political trend in Europe. Analysts pointed out that, in times of recession, right-wing politics prospers. Europe was in recession. Visions of pre-war Europe of the 1930s were brought back to mind.

In Brussels, the bureaucratic capital of the EU, the European Commission started the year by preparing to give the Union’s leading nation, Germany, a slap on the wrist for its failure to rein in a burgeoning budget deficit. By year’s end, both Germany and France, faced with their inability to perform to the economic standards which Chancellor Helmut Kohl’s previous administration had bullied the EU into accepting, blatantly declared that they would flout these EU rules and resist the payment of any penalty imposed.

Meanwhile, the re-elected Red-Green coalition government of Germany reeled under the impact of polls showing its popularity with the electorate at record lows. Opposition

leader Edmund Stoiber waits in the wings to see if his prediction of the imminent collapse of the current government comes to fruition.

At mid-year, calls were being made by some German leaders for the return of bits of Poland and the Czech Sudetenland, carved away from German control as part of the Potsdam agreement redrawing the map of Europe



CURRENCY EVENTS The new euro notes

following World War II. German investment in these regions increased as German nationals sought to buy back the farm in their old pre-war homelands, from which they had been banished for almost 60 years.

On a broader front, the prospect of 10 more European nations joining the EU in 2004 put tremendous pressure on Brussels to refine its bureaucratic processes, contained in over 180,000 pages of script, to ease their entry. Further evidence of the EU’s internal difficulties turned up when a fourth whistle-blower within the European Commission unsuccessfully sought to hold the EU to account for massive fraud.

In the meantime, the EU quietly continued to strengthen its hold on the Balkan Peninsula, extending the mandate of the German-led peacekeeping force in Macedonia until mid-2003.

Last January, the hunt for al-Qaeda took a unique turn when, hard on the heels of breaking out of their cocoon during the Balkan wars, German combat troops entered their second theater of combat since the army was ostensibly vanquished—never to rise again—at the close of World War II. By year’s end, the Germans were preparing to take on the leading role in the peacekeeping force on the ground in Afghanistan.

Buoyed up by its seeming welcome role in peacekeeping within the Balkans and Afghanistan, the EU placed *security and defense* high on its political agenda. In January, a German leader put forward a proposal that gave the

ring of falsehood to British Prime Minister Tony Blair's assertion to U.S. President George W. Bush that the EU rapid reaction force would not evolve into a European army. "A top German diplomat called Thursday for the European Union to develop its own army as a logical further step toward integration after the successful launch of the new single currency, the euro. 'Does it make sense to keep the national armies?' German Ambassador to Washington Wolfgang Ischinger asked ..." (United Press International, Jan. 24, 2002; emphasis mine throughout).

Our readers may remember the *Trumpet* warning of the danger contained in a key clause of the EU's Maastricht Treaty over four years ago: "This article of the treaty flowed from a resolution by its 15 signatories 'reinforcing the European identity and its independence in order to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and the world.' ... This is perhaps the most dan-



EUROARMY? Schröder inspects German troops

gerous clause of all contained in the Treaty on European Union! It is this clause ... which the EU leaders will use to legitimize their creation of a powerful combined military force that will startle the world with the ferocity of its future 'peace keeping' missions!" (May 1998).

Another trend that became apparent in Europe over the past year was the alarming rise of anti-Semitism following the World Trade Center attacks in the U.S. Quantum leaps were being recorded in the demonstration of overt anti-Jewish hatred. To quote evidence from just one of the principal nations of the EU: "Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Italy, according to a new survey, which found that over one in three people considered Jews not to be real Italians, as the country marked Holocaust commemorations Sunday" (Agence France Presse, Jan. 27, 2002).

THE VATICAN



LOBBYING The pope is using Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (right) to influence EU policy.

A TREND HIGHLIGHTED IN JANUARY NEWS reports, which was to recur in similar reports periodically throughout the year, had to do with the influence that will ultimately bind together, for a brief moment in time, the brittle mix of iron and clay that is the EU. In December 2001, Pope John Paul II lamented the EU's rejection of any contribution from "communities of believers," in the religious sense, to the convention that is drafting the Union's federal constitution.

Papal lobbying for the traditional religion of Europe (overwhelmingly Roman Catholic) became more strident as the year wore on. By the end of October, the pope was pressuring Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the head of the Convention on the Future of Europe, to ensure that the papal view of religion be ensconced firmly within the new EU Constitution.

Also emanating from Rome was a request that international observers be sent to the Middle East, "given the violence ravaging the Holy Land. Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, Vatican secretary for relations with states, told Vatican Radio on Saturday, "The Holy See has been thinking of this proposal for more than a year, as one cannot witness passively the daily deaths of Israelis and Palestinians. [R]eligion, with a capital R, has its place in society as the indispensable factor for public dialogue. It is necessary to stress this forcefully, after last September 11," the French archbishop emphasized" (www.zenit.org, Jan. 27, 2002).

And so it was that all nations and nation-states, including the Vatican state, used the events of September 11, 2001, as a platform to accelerate their own individual agendas.

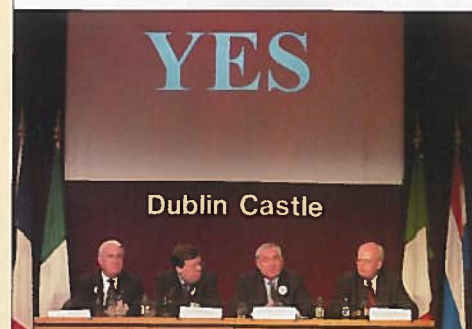
BRITAIN

REMARKABLY, FOLLOWING THE GREAT disasters of mad cow disease in the 1990s and the foot and mouth scourge of 2001, Britain shone out as the best economic performer within the EU.

Geopolitically, the British government sought to perform a balancing act between full support for the U.S. in the war on terror and its own perceived role as a prime player, with France and Germany, within the EU. Reality struck home late in the year when the French and German governments did an underhanded deal on EU farm subsidies, effectively blocking Britain out of any discussion on the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. This policy has effectively dragged agrarian Britain down from being the most efficient farm economy in the world, prior to its joining the old Common Market, to a point where many British farmers are suicidally desperate at their inability to cope with the ridiculous standards, rules and regulations imposed by Brussels bureaucrats.

For Britain's royal family, events combined at year's end to threaten the upswing in their popularity during Queen Elizabeth's jubilee year. A dramatic slump in their public image followed scurrilous accusations by palace staff in November. Britain's tabloid press had a field day rubbing salt into royal wounds (see p. 8).

In Ireland, the EU and Irish government combined to convince the Irish public by propaganda overkill and legislative manipulation to vote for entry into the European Monetary Union. Democracy took another step backward. Meanwhile, the Irish peace process faltered on revelations that Sinn Fein/IRA was guilty of spying on the British government.



STRONGARMED Irish leaders explain their country's vote on the Nice Treaty.

RUSSIA, ASIA, PACIFIC

RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER VLADIMIR Putin continued his game of pretending to be a U.S. ally while, at the same time, cozying up to each of the nations on President Bush's axis-of-evil list—Iran, North Korea and Iraq. The Russian prime minister courted EU investment, offering in exchange the carrot of access to Russia's massive energy reserves. But at year's end, the Russian economy, still moribund, showed no signs of regeneration. The risk of clandestine deals to rogue countries seeking to acquire nuclear material increased as Russian nuclear infrastructure continued to rust in neglect. Germany remained Russia's single largest investor of capital.

The influence of the EU on emerging policy within the principal Asian nations came to the fore with an initiative mounted by China toward the close of the year. The East Asian economic meltdown of the 1990s is still fresh in the minds of long-term-thinking Asians. The lead nations in Asia are much aware that Europe is becoming (albeit presently during recession) a largely self-contained, self-sustaining economy. They perceive the Atlantic rift between the U.S. and Europe widening, and they observe the instability within the major oil suppliers in the Northern Hemisphere—the Middle East and Russia and its old Caucasus satellites. Hence, it has seemed inevitable that either China or Japan would move, sooner or later, to lead an initiative toward a pan-Asian trading bloc. As it happened, Japan, with its plans for such a move in the formative stages, was upstaged by China.

During November, China signed a commitment with the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to create a free-trade region, with China at the core, by 2010. It is, "in effect, an offer by Beijing to help neighbors share in its growth. The agreement was reached more quickly than expected and left Japan a surprised and worried outsider" (*New York Times*, Nov. 24, 2002).

Whether or not Japan's worrying is sufficient to prod the country out of its steadily sinking economic slough remains to be seen. Japan's alliances are crucial to stability in Asia and the Pacific. At present, America's military treaty with Japan still influences the country's

geopolitical considerations. Yet with the U.S. increasingly diverted to other spheres in its war against terror, the temptation for Japan to assert old nationalistic tendencies and regain its dominant post-war economic role in Asia and the Pacific may well increase. Between Japan and China, "mutual suspicions run deep, reflecting centuries of stormy history, including Japan's invasion of China in the early 20th century and continuing incidents that inflame tempers on both sides" (*ibid.*).



ROUND TABLE ASEAN leaders in Cambodia

Add to this the need for Japan to keep an eye on Russia to the north and to police its seaways to the south through the Straits of Malacca, and the country's *security* and *defense* needs become most apparent. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi used the events of 9/11 as a platform from which to mount a call for a revision of Japan's constitution to legitimize the nation's reemergence as a military power. Increasingly Japan feels, like Germany, that it has done penance for World War II atrocities and may now prepare to restructure itself to allow for a more overt military presence.

An additional pressure on Japan is the fact that China, India, Pakistan and Russia all possess nuclear power, and North Korea has a developing nuclear arms program. Watch for a continuing rise in Japanese nationalism and militarism throughout the next year in response to these pressures.

India and Pakistan, long caught in a feud over Kashmir, rattled their nuclear arms at each other. For a moment the world held its breath watching to see if either nation would be first to hit the nuclear attack button. Although the crisis was diffused, these two nations continued to eye each other aggressively.

During the final quarter of the year, Australia was shaken out of its decades-long gloat as "the lucky country." The

October terrorist attack in Bali, Indonesia, took the lives of nearly 90 young Australian nationals and led Prime Minister John Howard to declare that Australia may seek to take the initiative by mounting aggression on foreign soil, should the country perceive a threat to its interests from any of its neighbors. This rankled Australia's two largest neighboring Islamic nations, Indonesia and Malaysia. Asian and Pacific nations observe an Australia increasingly isolated from its northern Anglo-Saxon sister countries, straining to strengthen its ties to a U.S. increasingly pre-occupied with its own terrorist war on multiple fronts.

Added to Australia's woes were so-called natural disasters that impacted its environment. Massive drought sent more farmers to the wall. Farmers also faced the creeping curse of salinity which is rendering huge swaths of agricultural land infertile. Then came the fires, sweeping across the state of New South Wales and ringing the picturesque harborside city of Sydney. Officials told the city to "prepare for hell" as bushfires, driven by the heat of summer winds, surrounded the city's outskirts. Veterans described the scene as the worst they had ever seen. This picture of a fire-ringed city of Sydney, host to the world's greatest annual homosexual mardi-gras and site of so many non-Christian places of worship, brings to mind the prophecies of Hosea: "For Israel hath forgotten his Maker, and buildeth temples; and



CLOSE TO HOME The Bali blast shook Australians.

Judah hath multiplied fenced cities; but I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour the palaces thereof. Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor" (Hos. 8:14;9:1).

THE MIDDLE EAST

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IRAN STARTED THE year with a fresh diplomatic initiative to use a common hatred toward the tiny Jewish nation of Israel as cement to weld a uniform stance by Muslim and Arab nations against Israeli actions in Palestine. This included overtures to woo Pakistan out of the arms of U.S. cooperation and into mainstream Muslim politics.

In Israel, it seemed that suicide bombings became a more-than-weekly occurrence. Terrorist leader of the Palestinians Yasser Arafat somehow managed to survive another year as the Palestinians' representative on the national scene. Hostilities ground on between Jew and Arab, with Israel offering tit-for-tat reprisals for the Palestinians' incessant attacks on Jewish people and property. The hawkish former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gained the portfolio on Foreign Affairs in the Israeli government. He will contest the prime ministership in upcoming elections in early 2003.



CLEAN-UP After a Jerusalem suicide bombing

From a joint meeting of Israel and Palestinian leaders in Luxembourg in late October, the EU issued statements calling on the Jewish state to back the establishment of a Palestinian state. This clash of two religions, Jewish and Muslim, in the Middle East, with a third entity, the EU, seeking to influence an outcome in its favor, will become increasingly evident as the current year progresses. The role of the U.S. in the peace process will diminish, and that of the Vatican-inspired EU dominate, until the pope's call for an international army to enforce peace in Jerusalem prevails (Luke 21:20).

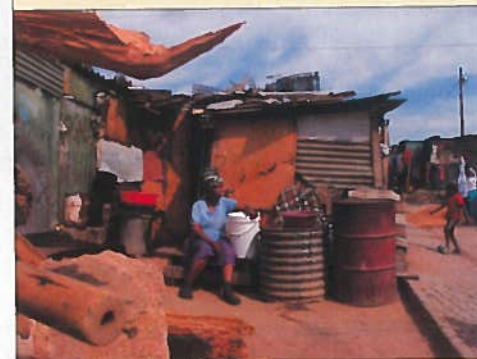
And while the world focused on Iraq's Saddam Hussein, the real sponsor and harbinger of Middle East terrorists, Iran, seemed largely ignored by the U.S. in its war on terror.

AFRICA

FROM TUNIS TO CAPE TOWN, FROM DAKAR to Djibouti, the continent of Africa continued to decline economically, socially and culturally, with very few bright spots—descending into the state of the world's singular continental basket case.

Zimbabwe, the latest of the former colonial entities to implode, had perhaps the highest profile. Here, the country's leader, Robert Mugabe, pursued a deliberate policy of the elimination of the only national force that could give hope to this ailing country, the white farmer. Rumbles to the south indicate that Mugabe's so-called land-reform policy is beginning to impact South Africa as well (see p. 16).

Declining per capita food production and unpayable debt continued as Africa's legacy of decolonization. British journalist Max Hastings said it all in an article headlined "The Game is Over for the White Man Throughout Africa." In it he stated, "In a succession of lurches and surges, Africa is reverting to a dark continent. ... By almost every economic measure Africa has gone backward, not forward, since the 1960s. ... You may have noticed that even as more and more whites are obliged to quit Africa, growing numbers of black Africans seek to migrate to Europe and the United States—refugees from the economic catastrophes their own rulers have created at home. ... It is a bitter historic irony. ... Africa's story will have become an exclusive black disaster" (*Daily Mail*, London, Sept. 13, 2002).



DEPRESSION A squatter shack in South Africa represents the poverty of the continent.

LATIN AMERICA



CAPITAL FLIGHT Argentines scramble to the bank to buy dollars after their peso tumbled to new lows in March.

THE GREAT HOPES OF THE 1990S FOR AN economic revival of Latin America faded last year as the whole region dipped into economic malaise. Apart from Mexico and Chile, things are grim in this southern region. Argentina and Brazil still face the prospect of default on their massive debts.

The U.S. administration currently has little specific interest in the region south of the Rio Grande; two exceptions are Mexico (with whom it has a significant interest in trade and in limiting rampant border incursions) and Colombia. Having entered into Plan Colombia, ostensibly for the purpose of aiding in that nation's effort to quell its huge drug problem, the U.S. finds itself now bound in a mini-war of attrition with hit-and-run terrorists in a jungle setting not unlike Vietnam.

Elsewhere, Latin America shows little promise to investors for a stimulation of its moribund economies, given its pattern of unstable government and widespread financial corruption. Yet, its European connections both ethnically and religiously may ultimately rejoin Latin America's umbilical cord with the womb of its old colonial mother—the continent of Europe—through the aegis of the EU. If this is the case, then Europe either will have to emerge out of its current recession to enable viable investment in Latin America, or it will exploit the Latinas' current economic malaise by signing deals for much-needed resources at bedrock prices. Watch for events in the future to lead Latin America back to its religious roots in the center of EU spiritual influence, the seven-hilled city of Rome.

UNITED STATES

THE MAIN CHALLENGE OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION, representative of the world's singular greatest nation, was to maintain focus within a world in the midst of unprecedented global turbulence.

In the past year, 25 civil wars were waged—cutting a swath across the globe from Indonesia, through Asia, India and Pakistan to Africa, Spain and Colombia. Add to this the worldwide network of terrorist organizations, and the role of policing the globe becomes a daunting task.

With Slobodan Milosevic removed from the pages of the world's press, the Bush administration initially focused on the personality of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. When he proved too elusive to catch, it was Saddam Hussein, leader of Iraq, who was next brought into the focus of Washington's glaring foreign-policy light. Having weighed the options of gunning for any of the three nominated members of President Bush's "axis of evil," the administration opted for the lesser evil of Saddam, considering the other two options far too volatile. Thus it was that Iraq became the central feature of the American government's strategic policy throughout the year. Yet, here the U.S. is in a cleft stick, for if UN weapons inspectors fail to find proof of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, upon what grounds does America mount the attack on him, an attack which is already in a final phase of preparation?

"Since the United States has a serious credibility problem in the Islamic world—where it is perceived as too weak and irresolute to carry out its operations to complete success—backing away from Iraq would be not only damaging, but far more damaging than if the issue had not been spun up as the keystone of U.S. policy.

"Therefore, the United States cannot abandon its goal of regime change in Iraq or even put it off for very long without causing serious problems for itself among the audiences that Washington and al-Qaeda both are trying to influence—Islamic regimes and populations" (*www.stratfor.com*, Oct. 21, 2002). This is an unenviable situation for the U.S. government.

Exacerbating this scenario is the great wave of anti-Americanism cur-

rently sweeping the world. As one British commentator reported, "[T]o the world's eternal shame, 9/11 is increasingly seen as America's comeuppance. Incredibly, anti-Americanism has increased over the last year" (*Mirror*, Sept. 11, 2002).

But the greatest of shame is surely borne by many liberals within the Western democracies, including the U.S. itself. National self-loathing has been a popular sport of liberal socialists in Britain for decades. But 9/11, it seems, has brought the anti-American phenomenon to the fore. "These days you don't have to be some dust-encrusted nut job in Kabul or Karachi or



UPSET Anti-U.S. protests, like this one in South Korea, are appearing more frequently worldwide.

Finsbury Park to see America as the Great Satan. The anti-American alliance is made up of self-loathing liberals who blame the Americans for every ill in the Third World, and conservatives suffering from power-envy, bitter that the world's only superpower can do what it likes without having to ask permission" (*ibid.*).

It seems the U.S. just can't win in the global PR stakes. The temptation for the U.S. to revert back to isolationism, if not under this present government, then perhaps under the next, will be palpable once the true nature of its perceived status as international pariah really dawns on its public. The coming year will force the U.S. government to put up or shut up on the subject of Iraq. Either way, for America it will be a no-win deal. The ancient prophecy mouthed by the Prophet Moses will inevitably be fulfilled against this morally corrupted, materialistic nation which has simply lost sight of the true God who is the source of all its blessings: "And I will break the pride of her power" (Lev. 26:19).

IN CONCLUDING OUR REVIEW OF THE events of 2002, it is essential that we return to the region that will continue to have the most powerful consequences on the world scene, in particular the U.S., and Britain and its dominions, over the coming year and beyond: the continent of Europe.

In the Prophet Daniel's exposition of King Nebuchadnezzar's great vision, he explained that the final great Gentile empire would be divided (Dan. 2:41). The Holy Roman Empire was divided between the east, with its capital in Constantinople, and the west, having its capital in Rome. For decades, the developing seventh and final resurrection of that empire, now in its current guise as the European Union, has comprised only a western component. However, with the accession of Eastern European nations in May 2004 agreed at the EU summit last month, the vision emerges, for the first time since Eastern and Western Europe were enslaved under Nazism-fascism, of a final resurrection of that old two-legged Roman Empire. As Pope John Paul II foresaw in a joint declaration on October 12, "[W]e have been the witness of a promising reconciliation between East and West" (*www.vatican.va*).

The last time Eastern and Western Europe were "reconciled" under Catholic rule was under the old "Holy" Roman Empire! To those who, in the words of revelatory Scripture, have an ear to "hear what the Spirit saith" (Rev. 3:22), the geopolitics of the past year rapidly accelerated the restoration of that ancient engine of destruction.

However, the closer events move us toward the final resurrection of that empire, the closer we come to the most climactic event of the age, the return of Jesus Christ: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives . . . And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one" (Zech. 14:4, 9).

Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to watch and pray (Mark 13:33). As we reflect on the fulfillment of prophesied world events increasingly becoming evident in this last hour of man's present civilization on Earth, continue to watch current events and stay tuned to the vision portrayed in this magazine. It is, in fact, the *only* vision that remains of real and ultimate hope in a world increasingly filled with terror and fear. ♦

Can God Save the Queen?

As 2002 ended, scandal once again encircled the British royal family. Will the royals survive this latest onslaught of mudslinging?

BY RON FRASER
AND GARETH FRASER

TO VISIT WESTMINSTER ABBEY IN London is a highlight for any tourist in Britain. It is the most famous sanctuary and ancient royal burial site in the country. Here the bodies of many of Britain's kings and queens were laid to rest. Since its construction, it has also been the site for the coronation of the kings and queens of England. It is an especially rich historical location.

Early in 1994, some members of the *Trumpet* staff spent time within the Abbey. Something we were particularly interested in was King Edward's coronation chair, the venerable old throne upon which Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in June 1953.

At that time, the chair housed an ancient relic, a seemingly innocuous block of sandstone. The stone was contained within a portal specially made to house it by the craftsmen who constructed the chair at the beginning of the 14th century. Obviously this rock had special significance to the royalty crowned above it and the nation they were ordained to serve. Up to the time of great social change in Britain commencing in the 1960s, this old throne had a plaque attached to it announcing that the stone was "Jacob's pillar stone" (Gen. 28:18), upon which the ancient kings of Israel had once been crowned.

As we prepared to leave, one of the Abbey priests who had served as our host quietly told us, "Many people today in Britain and even here in the Abbey do not believe that this ancient chair represents the royal throne of David and that the rock inserted into it is, in fact, Jacob's pillar stone. This was once common knowledge, but is not now a popular point of view. I have a



GRACE UNDER FIRE Queen Elizabeth II

Jewish family ancestry, and I want you to know that I believe it is David's throne and that the stone is Jacob's pillar stone."

Royal Scandal

If we were to believe the British tabloid press, always hungry for scandal, then today we would believe that the British royal family is on its last legs. Rocked by scandal both real and imagined, hounded by left-wing politicians and media, the royal House of Windsor has been subjected to a barrage of self-righteous scorn and criticism flung around the world by modern mass communication, such as none of their predecessors ever had to bear.

The result is inevitable.

When a nation unforgettingly attacks the singular institution which has bound it in unity since its inception, that nation is destined to fail. For the shame of it all is that it is not simply the Queen nor her family after whom the destroyers are baying for blood. It is in fact the regal and ancient institution of *the throne of David* which these min-

ions are, wittingly or otherwise, lusting to tear down and grind into the dust of history.

The fickleness of public opinion has been demonstrated over the last 12 years in Britain. In 1990, it seemed that Britain's royal family, especially Queen Elizabeth, rode the crest of a wave of popularity. But, by the early 1990s, cracks in the facades of the marriages of the Queen's progeny were being seized upon by a voracious media and press as they chased ratings and competed for profits. Together these institutions, having cast off the restraint and personal accountability they possessed before the 1960s, worked at creating an ongoing real-life soap opera, using the royal family as unwitting pawns. Over time, the marriages of three of Queen Elizabeth's and Prince Philip's offspring failed, each situation shamelessly exploited by the media and milked for every dollar, pound, frank or mark it could yield. Both Britain's image as a nation and the collective image of the royal

family suffered great damage as a result.

Then came the year 2002 and 12 months of celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, and one might have thought, amid the joy of such a milestone, *surely now things will improve for Britain's royal family*. For a moment, it seemed they did. The press was forced to acknowledge, reluctantly in many instances, a huge gain in royal popularity as the year progressed.

Then a presence came back to haunt the nation. Real or imagined shenanigans by disloyal royal household staff were deliberately leaked to the press resurrecting memories of scandals attached to the name of the late Princess Diana. Her butler went public, in exchange for a goodly sum and a brief flirtation with celebrity, reporting or real or imagined salacious goings on in the princess's household. Others chimed in with this cheap and nasty publicity while there was a dollar to be made at the royal family's expense. The resultant mayhem threatened to throw a murky mantle of scandal over all the

positive gains the royals had made during the Queen's jubilee year. It seems that the royal House of Windsor is doomed to be dogged by gossip, rumor and scandal for the rest of its days.

In the face of this constant barrage seeking to destroy these underpinnings of the British nation, can God really save the Queen? Will He even want to?

An Everlasting Throne

Many of our readers are aware that the very book which reveals the origins of that ancient coronation stone, once under Edward's chair and since transferred to Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, has much to say about Britain's royal household—its history and its future. But did you know that God's irrefutable Word, the Bible, declares that this royal throne will continue FOREVER?

Anciently, God made a binding agreement with King David about the future of this throne: "I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations" (Ps. 89:3-4).

God doesn't leave the issue under any doubt. He reinforces it! "For thus saith the Lord; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel" (Jer. 33:17). So binding is God's agreement with David and his descendants that God goes as far as declaring, "... If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne ..." (vv. 20-21).

This is an irrevocable declaration by Almighty God!

In his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert Armstrong underscored the importance of this dynamic revealed truth: "This is hard to believe! Yet God promised and *unalterably guaranteed* just that! There were no conditions. Nothing that would happen could prevent it. The sins of the people were not to change it. The promise stood immutable!" As long as there is day and night, as long as the Earth continues to spin on its axis, as long as the sun, moon and stars are up in the heavens, says God, the covenant with this throne will continue! Feeble man cannot and will not stop God's royal purpose.

This is the rich and royal heritage of the throne on which Queen Elizabeth II currently sits, which the British and their Commonwealth dominions have largely forgotten! And it is *forgetting* this grand heritage that is the prime reason for the *curse* this throne is presently under, a curse which soon will rain down powerfully on this venerable household and the nation that once held it in esteem!

Accursed Nation

As Britain has progressively lost touch with its royal heritage and, more importantly, forgotten the beneficent God who granted it such priceless heritage in the first place, curses are increasingly being enacted! "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not. And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him for all this. Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard" (Hos. 7:8-12). Britain is biblical

Ephraim! (For proof of this key biblical fact, request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

The curses that are increasingly gnawing at the British vitals—mad cow disease, foot and mouth disease, farm suicides, London's reputation as the abortion capital of the world, the Irish terror plague, the amendment of British law to legitimize anything from sodomy to bestiality, the dumbing down of education, rampant drug-soaked city crime, and the loss of so much that was once respected globally as British charm, elegance and manners—ultimately are all tied up with the *loss* of that *identity*!

Almighty God powerfully condemns this loss of knowledge! "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected

knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame" (Hos. 4:6-7).

God will continue to afflict them until He has their attention! Clearly, it will take more heartache than is felt at present to wake up Britain to the reason for its increasingly accursed state.

Yet even as God applies the pressure, He has prophesied that their national *repentance* from sin approaches!

King of Kings

Under Britain's present government, the great institution of Parliament has been lowered to a status far below that of the

parliaments of old—once powerful forums for leadership in the times of Britain's greatness. Under the inevitable anti-democratic impositions of the European Union, while Britain retains its EU membership, Parliament will continue to lose its power.

But the British monarchy existed long before Parliament, long before the institution of Magna Carta. And this royal throne will actually *out-live* Parliament! Today British and Commonwealth citizens fail to

understand the true *origin* and exhilarating *destiny* of the British throne.

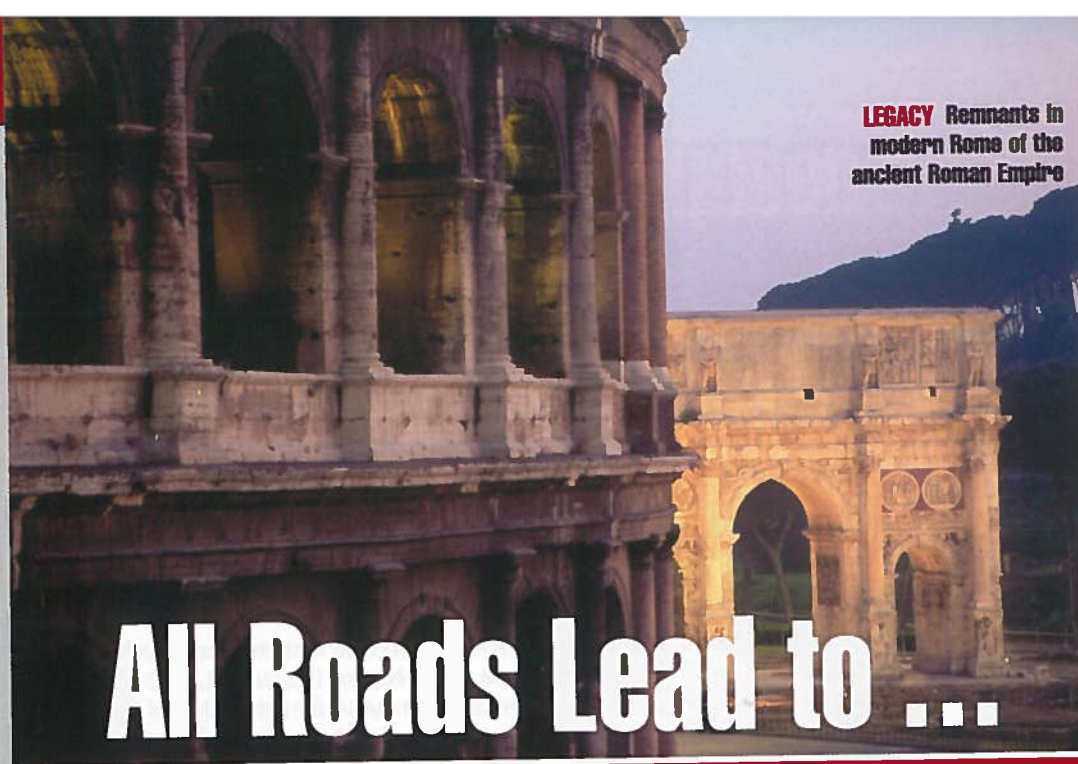
Biblical Judah (known today as the modern State of Israel) was prophesied to be the tribe that would *produce the kingly line in Israel* (Gen. 49:10). "For Judah prevailed above his brethren, and of him came the chief ruler; but the birthright was Joseph's" (1 Chron. 5:2). The tribe of Judah is referred to as a lion, after Christ the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev. 5:5). The lion is one of the two symbols displayed on the coat of arms of the British royal family. The other is an ox, the tribal symbol, or standard, of Ephraim.

It has been supposed that King Zedekiah of Judah was the last descendant of David to sit upon that throne in Judah, since Zedekiah, along with his

· continued on p. 17



ENTHRONED King Edward's chair, with the pillar stone



LEGACY Remnants in modern Rome of the ancient Roman Empire

All Roads Lead to ...

To students of history, the parallels between the developing federal monolith in Europe and the old Holy Roman Empire are uncanny. To students of prophecy, they are startlingly real.

BY RON FRASER

WIN MODERN EUROPE, MOST ROADS lead to Brussels,” announced a headline in a recent article by Breffni O’Rourke written from Prague and published by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (Oct. 31, 2002). The title was making reference to the old saying from the days of the Roman Empire, “All roads lead to Rome”—replacing that ancient capital with the headquarters of today’s European Union, Brussels, capital of Belgium.

Yet, despite the fact that in this latest resurrection of a federalist Europe it is Brussels and not Rome that is the beating bureaucratic heart of the EU, one cannot help but draw a connection between it and the old Roman Empire.

The person who posed these comparisons just 15 years ago, however, would have been a laughingstock. Germany was divided between East and West, the Soviet Empire had a whole clutch of Eastern European nations in its realm, and the Cold War was at its peak.

Yet, even so, one man who had lived through most of the 20th century, and who died 16 years ago this month, consistently declared for almost 60 years that the whole world would one day witness the final resurrection of that old “Holy” Roman Empire.

Speaking of the time leading up to the Second World War, in the very first edition of the magazine of which he was to be founder and editor in chief for 52 years, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “... Mussolini’s whole aim is to restore the ancient Roman Empire in all its former splendor, power and glory—and Rome ruled the world!” (*Plain Truth*, Feb. 1934). Consistently, for the ensuing five years, Herbert Armstrong predicted Mussolini’s rise to lead a resurrection of the old Roman Empire.

By 1938 it was apparent that fascist Italy was in alliance with Nazi Germany. Within this context Herbert Armstrong wrote, “[W]e shall witness the mighty ROMAN EMPIRE reborn—the fascist-Nazi dictatorships of Europe. It is the rebirth of the ROMAN EMPIRE that the events of these past few days concern” (*Plain Truth*, March 1938). Then only months away from the start of World War II, Herbert Armstrong again wrote warning of events on the rise in fascist-Nazi Europe progressing toward the prophesied rise of the Roman



ARMSTRONG

◆ EUROPE

Empire, an empire known throughout its history for destroying more than it ever built. As time progressed, it became apparent to Armstrong that Mussolini, having declared himself emperor of a revived Roman Empire, was indeed fulfilling the prophesied sixth resurrection of that ancient Iron Empire (Rev. 17:10).

But Mr. Armstrong did not stop there. He understood, knowing that he had “the more sure word of prophecy” (II Pet. 1:19) and that the Scriptures cannot be broken (John 10:35), that there remained a seventh and final resurrection of the Roman Empire yet to be fulfilled, even as Mussolini was strung up and Nazi Germany lay in abject defeat. Thus he continued on, against all the gainsayers, declaring that these ancient allies, Italy and Germany, long back in history hav-

ing reached an accommodation where Germany became the pope’s traditional protector, would combine again in an even mightier effort to resurrect the Roman Empire to a semblance of its former earthly glory and power.

We project our focus forward to 1983, when Herbert Armstrong was in the final years of his globe-encompassing ministry. It was a time of aggressive diplomacy by Pope John Paul II in his efforts to break the Soviet hold on his home country, Poland.

What you are about to read was written EIGHT YEARS BEFORE the collapse of the Soviet Union! Here is the visionary perspective Mr. Armstrong portrayed fully 19 years ago: “The pope’s dramatic visit to his native Poland had added greatly to setting the stage for the prophesied REUNION OF EUROPE—the resurrection of the medieval ‘Holy Roman Empire’” (Member and co-worker letter, June 22, 1983).

There is the consistency of the same message which Mr. Armstrong published in the first edition of the *Plain Truth* magazine back in February 1934. But notice, in his letter of 1983, how up to date that message was: “The pope’s visit to Poland ... is MOST SIGNIFICANT event in breaking loose probably five Soviet satellite nations in Eastern Europe, so they ma-

be united by the Catholic Church with five Western European nations. It will become a colossal THIRD WORLD POWER, possibly greater than either the Soviet Union or the United States" (ibid.).

Fulfilled Prophecy!

Now, let's come right up to the year 2003. Look at what has happened! Within less than a decade of Herbert Armstrong's visionary prediction, all of the old Soviet states west and south of the Ukraine have broken loose from the throttle-hold of Russia and all are either awaiting accession to full membership of the European Union, or are already, as in the case of the Balkan states, virtual colonies of that federating union of European nation-states!

Small wonder that we read a headline, "In Modern Europe, Most Roads Lead to Brussels," the EU headquarters.

But, even more significant, respected geopolitical analysts are now making the very same connection between the EU and the old Roman Empire! "Polish analyst Alexander Smolar [said] that there is an 'interesting' comparison between the modern EU and the early medieval Holy Roman Empire. 'The Holy Roman Empire was a very complex structure, with divided sovereignty, with a hierarchical structure of power, from emperor to the kings and landlords. [It was] a very complex power structure with integrating forms We can say that the European Union, which is constructed also as a complex structure, has certain powers attached to the pan-European authorities'" (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, op. cit.).

This same observer makes another connection, comparing the core nations of the EU to the union of European states which formed the catholicized "Holy" Roman Empire: "... Smolar noted the historical quirk that the territory of the six original founding states of what is now the EU—France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg—approximately *matches the empire of Charlemagne, the founder of the Holy Roman Empire* who was crowned in Rome in the year 800" (ibid.; emphasis mine throughout).

In that letter of June 1983, Mr. Armstrong envisioned a united Europe becoming "a colossal THIRD WORLD POWER, possibly greater than either the Soviet Union or the United States." Compare that vision of almost 20 years ago with

The rearmament of Europe will eventually supply the answer to the European Union's mounting economic crises, as it serves to fire up the furnaces of industry.

the following assessment written just after the EU summit in Copenhagen last month. Commenting on the EU's decision to proceed with accepting 10 more nations into its membership, the report declares, "The EU is already a complex and colossal structure [I]t will grow into a conglomeration of 25 sovereign nations with a total population of 450 million. The combined current gross national product of all the nations that will be involved is more than \$9 trillion, close to that of the United States. That will give the EU a larger population and more ethnic complexity than either the United States or the old Soviet Union ever had. ... [I]t will also become a *vast force in international affairs*. The new European colossus will be *comparable in diplomatic and economic clout with the United States and China* It will, after all, have 25 different votes in the United Nations It could be a *global colossus* indeed, and in deed" (United Press International, Dec. 15, 2002).

Note the congruence in the language used by Herbert Armstrong envisioning this *colossus* of Europe 20 years ago, and that used by the UPI reporter observing the *current reality* of this emerging geopolitical giant.

Yet this same report described this complex mishmash of nations, uniting into a European empire, as "vast and ramshackle, yet steadily consolidating."

It is this "vast and ramshackle" nature of this European hybrid mix that is currently threatening crisis on the Continent. The stimulus for the crisis emanates from the EU's present capital—Brussels.

A Tale of Two Technocrats

Back in 1974, two Roman Catholic politicians were voted into power in the EU's leading nations, France and Germany. The French elected Valery Giscard d'Estaing as their president; Germany elected Helmut Kohl chancellor.

In addition to their religion, these men had one other characteristic in common: They were technocrats rather than statesmen. Each held agreement with the other that nothing, and certainly not the will of the people, would stand in the way of their dream of creating a *federal European superpower*.

These two men oversaw a period of rapid change within the EU where decisions were made behind closed doors and then steamrolled right over the heads of the national electorates within the Union. The method they used was to encapsulate changes in law, custom and practice within a series of treaties which other member nations were cajoled and bullied into signing. Germany rose to the fore in this process, following the union of East and West in 1990.

"[T]he new German powerhouse seemed like a potential threat to peace and stability throughout the Continent. Under Kohl and his foreign minister, Genscher, it was in fact a threat. The new Germany *manipulated diplomatic recognition* of its old Nazi ally, Croatia, triggering the bloody war in Yugoslavia that is still simmering" (www.germanyalert.com, Oct. 28, 2002).

It was the hope of other EU member nations that Germany could be so bound within various treaties that it would not pose a danger to them. These treaties then needed to be underpinned by a plethora of edicts of enactment. This "gave birth to a *new bureaucracy in Brussels*, and that new order promptly began flexing its muscles. The EU chipped away at national sovereignty with *one treaty after the other, almost always adopted without the consent of those who were to be governed*" (ibid.).

Most particularly, it was the drive to eliminate sovereign currencies, replacing them with a single federal currency, that showed the blatant disregard for both democracy and the will of the average European citizen. "[W]hen it came to introduction of the euro, member states battered down the fundamental resentment of ordinary citizens with *glitzy propaganda that was filled with lies*" (ibid.).

Thus Germany was able to ramrod its will upon the Union *within the Brussels bureaucracy*. But no institution can happily endure on such a foundation. And today, while work at federalizing Europe continues in earnest, problems are mounting just as quickly.

Crisis on the Continent

This year will be the European Union's year of crisis. Continental Europe's three leading national economies—those of Germany, France and Italy—are under great strain, with Germany sliding rapidly into the red. Brussels is thus faced with a huge problem. Having spun the great lie to the 12 EMU members about the need to join the European Monetary Union (thus sacrificing sovereignty in monetary policy), the technocrats now have to figure out how to play down the fact that Britain, which has so far refused to adopt the euro, has the fastest-growing economy within the EU!

The prospect of crisis looming within the Union, only 16 months away from accepting 10 more nations with an additional 75 million citizens, overshadows Brussels.

Germany leads the tales of gloom. "The leaders of some of Germany's biggest companies believe their country faces its worst crisis since the war amid deep skepticism about the ability of the government to solve Germany's problems. ... 'Not since the end of the war have conditions been as bad as today,' said Alexander von Toppelkirch, head of the IKB Deutsche Industriebank, a business lender" (*Financial Times*, Dec. 15, 2002).

Such comparisons will not help public opinion within the 10 nations set for accession in May 2004. All 10 must hold a referendum before their accession can be ratified, to legitimize the process in the eyes of their national electorates. Referring to the referendum process, EU Enlargement Commissioner Gunter Verheugen told the BBC, "Negotiations are finished, public debate will begin, and I think it is very important to tell European citizens that this is the best-prepared enlargement in the history of the European Union, that nobody must be afraid" (*Baltic News Service*, Dec. 14, 2002). *That is a huge lie!*

Rumbles from within the EU member nations were heard during the Copenhagen summit, further exacerbating the feeling of gathering crisis. "EU critics from 20 European countries

warned against the creation of a European superpower and criticized the EU approach to candidate countries in the accession talks. ... The EU-critical declaration points out the EU-regulated areas of explicit concern including the lack of democratic legitimacy and undermining of democratic nation-states by the EU. ... The last part of the declaration calls for equal financing and equal access to media for the no and yes camps in referenda related to EU issues" (*www.EUobserver.com*, Dec. 11, 2002).

The EU critics have very fresh in their minds the undermining of the democratic process that was blatantly obvious to all with the rigging of the yes



A GROWING FAMILY At December's Copenhagen enlargement summit, European leaders discussed the imminent inclusion of 10 more nations in the EU.

vote in Ireland on the issue of monetary union. The Irish government and the EU in concert threw 10 times the money at promoting a yes vote, compared to that spent on the no campaign.

Watch for similar underhanded tactics to be used in the upcoming referendum within the 10 aspiring EU nations to counteract public opinion dubious of joining a Union in economic crisis.

Fixing the Crisis

As domestic affairs within the EU—in particular the growing economic crisis—threaten its cohesion, there are two elements outside of domestic politics which will work in the future to bind this fractious union of European states together for a brief few years. One has to do with the EU's foreign policy; the other involves its religion.

Pointing to the most significant element of EU foreign policy, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported, "The most recent extension of EU activities is in the field of foreign and security policy, including the development of a

military force" (op. cit.).

The principal means of enacting this policy has been the creation of a European federal police force, already drafted into action in the Balkans, and the European rapid reaction force, set to deploy in its first operation, also within the Balkans, next month. In a startling development last year, the old German general staff, which planned and oversaw aggressive military strategy in the world's two greatest wars, was resurrected.

Then, last month, alarm bells rang as, using the events of September 11, 2001, as their pretext, Brussels technocrats drafting the European Federal

Constitution suddenly exposed their plan to establish a "Euro-Pentagon" in Brussels commanded by a defense chief able to launch military operations anywhere in the world" (*Daily Telegraph*, London, Dec. 17, 2002).

The plan calls for the appointment of an EU defense secretary with a support staff linked to an EU command-and-control center and an EU intelligence agency possessing satellite surveillance capa-

bility. Of deepest concern, given Europe's history of aggressive warfare, is a clause in the plan which indicates that "The force would have a broad mandate to 'dispel hostility,' a term that seems to open the door to much wider warfare than the existing menu of humanitarian tasks" (ibid.).

Simply put, the rearmament of Europe will eventually supply the answer to the EU's mounting economic crises, as it serves to fire up the furnaces of industry in preparation for the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies on the future "king of the north" (Dan. 11:40)—the resurrected old Roman Empire.

This monolithic federation of states, regardless of its present crises, is simply destined to become the most significant influence on the global economy in the near future.

Binding the Union

As Mr. Armstrong explained, this economic powerhouse is prophesied in the book of Revelation: "And the woman which thou sawest is that great

city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth" (Rev. 17:18).

This "great city" is described in the same passage as possessing a *mystery*, of having a direct relationship with *Babylon*, the seat of all pagan religion (v. 5). Bible students understand that chapters 17 and 18 of Revelation reveal a great church spiritually dominating a world superpower with a recognized state religion. This is that ancient "Holy" Roman Empire, in its final resurrection, comprised of 10 groups of nations ruled by 10 kings (Rev. 17:12).

In the minds of dedicated Catholic Europhiles, the conclusion of the Treaty of Versailles at the close of World War I, and the division of Europe between the Allied powers—the U.S., Britain and Russia—at the Yalta Summit in 1945, were but aberrations in the continuum of history. There is a generation in Europe, steeped in the history of that continent, that has planned for decades to see Europe returned to its old Holy Roman configuration, one that spreads from the North Sea to Africa, from the British Isles to the Ural mountains—and, most importantly, embracing the city of Jerusalem!

No person of this generation is more committed to that vision than Pope John Paul II. Upon receiving the new Hungarian ambassador, Gabor Erdody, to the Vatican last October, the pope declared this vision to his audience: "The Holy See is pleased before the prospect of this enlargement of the Union, which should permit the progressive reestablishment of the unity of the European continent, broken with the Yalta division and the closing of the Soviet bloc," he said (www.zenit.org, Oct. 24, 2002).

In December, the pope was moved to mouth his strongest words yet about recalcitrant citizens who are publicizing their resistance. "According to *Le Monde*, the pope is planning to 'break Catholic resistance' to EU membership. On December 8, he called on European leaders to conclude negotiations on accession as quickly as possible ..." (*European Foundation Intelligence Digest*, Dec. 12, 2002).

Calling on his priestly troops to take the front line in brow-beating their parishioners into a *yes* vote for accession to EU membership, the pope mandated release of a declaration by his Commission of Bishops' Conferences of the European Union. This was

Those "Christian values" go to the very roots of this European federation. They are the very values espoused by that old "Holy" Roman Empire of Charlemagne.

an effort to "break the last resistance of Catholics in certain candidate countries like Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Malta" (*ibid.*).

In a tone that revived images of the eastern and western legs of the old Roman Empire, the text of the declaration went on: "The bishops see these accessions as the realization of 'a hope particularly cherished by the church' in terms of the reconciliation between East and West ..." (*ibid.*).

The last time East and West were politically united in Europe was under the fascist-Nazi yoke!

Watch for tremendous pressure to be mounted by the Catholic Church to counter any effort for democracy to allow a fair and just vote in these referendums. As was the case in Catholic Ireland, the only acceptable vote to the church will be *yes* to EU accession!

State Religion

At the same time as the priests go on the attack, the pope has his own Vatican-influenced contact in Brussels working to ensure that the text of the developing European Constitution ultimately recognizes Roman Catholicism as the *state religion* of the new Euro-empire. Who is that man? That old cohort of ex-chancellor Kohl of Germany—Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

"Giscard recently had a long audience with the pope and has floated the idea of inserting a statement of Christian values into the European Constitution, which he has much power to influence as chairman of the Convention on the Future of Europe" (*New Statesman*, Nov. 25, 2002).

Those "Christian values" go to the very roots of this European federation. They are the values espoused by that old "Holy" Roman Empire of Charlemagne.

In discussions with a journalist of the *Times* newspaper, a priest in Bohemia emphasized this condition of Catholic support shoring up the efforts

of the Brussels bureaucrats in extending membership to Eastern European and Mediterranean countries. "We need a Christian Europe, not just an economic union, but one with roots," Father Lobkovicz told us in western Bohemia. "If you stick to your roots, you cannot lose your identity. Every building has to have a foundation" (Aug. 19, 2002). These "roots" are the same Catholic roots that Pope John Paul II referred to when he cried out to Europe from the great cathedral in Galicia, Spain, on a visit to that country in 1994, "Europe! Return to your roots!"

History, Prophecy, Current Reality

The *history* of the Holy Roman Empire is documented in much detail. The *prophecies* of the old iron empire, destined to prevail through six resurrections on into its most powerful, yet briefest of all, seventh resurrection of this great combine of church and state, are detailed from the book of Daniel in the Old Testament, through the major and minor prophets, to the book of Revelation in your Bible.

The *current reality* of the final resurrection of that old empire is on the world scene, today, for all to see who will see! It was there from the inception of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952. It was there from the time of the old Treaty of Rome in 1957. Then came the European Common Market, followed by the European Economic Community, the decade of treaties of the 1990s and into the 21st century—the Maastricht Treaty, Treaty of Amsterdam, Treaty of Nice, and now we await the European Constitution. The iron empire steadily rises.

And all the way through its formation, from the earliest writings of Herbert Armstrong, to the message which you read in this magazine today, a *warning* has been going out to this world—warning that unless the English-speaking peoples return to their God, who delivered them in two great world wars, a final great conflict will afflict them, once again, from the east, as an instrument of punishment for their national sins (Hos. 13:15). For the continuance of that warning, even as we see this mixture of iron and clay which is the European Union (Dan. 2:40-41) rising before our eyes, we owe so much to that man, Herbert

· continued on p. 28



FOREIGN AFFAIRS India's prime minister and Russia's president meet in December 2002.

◆ ASIA

Romance rekindled

In his travels in late November and early December 2002, Russian President Vladimir Putin visited countries throughout Central and east Asia—the two of note being India and China. The possibility of a Russia-China-India tripartite axis was considered. Putin signed joint declarations first with Chinese leaders and a few days later with Indian leaders that confirmed “determination to contribute to the establishment of a just, multipolar world,” as the declaration with India read.

Significant is the use of the phrase “multi-polar world”—carefully agreed upon by the three nations. This phrase clearly expresses “discontent with the current American global dominance and its perceived long-term perilous consequences” (*Asia Times*, Dec. 7, 2002).

The war on terrorism brings the U.S. extremely close to these three countries, with a heavy military presence now in Central Asia. U.S. bases in former Soviet satellites are just a couple hundred miles away from the borders of India and China.

The idea of a triangular axis between Moscow, New Delhi and Beijing was first entertained when the U.S./NATO

campaign against Kosovo seemed to reveal, at least to Asia, a world dominated by a singular, unchecked superpower.

Now with the U.S. flexing its muscles over the Iraq situation, concerns have again been

raised among the three Asian giants. Though these nations have tried to make clear that no overt anti-U.S. feelings are driving any increased cooperation, Washington isn't happy about the situation.

Developing relations among the three countries have even raised the possibility of India being allowed into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), set up by Beijing and Moscow to create cooperation throughout Central Asia and China as a front against terrorism. Moscow believes strong trilateral cooperation (with India's entrance into the SCO) would help create greater security in a region increasingly plagued by terrorism—with all three countries presently afflicted by Islamist disturbances within their borders.

There may be issues that stand in the way of a strong-knit alliance between these three countries: China and India have deep-rooted historical rivalries; Sino-Russian relations have vacillated between cozy and aloof the past several decades. But what is certain is the two catalysts bringing the trio closer together—Western dominance and global terrorism—will only increase.

Bible prophecy clearly shows that U.S. dominance will not last long, and the new superpower will be a united Europe. Its global dominance will be far bolder than America's has been this past century. And this may

prove to be the strong catalyst that forges this mighty triangular Asian axis.

The Bible prophesies that this European beast power will be conquered by the coming “kings of the east” (Rev. 16:12)—players of which are described in Ezekiel 38. (Request your free copy of *Russia and China in Prophecy* for further information on this.) Knowledge of the biblical identity of those who comprise this alliance shows Russia, China and India to be part of this powerful eastern bloc which will one day stun the world with its size and power!

◆ ISRAEL

Closer with Germany

Affairs were beginning to look sticky between Israel and Germany for a while. It began when Germany signaled it would allow Israel to purchase wheeled armored personnel carriers (Fuchs) from German manufacturers. Within a few days, however, Germany reversed its decision, saying there was a miscommunication concerning the order. Israeli President Moshe Katsav spoke of this being “a disappointment.”

A week later, Katsav visited Germany for three days. During his visit, the Fuchs incident became a political football, with the opposition Christian Democratic Union's leader, Angela Merkel, strongly criticizing the German government's handling of the deal. In this context she pledged her party's “lasting support” for Israel. On the government side, many within the Red-Green coalition expressed fears that the Fuchs could be used by Israel against the Palestinians. Meanwhile,

Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, seeking to diffuse the situation and eliminate yet another crisis for his struggling government, indicated that the deal was likely to proceed. In reality it still hangs in the balance.

It turned out to be a bitter-sweet visit for the Israeli president. As one German news source reported, Katsav's visit “was heavy with symbolism” (*Deutsche Welle*, Dec. 11, 2002). He broke new ground by becoming the first Israeli president to consecrate a Jewish synagogue on German soil. But he also witnessed neo-Nazi demonstrations in Berlin. This led to confusing signals from the president. On the one hand, “Katsav was full of praise for Germany, a close ally of his country for decades. He thanked the German government for its support for Israel and for its efforts to combat anti-Semitism and extremism” (ibid.; emphasis ours throughout). On the other hand, “Katsav described as ‘terrible’ a resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe and particularly in Germany, where the Holocaust had destroyed so many Jewish people. Although they were only a small minority, he said, ‘one never knows how many people will allow themselves to be influenced’” (ibid.).

Why praise Germany while at the same time stressing fears of the potential of a



BOND Israel's Katsav (left) in Berlin with Germany's Schröder, December 2002.

resurgence of anti-Semitism? Simply because this is the ace-in-the-hole that the tiny nation of Israel is still able to play when trying to balance its relationship with Germany. And it still produces results, as Germany works at developing its profile as an ostensibly reformed, democratic nation to the international community.

Israel has been fighting a war against terror since its inception as a nation. With the U.S. now preoccupied with its own war on terror, it is significantly distracted from concentrating on the peace process in the Middle East. We continue to point out that Israel will find the European Union, in particular Germany in concert with the Vatican, more than willing to fill the vacuum left by the U.S.

Watch for this relationship to continue to grow as the EU, particularly Germany, sends more support to Israel, while at the same time playing a balancing act with the Palestinians as its chief benefactor.

◆ TURKEY

Put off again

Poor Turkey, a country which, having been tempted and refused membership repeatedly over nearly 40 years since first indicating interest in EU entry, has again been shunned. How long will Turkey keep on knocking before becoming fed up with empty promises?

Last month's historic EU summit in Copenhagen was eagerly anticipated as the meeting where, finally, after marathon negotiation sessions, the 10 Mediterranean and Eastern European nations in line to join the EU would get a formal accession date—May 2004. Two other

Eastern European countries, Romania and Bulgaria, are set to join in 2007.

Turkey, which applied well before the 10 accession countries, but was booted to the back of the line after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the opening up of Eastern Europe, had great hopes of finally receiving a date during the Copenhagen conference to begin entry talks. However, it received nothing more than unpromising “encouragement” to continue economic and social reforms, with at least two more years to wait before talks even begin. This, despite the fact that its nation of 66 million, mostly Muslim, citizens has already made considerable efforts to reform its human rights record and economy, and is in a better economic position than some of the accession countries.

Turkey has not hidden its disappointment. Turkey's new prime minister, Abdullah Gul, accused EU leaders of bias and discrimination, and its ambassador to the EU, Oguz Demiralp, said the inaction would send “a bad signal to the Muslim world.” “If membership talks don't start soon, the EU could be accused of having a double standard, Mr. Demiralp said. The EU entertains applications from *predominantly Christian countries* that are in no better shape politically or economically than Turkey but gives Turkey little credit for its progress in aligning its national laws with EU standards, he said” (*Wall Street Journal*, Dec. 11, 2002; emphasis ours).

Prime Minister Gul warned that “an EU failure to set a start date of 2003 would spark a set of countermea-

asures. ‘We have our own Plan B,’ Gul said. ‘We would not like to offend other countries, but we cannot tolerate such a thing. We will not keep on sitting in the waiting room,’ he said” (*Agence France Presse*, Dec. 13, 2002).



ABDULLAH GUL

These comments highlight a hushed but very tangible notion among EU leaders that the Union should draw its border line at the Muslim state, preserving the European conglomerate as an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Union.

◆ SOCIETY

Star worship

Celebrity worship plays the same role as religion for many people. That hypothesis is what psychologists from Southern Illinois University and Sheffield Hallam University recently teamed up to test.

From the 307 Britons who were interviewed in the survey, they found that a person is more likely to exalt a particular celebrity if that individual has lower religious convictions, “even, in some cases, behaving in ways he believes his hero would approve of” (*Spectator*, Nov. 30, 2002). In summary, the study proved the hypothesis to be true.

In 2000, David Giles, a senior lecturer at the University of Coventry, published a book called *Illusions of Immorality*. He contends that the reverent feelings of fans

toward famous personalities is a form of religious worship.

This societal trend has been in existence since film became popular. In 1957, the French anthropologist Edgar Morin published a book called *Les Stars*, in which he stated that celebrity worship ranked as a well-established new religion, and its extent and intensity was comparable to Christianity.

The success this “religion” is finding in the Western world speaks volumes about how religion, namely Christianity, falls shamefully short in answering the questions that give life real meaning and purpose.

Magazine and newspaper stands are gorged with covers sporting celebrities, and one has to search long and hard for the periodicals that feature *real news*. The reason: lack of interest from the public. Most Westerners care more about celebrities, even to the point of worship, than important information about their world. And many ana-



SHRINE Magazine stands are wracked with details about celebrities

lysts are taking notice. “Perhaps the best indication of the dumbing-down of North America is the widespread and growing interest in celebrity,” reported *The Edmonton Sun* (Nov. 12, 2002). It is hard to miss the evidence of this drift, but it will take more than commentators to turn the tide.



"WE WANT LAND" Residents of a Cape Town squatter settlement protest poor housing conditions. Many are attempting to resolve the issue by invading land belonging to white farmers.

Democracy or Anarchy?

Zimbabwe's problems are spilling into the rainbow nation.

BY ANDREW HESSONG

WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN FARMERS are worried about their future. Their government says it will prevent a Zimbabwe-style land grab, where the government is encouraging black farmers to forcibly take over white-owned land. But because the government doesn't back up its word, these farmers increasingly find themselves with no place to turn.

Two years ago, Braam, a farmer who lives about 25 miles outside of Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city, went to court to have land invaders who were illegally occupying his farm removed. These people had walked onto his private land and made it their home, erecting shacks, shops, butcheries and preschools and trying to grow crops. The Witwatersrand High Court ordered the eviction of 6,000 squatters in April 2001, but the government never lifted a finger to enforce the order. Since then, people have continued to arrive by the busload.

Currently there are over 40,000 people in squatter camps where Braam's soybean and fodder fields once were. "We're coming to shoot you and your family" is a threat Braam receives on a regular basis. Having lived on the farm for over 37 years, and having no place

else to go, he replies, "If I must die, I die" (*Farmer's Weekly*, Oct. 11, 2002).

Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's president and head of the African National Congress/South African Communist Party (ANC/SACP) alliance, along with other political officials, has regularly appeared on national television and in the press saying that the situation in Zimbabwe (see December 2002 issue) will not be permitted to happen in South Africa. At the same time, Mbeki and other left-wing leaders in South Africa have shown, by their silence and inaction, that they condone (or at least tolerate) Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's hateful rhetoric against his country's former colonial rulers. They have done nothing to discourage a similar development occurring in South Africa. If any disagreement exists between Mbeki and Mugabe, it is only with the economically devastating way Mugabe enacted the reform. What Mugabe is achieving in Zimbabwe by direct action is steadily being achieved in South Africa by attrition under Mbeki.

Communist Agenda

Notice one of the "guiding principles" taken directly from the SACP's Consti-

tution (emphasis mine throughout): "To end the system of capitalist exploitation in South Africa and to establish a socialist society based on the common ownership of, participation in, and control by the producers of the key means of production. Such a society will respect and protect all personal NON-EXPLOITATIVE property and such other private property as may be necessary for effective economic development and growth."

In other words, if the ANC/SACP decides the use of black labor by a white farmer or businessman is, in their eyes, exploitative (or used for personal profit), it will jeopardize ownership of his personal property.

Here is another statement from its Constitution: "By participating in this [national democratic] revolution, the SACP aims to eradicate patriarchal relations, weaken and ultimately destroy the economic and political power of the capitalist class through struggle for working class hegemony over society, in particular the ownership and control of the economy and the achievement of one united state of people's power."

While President Mbeki may come across as meek as a lamb, he is still, at his core, communist. He wants to wrest control of the capital in South Africa.

Make no mistake: The agenda of the rulers of South Africa is the same as Mugabe's in Zimbabwe: removal of the white farmers and businessmen from the republic.

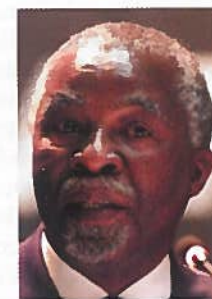
South Africa Land Reform

At this time, South Africa's "land reform" is moving slowly, guided—officially—by the principle of "willing buyer, willing seller." How-

ever, that is not satisfying the desires of the general population.

While Braam was being interviewed on his occupied farm, a carload of men arrived on the scene. Braam halted the car and asked the driver what he was doing on his land. The driver replied, "Driving."

Braam told the driver, "This is my land, and I am taking President Mbeki to court to get it back from you people." The driver responded, "Good. We hope they lock him up. We don't want Mbeki here, we want Mugabe. Mbeki



MBEKI

AP/WIDEWORLD

doesn't give his people land, so we have to take it. Mugabe gives the people land" (*Farmer's Weekly*, op. cit.).

This comment provides a clue as to the extent of the problem. The general attitude among many blacks in South Africa is, unfortunately, too sympathetic with some of the aims of the ruling Zanu-PF party in Zimbabwe. If the black citizens of South Africa decide to seize farms *en masse*, as has happened in Zimbabwe, would they have to worry about governmental intervention? Though President Mbeki says yes, his inaction concerning Zimbabwe thus far would indicate otherwise.

Economic Reform

The communist Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) held a conference August 6, 2002, at which its general secretary, Zwelinzima Vavi, spoke of the "democratic" communist progress in obtaining power from the white minority, but complained that, nevertheless, "That democratic breakthrough did not change the reality that our economy remains under the control and domination of the white minority. ...

"The democratic movement and the working class in particular has not achieved hegemony over the society. The state bureaucracy, the security services, media, consultants, judiciary



COMMUNIST COSATU protests business privatization.

and universities remain largely untransformed."

COSATU shares the same agenda as the ANC/SACP: to eradicate white involvement from all aspects of the South African economy. This portends radical change in South African society and the ultimate destruction of the influence of a hated, white, colonialist past.

Zimbabwe in South Africa

Although there have been rumors of a white backlash, opposition to the

ANC/SACP is fractured and divided. Any future attempt by the whites to rescue South Africa from a Mugabe-type "reform" program will prove too little, too late. South Africa's course is set.

Anciently, God promised Abraham the choicest places on Earth for his descendants. Following the original settlement of Southern Africa by the Dutch, French and German pioneers, God gifted South Africa to Britain in fulfillment of His promise to Ephraim (Gen. 48:19; request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*).

Following the imposition of the apartheid policy in 1948, South Africa increasingly became the outcast of the international community, with many countries enacting trade sanctions against it. Ultimately, the white dominated government handed the country over to the majority black ANC/SACP alliance. A steady erosion of the South African economy followed. This coincided with a dramatic decline in standards of morality. The ex-colonial leadership of South Africa had largely forgotten the God who had gifted the treasures of this great land to them. This is not a politically correct nor is it a fashionable view of the prevailing situation in South Africa. Nevertheless, it is the *prophetic reality!* Considering the South Africans' rejection of God, we can only predict further trouble ahead

for the white minority and devastation upon the land as the traditional farmers of generations are swept aside in the developing land grabs.

The removal of South Africa's blessings should serve as a WARNING for its old benefactor, Britain, and the rest of the world! Just as the "nations of the earth" once *benefitted* from the blessings upon Abraham's descendants (Gen. 26:4), so are they now being *adversely* affected by the REMOVAL of those blessings. As the rebellion of Abraham's descendants continues, God's corrective curses will increase upon them (Deut. 28:15, 43-44).

There can, however, be a positive *personal* outcome to this bleak situation for those who will humble themselves before God and turn to Him in deep, sincere repentance, as events in Southern Africa continue forward on their foreboding course. "Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you" (Prov. 1:23). ◆

sons, died in Babylon (Jer. 39:1-7). Today the gravesite of the very prophet who penned those words is believed to exist in Northern Ireland. Tradition has it that Jeremiah brought that venerable old coronation stone from the ancient nation of Israel in its captivity to the shores of the Emerald Isle—along with one of the king's daughters (Jer. 41:10). David's royal line continued!

The present royal family, the House of Windsor, can trace its genealogy from England to Scotland and Ireland, all the way back to King David and his son Solomon, who were of the tribe of Judah. Queen Elizabeth II is a Jewish descendant of the seed of King David.

This throne, rich in history, was overturned from Jerusalem to Ireland, then from Ireland to Scotland, and then from Scotland to England. Too many are ignorant of the fact that Jesus Christ was born to sit upon the throne of David—born to be King! "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32-33). "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it ..." (Isa. 9:7).

Yes, God *can* save members of the royal family of Britain, but only after they first partake of the great national *repentance* that is prophesied for that nation once it has undergone horrific chastisement for its *rebellion* against the Most High God! As Hosea 14:8-9 predicts, "Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him ... [T]he ways of the Lord are right ..." And that coming *national repentance* of Britain and its dominions, which will only occur under great tribulation (Matt. 24:21-22), will be a *great sign of the imminence of the return of their Savior, Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, to take over the very throne upon which the British monarch sits to this day!* It is Jesus Christ, of the House of God, who will very soon replace the ruling monarch of the House of Windsor to perpetuate that royal throne's existence, ruling not only over Britain, but over *all* nations, under the divine, immutable law of love, *forever!* ◆

Is There a Dictator in Your Mind?

You may not be aware of it,
but it wants to run your life!

Mind?

What is it?

You need to identify it

so you can whip it

into submission.

Because once tamed,

it actually makes a

great companion!

BY JOEL HILLIKER

DO YOU TEND TO BUCKLE UNDER pressure? Get stressed out, overwhelmed?

These are important questions, because it is when problems arise in your life that a mental coup is likeliest to occur—when *the dictator in your mind* works hardest to conquer you.

Sometimes, life can seem like a litany of problems. You get sick or injured. A family member mistreats you. You have money troubles, job troubles.

When those issues come up, how do you respond? Do you face them? Do you maintain a positive approach to solving them? Do you seek wise counsel?

Or—do you get moody and depressed? Does it seem fairly often that you need a good cry?

Do you complain, whine and gossip? Blame other people?

Do you *deny* the issue is even a problem? Try to ignore it or escape it? Do you just *quit*—roll over and see how bad it will get?

If you tend to take any of these latter approaches, that is a sign that you are under the power of this mental despot.

What is it? It is EMOTION!

JOEL HILLIKER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/PHOTOGRAPHIC

Emotion can be one of the most enjoyable blessings we possess. Without it, our lives would be bland, flat, colorless—hardly worth living. Our relationships would be boring, our jobs monotonous.

However, if you fail to *assess* and, to a large degree, *master* your own emotions, that is a virtual guarantee that you will often mismanage your problems and create many new ones.

How skilled are you at handling this critical part of life? Are you constantly riding the extremes of the emotional spectrum? Or, on the other hand, are you casual or indifferent about things you *should* feel deeply about? Your personal fulfillment, happiness, peace and well-being depend in large measure upon your answers to these questions.

Many people are mature physically and intellectually, but have simply *never grown up* EMOTIONALLY. And that reality is reflected in failed relationships, personal dissatisfaction, depression and misery.

We need to give serious thought to how we measure up in this critical area of our personal development, and how we can *grow beyond* where we are. We must tame that mental dictator, and learn EMOTIONAL MATURITY.

Why Emotion?

Let's get the right perspective on emotions. They are widely misunderstood.

Why do we have emotions?

In the last decade or so, scientists have studied emotions intensively, after largely dismissing them for many years. But science builds its findings on the faulty foundation of evolutionary biology, which assumes that emotion is all a result of how environmental factors impacted human evolution. (For example, we are supposed to have "fear" today, manifested in physiological changes that heighten our motivation to act quickly, because our prehistoric ancestors fled from danger; those who didn't run were killed off and didn't procreate.)

It is true that such emotional reactions can help us face physical threats. But that is a product of *design*, not happenstance.

The truth is, GOD gave us the power of feelings. He gave us emotions so we can experience *joy* and *love*; we can have *deep relationships*; we also can experience *anger* and *jealousy*, *fear* and *sadness*—a *variety* of emotions.

Why? Well, consider these states of mind, described in the Bible and attributed to GOD HIMSELF! God is said to experience *love* (John 3:16; Scripture says God is love—1 John 4:8, 16), *joy* (Matt. 25:21, 23; Gal. 5:22), *hatred* (Ps. 11:5; 45:7), *anger* (Judg. 10:7; Ps. 7:11), *indignation* (Isa. 34:2), *jealousy* (Exod. 20:5; 34:14), *concern* (Deut. 5:29), *grief* (Gen. 6:6; Ps. 78:40), *sorrow* (Isa. 53:3) and *compassion* (Matt. 9:35-36).

But wait, some may say. *Emotions are physical—physiological—chemical. God is spirit. He couldn't have emotions.*

If you fail to assess and, to a large degree, master your own emotions, that is a virtual guarantee that you will often mismanage your problems and create many new ones.

Just what *are* emotions?

The word itself comes from the Latin verb *motere*, "to move," coupled with the prefix *e*, which connotes "move away." The implication is that emotion is an impulse toward ACTION. It is seated in the spirit in man (Job 32:8; 1 Cor. 2:11), that spirit God gives uniquely to human beings to empower our intellect and distinguish us from animals. *Webster's* defines emotion as "physiologically involving changes that prepare the body for IMMEDIATE VIGOROUS ACTION."

So in what way could God have emotions? It is true that He does not and could not have the physiological changes we experience when we have emotions. Yet He has these profound states of mind ranging from love to hate, joy to sorrow, that we associate with *deep emotion*.

God created the human race in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26), and wants us to grow to become like Him (Matt. 5:48). He expects us to grow toward being able to think as He does.

The implication in Scripture is that God gave us these chemical, physiological changes to help us understand the depth of His thinking. Certainly our emotions provide a physical *type* or *counterpart* to the depth of God's mind; they supply a profundity to our thoughts and experiences not otherwise possible. And they stimulate us to act in ways we would not otherwise find the motivation to.

The fact is, *learning to manage our emotion is a significant means by which we can learn to think like our Creator.*

A Two-Edged Sword

But emotion is a two-edged sword. As great a blessing as it is, our emotions also can be capricious and subject to manipulation.

Evidence of this mental dictator is everywhere. The daily news is full of tragedies caused by people who simply *lacked emotional control* under difficult circumstances and thus committed a crime of passion. Others allow grievances to quietly build and, rather than handling their feelings maturely,

end up exploding in violent acts, perhaps even against themselves. The same lack of control is evident in the common, petty arguments and interpersonal warfare between coworkers, neighbors and family members.

Negative, destructive moods and attitudes can tyrannize your mind if you let them. Yes, there is a time for righteous anger, for indignation, even the right kind of jealousy (e.g. 11 Cor. 11:2); there is a time for sorrow (Eccl. 3:1, 4). But whenever God experiences such things, He keeps them under control, and is, on the whole, a joy-filled Being who walks in light, not in darkness (1 John 1:4-5). Wouldn't you prefer that kind of life?

At the other end of the emotional spectrum, some who experience lust or sexual arousal permit those feelings to become *more important* than personal chastity or even marital fidelity. Substance abuse or addiction also indicates a mental hijacking. Enslaved to emotion, many people allow the rest of their lives to fall apart.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "[W]e poor humans act as though we believed man to be merely the highest of the dumb brutes—as if man were equipped with instinct, and the purpose of life were merely to ENJOY such feelings, sensations, emotions and moods as impulse attracts us to, *without thinking or mental direction!*" (*Good News*, Feb. 1982). That truly is the most common approach to emotion today.

You need to acknowledge this startling fact: *If you fail to master your emo-*



tions, you are not really running your own life. You are susceptible to emotional manipulation from all directions. "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Prov. 25:28). This can lead to serious consequences in many aspects of life—not only in your relationships, but your diet and health, your productivity, your overall well-being.

If you find yourself *resenting* family members, *angry* at people, *frustrated* and *negative* about yourself, *depressed* or *moody*, or, on the other hand, unable to manage your desires, however unpleasant or destructive the consequences—LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY IMMATURE!

Many places in Scripture speak of evil spiritual powers, the origin of which is a very real and active spirit being called Satan the devil, that influence us toward such emotions!

Why Emotional Mastery Is Vital

You simply **MUST** learn to master your feelings and emotions. It is in your best interest to *direct* your mind, *direct* your emotions—so that rather than you serving them, they are serving you.

It is only through emotional mastery that we can work out constructive solutions to the problems we face. Gaining this vital skill may keep you

from losing a job, or rescue your marriage—even *save a life* by averting a deadly confrontation.

Think about this important proverb: "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and *he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city*"! (Prov. 16:32)—a stark contrast to the emotional child we read about in Proverbs 25:28.

Why would God exalt the person who can CONQUER HIS SPIRIT over the one who can actually CONQUER A CITY? Well, imagine what God can do in the life of the person who develops emotional mastery. This is a person who will not be tempted by an emotional rush to do something he shouldn't—a person who will not be swayed off course.

Perhaps you begin to see more deeply how important emotional mastery is. The implications are profound. In fact, *mastering your emotions is really the essence of godly character.*

Mr. Armstrong defined emotional maturity, "The technical art of putting into practice the Ten Commandments. It is the real secret to human happiness" (*Good News*, March 1985). Another author defined it as development from the state of taking to the state of giving.

Emotions tend toward action. Thus, if we give in to the wrong emotions, we end up carrying out the wrong actions.

However, if we *reject* wrong emotions, and cultivate the *right* emotions, that will help us to embrace the right actions. Right emotions propel us toward right action.

The First Step to Emotional Mastery

We need to take control in this important arena of life. But how?

The first step to mastering our emotions is to *become aware of them.*

We must learn to become VERY ATTUNED to what is going on in our mind—to recognize when we are getting emotional in a destructive way, and think hard to identify what is CAUSING the emotion. There is a big difference between being caught up in the heat of anger, and *realizing* that you are angry. In the first case, your mental dictator is in complete control. In the latter case, you "step outside yourself," and put yourself in a position to make reasoned decisions.

You may have a legitimate cause—someone mistreating you, a genuine trial in your life. But again, the question is, *how will you handle it?* Will you allow

your emotions to take over? Or will you approach the problem in a mature, constructive way that will help you arrive at a *solution*? It will make all the difference!

"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit [or quick-tempered] exalteth folly" (Prov. 14:29).

The Power of Choice

In locating the source of your upset, it may help to realize that emotions are based on your *perceptions*, not necessarily on reality.

Let me illustrate what I mean.

One day my wife's car broke down in town. She called me at work and asked if I would pick her up at the gas station where she was stranded. Though I was only 10 to 15 minutes' drive away, she waited two hours and I never showed up. This gave her plenty of time to mull over my insensitivity to her plight. She became more and more emotional—lonely, frustrated and angry. By the time she called a second time, she was in tears.

My version of the story is this: Immediately after hanging up after our first conversation, I got in my car and drove to where she told me she was. When I arrived, she was not there. I drove to every other gas station close-by, to no avail. In exasperation, I went back to work and began phoning every gas station in the book, asking if they could spot her car in the parking lot. After over an hour of searching, I was truly frustrated that she had never called back to correct the miscommunication and tell me where she was.

All the emotions we each experienced were based on our *perceptions*—assuming the worst about the other person. So much of the time, we exhaust ourselves with such mental agitation. Faulty perspective can generate countless destructive emotions that need to be forcibly checked with cold reason. We worry ourselves sick over mere possibilities. Molehills become mountains.

It is important to realize how much control we really have over our reactions to such circumstances.

If someone says something derogatory, for example, do you take it personally? Do you hold a grudge? The longer you cling to such thoughts, the easier they are to justify. Alternatively, you can choose to *alter your perception* of the offense. You can shrug it off—perhaps with a thought such as, *He*

must be having a rough morning, or, Surely she is unaware of how hurtful that remark was. We can temper our hurt with empathy or mercy.

If the offense you experienced is a genuine problem that needs to be dealt with, it would still be counterproductive to try to do so while under the sway of hurt feelings, anger and resentment.

A recent airline flight I took was delayed by a storm. The plane sat on the tarmac for some time while air traffic controllers worked with the pilots to chart an alternate route to our destination. When a new course was agreed upon, the pilots realized they needed more fuel to make the trip. Topping off the fuel tanks necessitated further delay.

The passengers aboard this flight could have been thankful that we would 1) avoid the storm and 2) have enough fuel to land where we needed to go. Instead they chose to become incensed. You could hear audible expressions of anger throughout the cabin. Their emotion made an inconvenient situation into a tense one.

You are the captain of your mind. You *cannot* control everything that happens to you—only *what you do in return*. You cannot prevent every inappropriate thought from entering your mind—but you can choose whether to reject them or act upon them. Emotional immaturity makes you a victim of circumstance. Emotional maturity gives you the power to choose your response.

Cultivate the Right Emotions

It is a mistake to dismiss emotion as being unimportant. It is VITAL. Not only does it make life more interesting, but we can hardly get by without it. Again, emotions are *impulses to action*. God intends us to be people of action—fueled by constructive emotion. He gave us emotion to control and use, to combine with our rational thinking to help us think and feel deeply, to propel us forward, to drive us toward right and noble action. Emotions are a wonderful gift.

But emotions are temporary. Yes, we may tend to hold on to a grudge or offense for years. But the positive emotions we should cultivate—the affection that binds a family together, the excitement that fuels fulfilling, productive work, the remorse that prevents us from repeating a mistake, the empathy that helps us comfort the grieving—these can fade all too quickly.

God encourages us to stoke and stir up those right emotions, those useful emotions! He tells us to direct our minds to what will motivate us onward. “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8). The choice is ours.

The common thinking is that *emotion* is opposite and counter to *reason*. In actuality, these two motivational tools should perfectly complement and enhance each other as we endeavor to live positive, morally upright lives.

We must strive for a level of maturity where we never allow our emotions to drive us outside the bounds of God’s law. Again, emotional maturity is “the technical art of putting into practice the Ten Commandments.” Ideally, our emotions should impassion us to more perfectly *keep* God’s law.

Godly “emotion” is actually a state of mind produced by *God’s mind* IN US, through the power of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:5). Consider, for example, what is commonly called *love*. What is God’s view? He says “love is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10) and that it is “shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit] which is given unto us” (Rom. 5:5).

The Apostle Paul explained, “Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends ...” (1 Cor. 13:4-8, Revised Standard Version).

God’s love is not an emotion, the way we view emotions. It is a *way of life—a perfect spiritual law*. It is not temporary. It *never ends!* It will go on and on—until one day it fills the universe.

This is the emotional mastery we should work to develop. This is how we need to respond to problems, difficulties and trials—bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, endure all things. THAT is true emotional maturity!

The Battle in Your Mind

God wants us to have emotions—to cultivate deep, godly emotion. He wants us to have a proper fear of God. He wants us to hate evil. He wants us to get angry at sin. He wants us to grieve at appropriate times. He wants us to have full joy! He wants us to earnestly yearn for His Kingdom. When we develop these states of mind, we are learning to think like God.

Satan the devil also wants us to have emotions—to cut loose emotionally. He wants us to fear *other people*. He wants us to hate *other people*. He wants us to get angry quickly and hang on to that anger for days or weeks. He wants us to grieve over *ourselves*. He wants us to rejoice over *other people’s failures*. He wants us to earnestly yearn to go back to sin, one more time!

This battle is going on in your mind!

Evaluate your own life. You are to become an expert at handling problems in a mature way. When troubles arise, you have an awesome opportunity to respond with emotional control—to collect yourself and tackle the problem head on—to make the right decision and to grow in godly character.

Tame that mental dictator. Learn, practice and grow in emotional maturity, and improve your life! ♦



The Carbon Dating Game

Does the common method for dating artifacts really give us an accurate timeline for civilization's prehistory?

BY MARK NASH

MOST PEOPLE THINK CARBON DATING can be used to establish the age of anything old. They believe every artifact dug up or discovered by archeologists, anthropologists, geologists, or other scientists can have its age accurately determined, within a narrow range, by carbon dating. But is that the truth? Let's look at carbon-14 dating to discover just how accurate and reliable it really is.

Just what is carbon dating?

First, it is based on the ratio of two elements—carbon 12 (C-12) to carbon 14 (C-14)—found in a sample of the object being dated. The ratio of C-12 to C-14 is approximately 1 billion to one in today's atmosphere. All living things, directly or indirectly, absorb carbon from the atmosphere. The carbon absorbed is both C-12 and C-14 and it is absorbed at the same ratio as it exists in the atmosphere.

Once a living thing dies, it stops absorbing both C-12 and C-14.

Notice that something must have been alive to absorb C-12 and C-14. Therefore it is not possible to date inorganic material. Anything that was never alive cannot be dated using carbon dating methods. References to carbon dating of rocks, for example, are inaccurate since rocks were never alive.

A basic quality of C-12, the most prevalent form of carbon, is stability—it doesn't change. C-14, however, is unstable and begins changing immediately after it is formed. Each C-14 atom will lose an electron from the nucleus. The process of losing electrons is referred to as decay. The rate of decay is considered constant and measurable, and is expressed by the term "half life."

Half life can be understood, for our purpose, by thinking of a block of ice. Our block weighs 10 pounds and begins to melt. The time it takes to melt until it weighs only 5 pounds (half the original weight) is called its "half life." For this example, let's say the ice takes five hours to melt from 10 pounds down to



HOW OLD? An archaeologist excavates an Ice Age site claimed to be 50,000 years old.

5 pounds. The half life would be five hours. This is not exactly the way C-14 acts, but it serves our purpose.

Unlike ice melting, the half life of carbon and other unstable elements is constant. In other words, if it takes 5,730 years for 10 pounds of C-14 to decay to only 5 pounds, it would also take 5,730 years for 5 pounds to become 2.5 pounds. No matter how much you start with, it will take the same amount of time to reduce it to half, hence the term half life.

C-14 has a half life of 5,730 years. If you begin with 100 pounds of C-14, it would take 5,730 years until there would only be 50 pounds left. It would take an additional 5,730 years for the 50 pounds to decay to only 25 pounds,

and so on, halving the amount of C-14 every 5,730 years.

When C-14 is formed, it begins to break down into nitrogen as it loses an electron from the nucleus. If you know how much C-14 something contained to begin with, you can determine how long it has been decaying by measuring how much C-14 is left.

So here is how it works. A piece of wood is tested to see just how long ago the tree died. The C-14 is measured and compared to the amount *assumed* to have been present when it was alive. If there is half as much C-14 as estimated when it was alive, it is said to have been 5,730 years since it died.

Now, this is based on "knowing" how much C-14 is in the atmosphere when a sample is alive. How could scientists know how much C-14 was being absorbed 10,000 years ago? This is one of the difficulties for those relying on carbon dating.

C-14 is constantly being produced when cosmic rays strike the upper atmosphere. Cosmic rays hit gasses in the upper atmosphere and knock off neutrons. Some of the neutrons react with the nitrogen-14 near them and form carbon-14 and an extra (free) proton. Remember, once C-14 is produced, it immediately begins to decay, so C-14 is decaying at the same time it is being made. When the production rate and the decay rate are equal, the amount of C-14 will be constant. This is called equilibrium.

It is possible to measure the rate of production and the rate of decay quite accurately. Therefore, it is possible to determine how long it would take for the amount of C-14 in the atmosphere to become constant starting from a point in time when there is not any C-14 at all present.

It would take 30,000 to 50,000 years to go from zero C-14 until equilibrium is reached. Since scientists accept the concept of evolution, they conclude that the atmosphere is millions of years old. Since C-14 equilibrium would certainly have been reached in the first 50,000 years, it is ASSUMED to have *already happened* millions of years ago.

When carbon-14 dating was first utilized, it was based on the idea that the amount of C-14 was, in fact, stable and unchanging and, therefore, the ratio between C-12 and C-14 was thought to be constant. But in the 1960s, research

proved this to be INCORRECT. It was discovered that C-14 equilibrium had not yet been reached. In fact, it was estimated that the formation rate of C-14 was 30 percent greater than the decay rate, meaning the amount of C-14 in the atmosphere is increasing.

What was the solution for scientists to be able to continue using carbon-14 dating? They set the year of 1950 as a standard. Deciding to use the ratio of C-12 to C-14 present in that year, they considered it to be the point of equilibrium.

Further steps were needed since even this point of reference did not produce ages for material complementary to evolutionist thinking. So, scientists produced "correction tables." When something is tested and carbon-14 dating doesn't give the age scientists like, they apply these correction tables and change the age to match predetermined estimates of the sample's age.

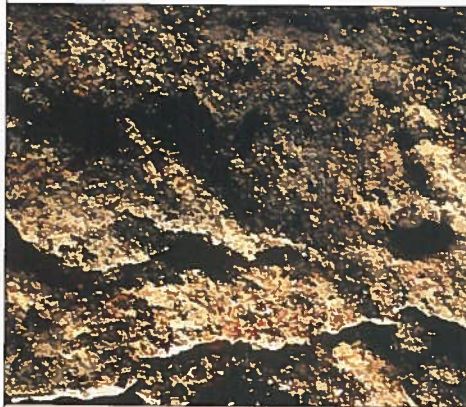
Then there is another remedy used in science to resolve conflicts with carbon-14 dating and preconceived notions: They simply don't include the carbon-14 dating results. If a sample is "thought" to be 32,500 years old and carbon-14 dating suggests it is only 4,000 years old, the carbon-14 dating data is simply dropped from the records. In the proceedings of a symposium on radiocarbon variations and absolute chronology held in Sweden in 1969, two researchers from the University of Uppsala introduced their report with these words: "C-14 was being discussed at a symposium on the prehistory of the Nile Valley. A famous American colleague, Professor Brew, briefly summarized a common attitude among archaeologists toward it as follows: 'If a C-14 date supports our theories, we put it in the main text. If it does not entirely contradict them, we put it in a footnote. And if it is completely out of date, we just drop it'" (T. Säve-Söderbergh and Ingrid U. Olsson, *Proceedings of the Twelfth Nobel Symposium*). Just like that, the conflict is resolved.

To review, the concept of carbon dating is based on the *fallacy* of a constant amount of C-14 in the atmosphere, and the *fallacy* of a constant ratio between C-12 and C-14. When the problems of C-14 amounts not being constant were discovered, scientists decided to use the amount in the atmosphere in 1950 as a standard; and

If a sample is "thought" to be 32,500 years old and carbon-14 dating suggests it is only 4,000 years old, the carbon-14 dating data is simply dropped from the records. Just like that, the conflict is resolved.

when the dates still don't match the assumptions of the scientists, they apply a "correction table" to make them match. And if, after all of these "adjustments" are made, a carbon date still doesn't match the ideas of the scientist, the carbon dating data is simply ignored.

To see how this looks in a real application, we can examine the example of what scientists call Cro-Magnon man. According to scientists, Cro-Magnon footprints found in France's Chauvet Cave four years ago are estimated to be about 26,000 years old. The estimate is based on carbon dating of the soot from torches on the cave ceiling. The test shows about 2-3 percent of the C-14 present in the soot as would have been present in 1950 (the standard year). Since it would take about 26,000 years for the C-14



SOLE PROOF A footprint discovered in 1999 in a cave in southern France, believed to be the oldest human footprint in Europe.

to decay that far, the age is set at 26,000 years old.

But, because we know C-14 is not in a state of equilibrium (stable), it is necessary to "estimate" what it would have been in the past. If we use the current growth rate of C-14 in the atmosphere and calculate back from there, we find

it actually may have been only 4,000 years ago that the 2-3 percent figure would have been true. Here is why.

We can calculate backward how much C-14 was in the atmosphere last year, and 100 years ago, 1,000 years ago and so on. Since about 4,000 years ago there would only be about 19 percent as much C-14 in the atmosphere as the standard year of 1950, the wood the soot comes from would only have absorbed 19 percent as much C-14 as expected. Then, knowing the half-life/decay rate, we can calculate the 2-3 percent figure to be all that would be left today.

So the footprints of Cro-Magnon man, considered by evolutionists to be 26,000 years old, may well be only 4,000 years old. Of course, most scientists simply reject such figures.

It comes back to one of the centerplanks of modern science, EVOLUTION. Anything that does not support evolution is considered wrong, and no further questions are tolerated.

The Bible teaches us that Adam and Eve chose to make decisions for themselves when they took from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3). This means they and their offspring would create a pool of knowledge *based on their own thinking and reasoning without the input of God*. Since that time, that is exactly what mankind has done.

Modern science is founded upon a rejection of divine revelation and exultation of knowledge based on the corrupt human mind. Man has been living about 6,000 years *cut off* from the only source of *true* knowledge, the Creator God. Since man chooses to rely on his own understanding, he is bound by the limits of his carnal mind. Mankind as a whole will continue, for a little while longer, to swim in the stagnant pool of ignorance produced without God's guiding influence. But this state of ignorance is temporary.

In the near future, God will intervene in events on this Earth. He will cause people to realize that, without God, all human thinking is faulty. God will show the world that He is the Creator of everything and only His way of thinking and living will lead to understanding and truth. Then, for the first time in 6,000 years, all mankind will begin to acquire accurate knowledge (Isa. 11:9). ♦



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Skirting the Law

We are subject to natural law—and the penalties that follow when it is broken. In the name of progress, science seems intent on circumventing those penalties. Can they do that?

BY MARK JENKINS

LIFE HAS LIMITS. OUR BODIES ARE SUBJECT to breakdown from disease and age. Our food sources are vulnerable to attack from pests. We can't bear children past a certain age. Even a person in the peak of health cannot realistically expect to live past 90 or 100. These are realities.

Or are they?

Science seems poised to challenge many of these basic assumptions. We live in an amazing time, a time when cloning, genetically modified foods and other astounding breakthroughs are regularly in the news. Things once considered science fiction are becoming reality. Genetic enhancement of food, scientists claim, will enable man to repair problems in the food supply. Cloning and genetic modification promise to put man's destiny in his own hands.

But are these promises real? Can modern science really give us the freedom to break the rules that have always bound mankind?

Let's consider a few specific areas of scientific research that show whether these advancements truly provide the solutions they purport to.

Genetically Modified Foods

If you are a North American reader, you are probably already eating genetically modified food. In the United States, there is *no law requiring that GM food be labeled as such*.

Why did we ever start genetically tampering with our food? One primary reason was to create foods that are resistant to pests. The first wave of genetically modified (GM) food was aimed at pest and weed management. Last year's "top developments in food biotechnology, according to the Roper survey, included a sweet potato that is resistant to a particularly destructive plant virus, bananas and potatoes that contain a vaccine for a sexually transmitted disease, a gene that keeps produce fresher longer, and developments that allow for plants to grow in extreme climates" (Reuters, Nov. 11, 2002).

But are there any negative side effects? Many scientists are concerned that testing on these foods has been insufficient. In Europe, GM foods are simply not allowed. Because many GM foods have antibiotic-resistant genes in them, there is widespread concern that this could hamper the ability of humans

to fight infection, possibly even creating a strain of untreatable diseases.

Scientists are well aware that a *mistake* in genetic modification could have catastrophic results. For example, toxic potatoes were once developed through hybridization.

An additional complication is the risk of contamination. Last November, the U.S. government ordered 500,000 bushels of soybeans destroyed because they were contaminated with GM corn once grown in the same field. Two years ago, there was a massive recall when GM corn intended solely for animal feed was found in taco shells. Both of these incidents cost millions of dollars—aside from the risk to the health of American citizens.

There is also widespread concern that weeds will become much harder to kill as they crossbreed with GM foods. This would lead to a heavier use of herbicides to combat the increased resistance of the hybrid weeds. In fact, in Britain, the "limits on pesticide residues allowed in soya have been increased 200-fold to help the GM industry, according to one of the country's leading food safety experts" (*Daily Mail*, London, Sept. 21, 1999).

By using GM strains, farmers are told they might be able to produce a larger crop, with increased sales, albeit with questionable health benefit. Farmers, under the pressures of growing populations, weather problems, pestilences and economic depression, are willing to try any solution that may be foisted upon them by companies with profits in mind. Biotechnology is aimed, for the most part, not at feeding the world's hungry, as is claimed, but maximizing profit for the seed producers!

Evidence of the harm of GM food is largely being ignored by those who stand to gain financially. The *Africa News* recently reported, "Following a lawsuit in the U.S. by farmers and GM critics against Monsanto and other biotech companies, documents have emerged which prove that claims from the [Food and Drug Administration] that all GM foods had been well tested and all safety issues had been resolved were 'unequivocally false.' For example, the FDA had approved GM tomatoes later sold as paste in the UK despite tests showing that rats fed on them had developed 'erosion' in their intestines" (Nov. 7, 2002).

Genetically modifying foods includes no vision of the *consequences* of interfering with natural laws. "The keyword is profits Monsanto, a major agricultural biotechnology corporation, employs about 30,000 people It is not surprising that Monsanto predicts a future for farming that will be more efficient, reliable, environmentally friendly and, of course, profitable" (ibid.).

Clearly, the motivation for genetically tampering with the food supply is not in the interest of the consumers of

that food! Can we truly call this biotech experimentation "progress"?

The Gift of Life

It is easy to see that mankind isn't happy with the natural reproductive system, as we are constantly trying to devise a better way to control it.

Consider, *in vitro* fertilization is now regularly being performed on women in their 50s—women unable to have a child by natural means. This procedure was performed almost 35,000 times in

Britain last year. An estimated 1 million babies have been born via this method since the first "test tube" baby in 1978. (Last year, a 56-year-old woman gave birth to twins.) Yet two studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* show that such babies are more likely to be underweight and have a major birth defect.

Now, the debate has begun as to whether couples might be allowed to decide the gender of their babies. But why stop with gender? Through the

Duplicate Failures

We heard all about Dolly. But far less publicity has been given to the darker side of cloning.

THE BIRTH OF A CLONED SHEEP DUBBED "DOLLY" IN 1996 gave new life to the discussion about human cloning. The possibilities are endless: Baseball could be revitalized by twins of Babe Ruth and Barry Bonds. Leaders like Fidel Castro could pass their mantle on to a clone of themselves. The Three Tenors could all be Luciano Pavarotti. One company has even been formed to protect celebrities from unauthorized cloning of their DNA.

Cloning has had some amazing, and widely publicized, successes. What has received far less attention though, is the 95-97 percent *failure rate*. Now that scientists are seriously attempting to clone humans, we should pay attention to these numbers.

It took more than 250 attempts before Dolly was born. Ian Wilmut, part of the team that created Dolly, tells the story of one lamb that appeared perfectly normal, but that could not stop hyperventilating. "What if it had been a child?" Mr. Wilmut asked. "Who would be responsible for such a child? What sort of life would it have, panting all of the time?" (*Washington Post*, March 7, 2001).

Professor Wilmut had this to say about human cloning: "It is quite obvious to me that it is appalling for anyone to suggest using this on a woman at the present time. I think you have to be ill to use this on humans" (BBC News, May 19, 2000).

Consider this quote from March 2001: "If the team really tries to clone a person, here's what to expect, several scientists said: Almost all of the first 100 clones will abort spontaneously because of genetic or physical abnormalities, putting the health and lives of the surrogate mothers at risk. Of the handful of clones that make it to term, most will have grossly enlarged placentas and fatty livers. And of the three or four fetuses that may survive their birth, most will be monstrously big—perhaps 15 pounds (about 7 kilograms)—and will likely die in the first week or two from heart and blood vessel



RARE BREED At left, Dolly, the first cloned animal. Above, four cloned calves, the survivors of six live births, after 672 separate attempts



COVING AP/WIDEWORLD; DOLLY: REUTERS

problems, underdeveloped lungs, diabetes or immune system deficiencies. ... 'We're talking about harming developing humans,' [Michael West of Advanced Cell Technology said]" (*Washington Post*, op. cit.).

In December of that same year, Advanced Cell Technology announced a so-called success in human cloning. They reported they had cloned an early human embryo from an adult cumulus cell nucleus. Ian Wilmut, however, felt the announcement was made prematurely: "It's really only a preliminary first step, because the furthest that the embryo developed was to have six cells at a time when it should have had more than 200—and it had clearly already died." Here is one of the painfully few examples of a "success" in cloning, and it resulted, as cloning attempts usually do, in death.

The poster sheep for successful cloning, Dolly, isn't so healthy either. In January last year, Ian Wilmut announced that Dolly had arthritis in her hind leg. It is entirely possible that the cloning process *can only* lead to unhealthy animals. Wilmut "believes other experts may have long-term data on cloning abnormalities that they are not revealing because of the bad publicity it might generate" (BBC News, Jan. 4, 2002).

The bad publicity that the cloning community fears regards the *ethical* dilemma surrounding their trade. But while the arguments rage on, the fruits of cloning continue to emerge, and they are not good. Cloning has shown itself for what it is: the gift that keeps on dying. MARK JENKINS

possibilities of cloning, science can go much further than that.

The February 19, 2000, issue of *Time* magazine contained the following statement (emphasis mine), “Researchers ... hope that one day, the ability to clone adult human cells will make it possible to ‘grow’ new hearts and livers and nerve cells. ... As for infertile couples, ‘we are interested in giving people the GIFT OF LIFE’”

That sounds attractive, but right now, the main “gift” of cloning is death and suffering. Scientists continue their attempts to “create” life from human embryos under the shield of scientific discovery, deeming a 95 percent failure rate acceptable enough for them to continue (see p. 25). And it isn’t really a “failure rate” at all—it’s a *death* rate.

Redesigning Creation

Several months ago, *Scientific American* offered a free book called *If Humans Were Built to Last* with every new subscription to that magazine. Leading research scientists kindly developed a new model of the human body and showed how improvements could be made that would greatly improve its functioning—removing the perceived “flaws” that the living God designed into your body.

How arrogant! Instead of living the way of life outlined in the Bible and taking care of the human body in accordance with God’s health laws, mankind desires to *get around* that natural law by redesigning God’s creation! (Gen. 1:27). Man sees a human body prone to sickness and disease, yet cannot bring himself to seek the real answer to the question, *What is its cause?* (Deut. 28:58-61).

Man does not have the power to create *anything* without the raw materials that God has already created (Gen. 1:1). If this team of scientists, along with every other scientist on Earth, were brought together and commissioned to create *anything* from scratch—a single blade of grass, a rock, ANYTHING—they simply could not do it. Even if they were provided with all the raw materials they desired, certainly no amount of effort would allow them to produce even a better mosquito, much less a living, breathing human being. These men, with their finite, *limited* intellects, truly believe that they are more capable of designing the human body than God Almighty, the *supreme* intelligence

which created them! It is simply a living, natural law that *nothing* which is created has an inherent potential to become greater than that which created it!

On top of this is the fact that God doesn’t create anything in vain. He designed humans to be subject to death for a reason (Heb. 9:27)—which becomes apparent with a rudimentary understanding of God’s plan and purpose

ly die” (Gen. 2:16-17). He told humans what would happen in this particular instance—there was no need to guess what the result would be. Nevertheless, Eve, after being deceived by Satan the devil, proceeded with the FIRST SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT, rejecting the revelation God had given. She wanted the power to decide for herself. The human race has followed Eve’s example of ex-



SOCIETY UNCHANGED Man aspired at the Tower of Babel to live as he pleased, breaking God’s laws, and still avert punishment in the event of another global flood.

as revealed in Scripture. Science’s effort to “improve” upon God’s design only reveals its fundamental ignorance.

Redesigning Creation

What motivates science to undertake such projects?

It all goes back to the two trees of Genesis 2 and the forbidden fruit. Scientists are continually making *hypotheses*, *guessing* at what may happen. God speaks with authority and clarity from the very first verse of the Bible: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” He didn’t *attempt* to create or *hypothesize* what would form. Creation proceeded through deliberate planning and no guesswork. In six days, God created exactly what He desired, getting exactly the result He wanted—every time! (Gen. 1:31).

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt sure-

perimentation ever since. As a result, we have discovered a multitude of knowledge, but the use of the that knowledge has not solved our most basic problems, and has caused several new problems! We have not *improved* at all on what our Maker created!

Men built the tower of Babel so that, if God decided to flood the Earth again, they would be protected from His wrath. Notice that they didn’t decide to stop SINNING so God wouldn’t flood the Earth (which is why He did it in the first place—Gen. 6:5-8, 17). Man didn’t decide to find “grace in the eyes of the Lord” as Noah had. (And consider further: God had already promised never to destroy the Earth with a flood again!—Gen. 9:11). Man simply rejected God’s revelation and started building a tower, hoping to AVERT THE PENALTY FOR SIN, rather than *stopping the sin* and the resulting curses at the source. Human beings simply have an ingrained habit of treating the *effect* of a problem rather than seeking out and dealing with its *cause*!

People believe they can grow crops better than God designed, birth better babies, and heal diseases that have been brought on by their SINS against their own bodies. They even believe they could create a better human—if they had the slightest idea of how to begin! What nonsense. Our capabilities pale in comparison to the wonder we see around us. We have already been given the gift of life by *Almighty God*. If we were to follow His instruction, to live our lives the way He instructs, all of the problems we see extant on the Earth today simply would not exist! *All* those problems are simply the result of *breaking* laws which He intended that we obey! (1 John 3:4).

Many of the things we do to better our lives are an attempt to *avoid the penalty of our abuse of God's creation*. Yet in doing so, we only break more laws, which incurs more penalties.

Consider it.

Why would we need to make crops resistant to pests and disease if right farming methods were used? (A society based on mass production has resulted in farming practices, such as monoculture, that have taken away plants' natural resistance to pests, while at the same time increasing the population of those pests.)

If our food still contained the nutrition it once had, were the soil not so depleted by our disregard for God's commands regarding agriculture, why would we need to or even want to attempt to put nutrition back in our food through genetic manipulation?

How quickly would the AIDS epidemic wither away if everyone abstained from sex outside of marriage and from perverted practices? Would anyone even consider making a banana with a vaccine for sexually transmittable diseases then?

Rather than seeking the answers to mankind's problems in God's instruction book, His Holy Bible, people insist on going their own way, experimenting outside of God's law, and reaping *curSES*. THEN THEY SEEK TO AVERT THOSE CURSES USING SCIENCE. The result is a never-ending cycle of broken natural law and suffering brought on by the resultant curses. The answers to all of mankind's woes are found in God's manual for mankind, the Bible. The next time a scientist wants to give a gift of *life*, he would be wise to give this book! ◆

"For nearly three quarters of a century, the bitterest blood feuds of the Israel-Palestinian conflict have hung over the oppressive, narrow ancient streets of old Hebron like a biblical or koranic curse. ...

"In February 1994, an Israeli extremist settler, Baruch Goldstein, massacred 29 Palestinians in a mosque at the traditional burial place of Abraham, shooting them in the back as they prayed to their God."

Extremists on both sides killed people who were or had been praying to their God. AND THE VIOLENCE WAS DONE IN THE NAME OF GOD!

Were they doing it in the spirit of Abraham? Not according to the Bible.

Here is another statement from Mr. Sieff's article: "Nearly 450 years ago, the great 16th-century astrologer, doctor and prophet Michel de Nostrodamus predicted that one day the 'controversies of Hebron' would engulf the entire world. Anyone who has recently visited that fabled, blighted city would be hard put to say that he was wrong."

Nostrodamus was right. But not because he said so. *Bible prophecies* reveal that these "controversies of Hebron" will indeed "engulf the entire world"!

However, this fate could be avoided if we learn what Abraham and David learned.

Hebron was there when Abraham entered Canaan nearly 4,000 years ago.

Here is what the *New Bible Dictionary* says about Hebron: "Abraham bought the field of Machpelah with its cave to be a family burying ground (Gen. 23). There he and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah were buried (Gen. 49:31; 50:13). According to Josephus (*Ant.* ii. 8. 2), the sons of Jacob, with the exception of Joseph, were buried there too. The traditional site of the Patriarchs' sepulcher lies within the great *Haram el-Halil*, the 'ENCLOSURE OF THE FRIEND' (i.e. Abraham; Isa. 41:8), with its Herodian masonry. ... In Hebron David was anointed king of Judah (II Sam. 2:4) and two years later king of

Israel also (II Sam 5:3); IT REMAINED HIS CAPITAL FOR SEVEN AND A HALF YEARS. It was here too, later in his reign, that Absalom raised the standard of rebellion against him (II Sam. 15:7)."

ABRAHAM WAS GOD'S "FRIEND." Are these extremists in Hebron today God's friends? Absolutely not.

God called David "a man after mine own heart" (Acts 13:22). That is not true of the extremists today.

So what is the solution?

These statements are written in *A Dictionary of the Bible*, edited by James Hastings, M.A., D.D.: "ABRAHAM, after waxing rich and separating from Lot, came and dwelt by the terebinths of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and BUILT AN ALTAR THERE UNTO THE LORD (Gen. 13:18). From here he went to the rescue of Lot, and brought him back after defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him; here his name was changed from Abram to Abraham, and it was HERE THAT HE ENTERTAINED THE ANGELS UNAWARES (Gen. 14:13; 14:5; 18:2)."

WHAT A HISTORY. EVEN "ANGELS UNAWARES" CAME TO HEBRON AND WORKED WITH ABRAHAM. BUT WHERE ARE THE ANGELS TODAY?

Hebron was where Abraham received his new name. Few cities have such an illustrious history.

"There are a large number of traditional sites about Hebron. ... At the foot of this hill is the *Ager Damascenus*, from which was obtained the red earth of which Adam was made" (ibid.).

Mankind had a humble beginning. The red earth from which Adam was created probably came from the Hebron area!

When are we going to truly and humbly look to the Creator of Adam? The God of Abraham and David? When will we begin to live the way Abraham and David did? Only then will we ever live in peace and joy.

Thankfully, that time is coming very soon.

Soon, King David, resurrected, immortal, in power and glory, will be king, not only over the city of Hebron in the Middle East, but over all 12 nations of Israel brought back from the scattered lands where they were taken captive (Jer. 30:9). The violence will be stopped forever. There is bad news, and there is good news—THE GOOD NEWS LASTS FOREVER!



ART TODAY
ABRAHAM

Armstrong, who spent most of a lifetime's effort to bring it to the largest audience possible.

Notwithstanding the powerful evidence of the veracity of Mr. Armstrong's grasp of the vision of end-time prophecy, some will still cynically point to various details of his prophetic analyses where the real events of the day did not match his predictions. But this is simply akin to throwing the baby out with the bathwater. The original apostles even thought Jesus Christ would return in *their* day! They were, as it happened, almost 2,000 years out in their estimation! The Apostle Paul admitted that the overview of prophecy God has revealed in His Word leaves out the details. He put it this way: "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor. 13:12).

The point is, Bible prophecy gives us the *framework of reference* and even MANY of the *details* of forthcoming events, but *not all!* That is one of the reasons why Jesus Christ commanded us to *watch* (Matt. 24:42).

By remaining attuned to world events and continually relating them to prophecy, we fill in the details progressively. By praying for understanding, we allow God to use the unique power of His Holy Spirit to reveal more and more of that detail to us (John 16:13). That's why this magazine is able to often be ahead of world events in our study, our overview and even our detailed analysis of those events.

So stay tuned. At present it may be said that, in Europe, most roads lead to Brussels. But keep watching, for the more sure word of prophecy reveals that the time is yet coming when the wayfarer in Europe may once again declare, "All roads lead to Rome!"

But, this Holy Roman Empire will be a brittle mix of iron and 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" (Dan. 2:42). Its brief reign will be but a sign that a few years hence, finally all roads shall lead to Jerusalem! "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" (v. 44). ◆



Mixing Iron and Clay

«The in-depth analysis of many historical and societal events and the wisdom manifest in many of the articles in your issues have certainly broadened my perspective on daily events and enriched my life.»

Falls Church, Va.

I HAVE BEEN READING YOUR MAGAZINE since last June. At first it seemed to me that you are not rational and are full of hatred toward Islam and the Catholic Church. But now I realize that you are doing it for the sake of God, not for men. Truth always tastes like vinegar; for this most people don't like to drink it. God bless you for your banner.

Mekelle, Ethiopia

YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT GERMANY IS ONE OF the biggest threats in the world. You never speak of the U.S. as a big threat, while it is a much bigger threat than Germany. The U.S. attacks countries without reasons; they ask that some things must be done, and when it's done, they still start a war. Iraq is an example. The U.S. is a threat on a military, economic and diplomatic front.

Sint-Amandsberg, Belgium

The Trumpet's analyses are written with the perspective of biblical prophecy. Scripture shows God will use Germany to correct Israel. But in His master plan, these prophecies are a prelude to filling the Earth with God's spiritual light.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MY SUBSCRIPTION to the *Trumpet*, which certainly gives up-to-date inside information as to what is taking place in the world today and correlates these happenings to what the Holy Scriptures declare. There is one thing I have noticed though in reading the articles, that although you show the faults of the U.S. and the Western nations, there is never any criticism of what the State of Israel is doing in the Middle East.

Campbellville, Ont.

Demise of Democracy

I LOVE YOUR ARTICLES. I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING your publication for around eight months now. I let my whole cell block enjoy your philosophies and ideas. I have had questions and ideas of the exact

things you outline. I obviously don't live the perfect Christian life (being in prison and all), but my present situation has definitely helped solidify my relationship with God. And your influence is ever present in our religious discussions. Most of your points aren't always well taken, but they do at least make everyone open their minds to other ideas. I absolutely adore my monthly *Trumpet*. Thank you for your unique perspective.

St. Louis, Mich.

IT DETRACTS FROM YOUR AUTHORITY TO refer to Iran as an "Arab country" (Nov. issue). No Persian would like to be referred to as a Semite, which, as you must know, all Arabs are. Iranians do not speak Arabic, and both their language and culture are totally different from any Arab country. The only thing they have in common with Iraq is that in English the first three letters are the same.

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Our error. Longtime Trumpet readers will understand that we have an accurate perception of the ethnicity of Iranians.

ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO I STARTED READING a copy of the *Trumpet* at my local barber-shop. I found the stories intriguing. I specifically enjoyed "The Demise of Democracy" in your November issue.

Tucson, Ariz.

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

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RYAN MALONE

Moral Security

War on terror might be good, but should more effort be spent on a war on immorality?

THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES HAVE RESPONDED STERNLY against the terrorist attacks of 9/11. President Bush has committed to stamping out terrorism. One reason this campaign is important is the increasing availability of nuclear weapons. The undercurrent to the war on terrorism has been one of waging war against *nuclear power in the wrong hands*. We fear nuclear terrorism. And rightly we should.

But is nuclear terrorism the greatest threat we face? In EFFECT, yes; but the CAUSE of such a threat is the *greater* danger.

The U.S. and Britain have become a cesspool of immorality. Pornography rakes in \$10 billion a year in America, more than movies make, more than rock concerts and Broadway theaters combined, more than major league baseball. And though we temporarily became more “religious” after 9/11, pornography sales increased!

Pornography’s widespread availability—from the Internet, to cable television, to the privacy of any hotel room—both feeds and stokes an increasing demand for it. It has even made its way into mainstream markets, with prime-time television glamorizing guest porn-star appearances on sitcoms and crude discussion and jokes about perverse sex practices. Porn master and multi-millionaire Larry Flynt has “lived long enough to see the stuff that *Hustler* was scandalizing people with in 1974 make it to television, to see HBO’s popular *Sex and the City* discuss, if not show, sex acts that were once the province of porn and to see companies like AT&T, Hilton and Marriott slip into bed with porn producers” (*Philadelphia Daily News*, Feb. 6, 2002).

Entertainment filters into real-life America: Pre-teens engage in sex acts, a junior high oral-sex epidemic is discussed on *Oprah*, college newspapers include regular sex columns, Internet chatrooms are full of explicit sexual talk.

The greatest victim of these problems? America’s FAMILIES.

History tells us that strong families are the backbone of any nation. When “invincible” Rome fell in the 5th century A.D., one major weakness that had left it open to destruction was the wrecked family and moral structure. Moral depravity leaves countries INHERENTLY WEAK on the whole.

Where do the terrorist attacks ultimately stem from? We need to think about this. If God has withdrawn His protection and is allowing these attacks to try to wake us up, should we not consider *changing how we live*? The popular chorus after 9/11 was that any deviation from life as usual would amount to a victory for the terrorists. But was God actually trying to get us to live differently—to jolt us from our decadence? We think we are snubbing the terrorists by continuing our “American” living, when in fact, we are snubbing God.

This is not just another “ultra-conservative” argument from the exhausted soapbox of “family values.” These are GOD’S thoughts. This magazine trumpets its message, not as a political argument or as self-righteous affirmations, but simply because it is the most significant warning God gives America and the other Western democracies in the end time.

Amos 5:6 reads, “Seek the Lord, and ye shall live; lest he BREAK OUT LIKE FIRE in the house of Joseph . . .” Joseph’s sons were Ephraim and Manasseh—Britain and the U.S. respectively in the end time. This message is for us.

God warns that Israel’s moral station is so base in the end time (see Amos 2:7-8), He compares it to the hedonistic cities of Sodom and Gomorrah—in immorality AND IN FATE! Amos 4:11 states, “I have overthrown some of you [*some* is not in original Hebrew], as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a fire-brand plucked out of the burning; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith

the Lord.” God links our immorality with our nuclear fate, if we don’t turn to Him!

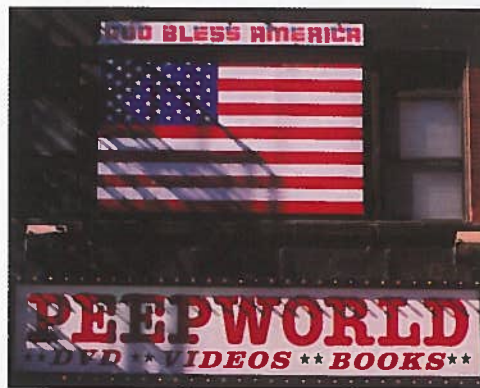
In another prophecy, God speaks of major cities in Israel having 99 percent of the population completely wiped out! (Amos 5:1-3). What besides nuclear warfare would cause such cataclysm?

Make no mistake about it. We SHOULD be severely concerned about a nuclear threat. So many prophecies tell us so. But why? There is a *cause* for this effect. There is a reason God must punish us so severely.

The main reason is our MORAL condition—we have turned from God’s perfect *law*. God warns that He will use extreme nuclear measures to bring us to repentance!

If we were to stop this war on terrorism right now, and spend all our national energies on fighting immorality and repenting of our gross sins first, *God* would remove the nuclear threat from our nation! God wants us to return to Him. Five times in Amos 4, God talks about punishing the end-time nations of Israel and still they “have not returned unto me.” Each account talks about increasing the punishment—from floods and devastating droughts to violence and disease leading all the way up to a fiery nuclear punishment.

If we return to God now and fix our moral dilapidation—even if only individually—we personally can escape the horrendous nuclear fire soon to obliterate this nation. Amos 5:14-15 states, “Seek good, and not evil, that YE MAY LIVE; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. *Hate the evil, and love the good*, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”



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◆ **VATICAN POWER MOVES**

The pope recently demanded that Catholicism be written into the EU Constitution. Also, the ultra-conservative German cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has taken the number-two seat in the Vatican. Where is this conservative swing of Catholicism leading?



TRUMPET (2)

◆ **THE COMING GLOBAL POWER SHIFT**

In the face of undeniable American worldwide domination, the European Union is progressing ever-forward to take its place as the world's premier superpower!

◆ **THE POLITICS OF POVERTY**

Since the 1980s, charity associations and government organizations have made a worldwide effort to fend off poverty. How successful has the world been in combating hunger? Prophecy says the curse of starvation will be a sign of the end.

◆ **WHY IS AMERICA SHUNNING ISRAEL?**

Despite their being traditionally close allies, sharing democratic government and similarities in culture, and, most recently, being co-victims of Islamist terrorism, America is holding Israel at arm's length, doing everything it can to keep Israel from disturbing its war on terrorism. Why?

◆ **ANARCHY ON THE INTERNET**

The social impacts of the Internet are greater than most realize. It amounts to a revolution, being driven by a wave of rebellion and exploited by people who aim to destroy authority in modern culture.



◆ **IS THERE BIAS IN THE MEDIA?**

Some have complained of a liberal bias in the mainstream American press. Liberal politicians have countered with the claim that it is, in fact, the conservatives who hold the upper hand. Who is right, and how does this affect your perception of events around us?

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