

The Philadelphia

Trumpet

At the CROSSROADS

What
direction
will America's
foreign policy
take?



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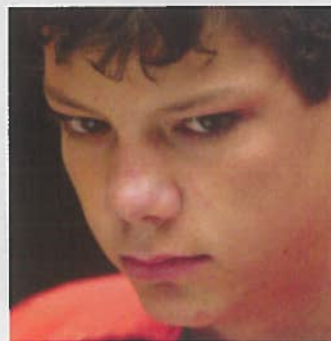
ON THE COVER: Uncle Sam considers the United States' foreign policy issues and options. (Joel Hilliker)



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PUBLISHER and EDITOR IN CHIEF
SENIOR EDITORS Gerald Flurry
Dennis Leap
J. Tim Thompson
Vyron Wilkins

MANAGING EDITOR
STEPHEN FLURRY

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR
NEWS EDITOR Joel Hilliker
CONTRIBUTORS Ron Fraser
Eric Anderson
Gareth Fraser
Stephen Hill
Andrew Locher
Ryan Malone
Wilbur Malone
Gary Rethford

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Zrinka Pratezina
Donna Grieves
Deborah Leap
Paula Powell
Melody Thompson
Magda Wilkins

PREPRESS PRODUCTION
CIRCULATION Mark Carroll
INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS EDITOR Shane Granger
French Wik Heerma
German Antonin Chiasson
Italian Wik Heerma
Spanish Edition Editor Daniel Frendo
Spanish Translation Coordinator Stephen Hill
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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March/April and September/October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2001 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

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Unless otherwise noted, scriptures quoted in the Trumpet are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

U.S. POSTMASTER — send address changes to: The Philadelphia Trumpet, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083

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The Fruits of Education

We experienced the industrial revolution in the 19th century—a great burst of advancement and knowledge. Two world wars followed in the 20th century—the most destructive wars ever, killing 60 to 70 million people.

In the last two centuries, there has been an incredible explosion in knowledge. Mankind has become better educated than ever before—but also more dangerous and destructive. We are on the brink of human extinction from nuclear, chemical and biological warfare! As we gain more knowledge, the world becomes more dangerous. Why? Because as our knowledge increases, understanding decreases.

Our educational institutions have overlooked *human nature*. They ignore the fact that it is “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). Our human nature must be changed. We have no *control* of our knowledge, because we lack *character*.

Most educators teach that we are evolving into better human beings. The truth is, we are degenerating in our character. Remember, Germany was one of the most educated countries in the world, before and during World War II; and they followed a mad man—Adolf Hitler!

Something was dangerously wrong with their education.

After the tragedy of World War II, we failed to *reeducate* the German people. Today Germany is domineering Europe once again. And it is going to get a lot worse before it gets better. Educators should have known how to reeducate the Nazis, but they didn't.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote that a great university should teach “*ABOVE ALL* of character.” This is where education has failed today. And because of that failure, we now face human annihilation!

But still, there is awesome hope. Of all the creatures on Earth, only man has the capacity to be educated. Animals can merely be trained. Only men and women have an incredible human potential.

That understanding alone should astound our minds. Man is not an animal. He is made in the image of God (Gen.

1:26). Man has a potential that reaches far beyond this Earth. But how can our universities ever educate our youth if they don't even know what our potential is—a billion times above that of an animal!

Mankind was created to be born into the God family. Not die forever like an animal! But to achieve that potential requires a lifetime of proper education.

Our schools are greatly overcrowded. They were not designed to build character “above all.” Young people get lost in the crowd. And what a severe penalty our societies pay. School shootings are only a small part of the price.

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After all of man's history, we still don't know how to educate our young people. How condemning!

Colleges today can't even solve their own problems. And they certainly can't solve the world's problems. Many professors say they only teach students to know the *questions*—not the *answers*. That is the epitome of ignorance! This world is filled with problems and we need answers before we become extinct.

The church which sponsors this magazine is starting a small liberal arts college this year. Our young people

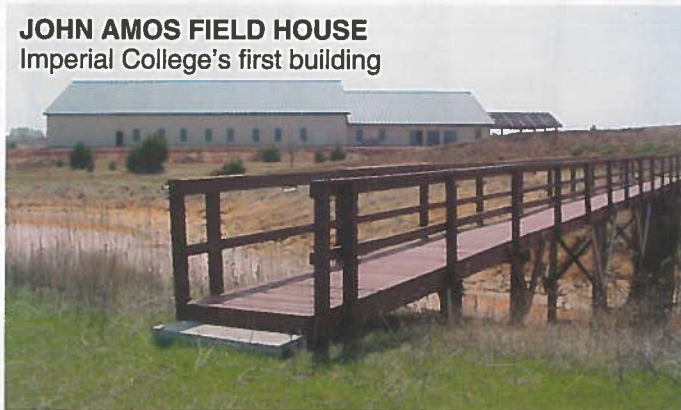
will be educated to teach the world how to live, and how to build—not destroy.

We hope that upbuilding principle will be evident even in the appearance of our campus. Recently, a few of our co-workers donated 12 cedars of Lebanon to be planted on campus. The cedar of Lebanon is apparently one of God's favorite trees (Ps. 104:16). It was used extensively in building Solomon's temple. It's only a tiny sampling of God's magnificent creation.

Man has made this Earth very ugly and dangerous. But how beautiful and majestic this world *should be*. Soon this world is going to change, through the right kind of education.

Imperial College is the first small step of that worldwide process of re-education. For more explanation of our aims in starting Imperial College, or a look at our developing campus or curriculum, visit our website: www.icedmond.org.

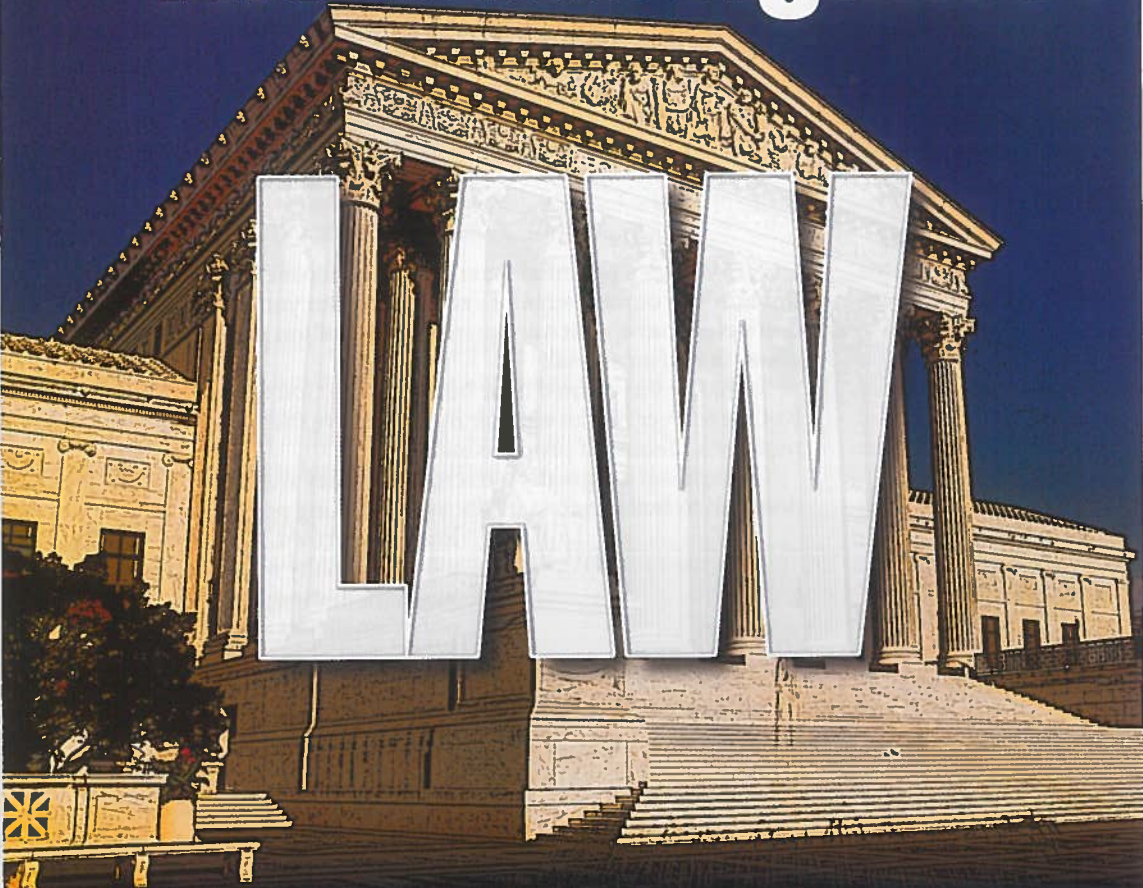
JOHN AMOS FIELD HOUSE
Imperial College's first building



Our young people will be educated to teach the world how to live, and how to build—not destroy. We hope that upbuilding principle will be evident even in the appearance of our campus.

The WAR Against

LAW



In America (and Britain) there is a war raging over law. Many of our people don't comprehend it. But lawyers, judges and politicians understand it very well. Which side is right? Or is either side right? If we fail to establish and maintain the rule of law, our republic will collapse! That is the clear lesson of history. BY GERALD FLURRY

THE GREEK EMPIRE TRIED TO establish the rule of law. They failed and their empire collapsed. The Roman Empire also tried to build a society based on law. They were unable to do so and the Roman Empire fell. Many other empires experienced the same failure.

The famous British historian Paul Johnson wrote an article titled "No Law Without Order, No Freedom Without Law." It was printed in the *Sunday Telegraph*, December 26, 1999. In it he wrote (emphasis mine throughout), "The rule of law, as distinct from the rule of a person, or class or people, and as opposed to the rule of force, is an abstract, sophisticated concept. It IS MIGHTY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE. But until

it is achieved, and established in the public mind with such vehemence THAT MASSES OF INDIVIDUALS ARE PREPARED TO DIE TO UPHOLD IT, no other form of progress can be regarded as secure. The Greeks had tried to establish the rule of law but failed. The Romans had succeeded under their republic but Caesar and his successors had destroyed it. The essence of the rule of law is its impersonality, omnipotence and ubiquity. It is the same law for everyone, everywhere—kings, emperors, high priests, the state itself, are subject to it. If exceptions are made, the rule of law begins to collapse—that was the grand lesson of antiquity."

Yes, "THAT WAS THE GRAND LESSON" of history. But have we learned that

lesson? Failure to do so means we pay the supreme sacrifice—loss of our republic.

The continual problem of man has been his failure to learn from history.

Are "masses of individuals...prepared to die" to uphold America's rule of law? Mr. Johnson states that this is *our only security!*

In many cases our people are confused about what the law is. And many others want to change our laws, including our constitutional law.

Who is going to be willing to die for such confusion? Will such a deeply divided people sacrifice their lives for our republic and the rule of law?

Our people in Britain and America lack the will to even sacrifice a few soldiers' lives to fight a ground war. Our generals know that we lack the will to win any hard-fought battle—even if it directly relates to our own freedom. For example, we had to be bombed into World War II. Even one of the most diabolical leaders in history, Adolf Hitler, could not rouse us to fight until we were bombed by Japan. And we are much more isolationist today.

We are not prepared to die to defend our security, as we were in our past. This is *the supreme sign* that our will has been broken—and that our republic cannot stand. We must make very radical changes to save our country.

Our forefathers were willing to die to establish the rule of law. Many Americans died in the civil war to sustain our constitutional law.

How different they were from our people today!

Our Forefathers' Goal

Early immigrants who came to this land were often persecuted in the countries they left. They usually lacked religious freedom.

"Both in Virginia and in New England to the north, the colonists were determined, God-fearing men," Mr. Johnson wrote, "often in search of a religious toleration denied them at home, who brought their families and were anxious to farm and establish perma-

ment settlements. They put political and religious freedom before riches.... Thus took shape the economic dynamo that eventually became the United States—an experiment designed to establish the rule of God on Earth...” (ibid.).

What a goal. THEY PLANNED TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF GOD ON EARTH! That means they had the goal of each person keeping the Ten Commandments of God—the basis of all righteous law.

How many Americans are willing to face that reality? Not many. Because then we would have to see that we often fight not to establish law, but to promote lawlessness!

Consider some statements from the Founding Fathers. In his First Inaugural, President George Washington said, “The foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality.” And in his famous Farewell Address he said, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” Without religion and morality, Washington knew the American experiment was doomed to fail. John Adams backed him up: “Statesmen may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is RELIGION AND MORALITY ALONE which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand.” Religion and morality are firmly rooted in DIVINE LAW.

In 1954, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, “I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it.”

What political or religious leaders would make such statements as these men did? EVEN THE POLITICIANS WHO ESTABLISHED OUR REPUBLIC WERE MORE SPIRITUAL THAN MOST OF OUR RELIGIOUS LEADERS TODAY!

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC. And the Ten Commandments were, in many ways, the foundation of the Constitution. Our forefathers believed that if we don’t keep God’s Ten Commandments, OUR REPUBLIC WOULD COLLAPSE!

We can’t afford to take the words of our founders lightly, if we want to see our nation stand.

IT WAS MUCH HARDER FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS TO SPILL STREAMS OF BLOOD WINNING OUR FREEDOM, AND TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, THAN IT IS FOR US JUST TO MAINTAIN IT! So we ought to respect our Founding Fathers above ourselves. But we are

too vain and arrogant to see how profoundly strong they were and how pathetically shallow and weak we are.

Noble Constitution

The Constitution was based to a great extent on God’s law. That is why I believe it is the most noble document ever written by a government of this world.

What a rare document it is. Our forefathers had the awesome opportu-

The liberal culture often has contempt of history and our Founding Fathers.

nity to establish the rule of God in the wealthiest country ever. So they established a Constitution to protect all of us from the extremes of human reason. Tyrants, unjust judges and biased leaders were controlled by this law.

Did our Founding Fathers know that the Bible interprets itself? To some extent, I believe they did. And they probably patterned the Constitution after the Bible, in that sense.

The Constitution is a document that interprets itself probably better than any book or document, other than the Bible.

We see indescribable confusion about the Bible today. Why? Because people won’t let it interpret itself!

We received some foundational direction from Britain’s Magna Carta. But Britain has no Constitution.

Our persecuted forefathers wanted their protection spelled out in detail. They had suffered intensely at the hands of tyrants. Such tribulation deepens a people’s understanding about the value of freedom.

Will we have to experience indescribable tribulation before we can appreciate our FREEDOM, WHICH IS GIVEN TO US BY THE RULE OF LAW?

The Bork Nomination

When Robert Bork was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Ronald Reagan, it created a firestorm in Congress, and he failed to get confirmed. Shortly thereafter, he wrote *The Tempting of America*, which I believe is the best book about constitutional law in 100 years—perhaps ever.

Mr. Bork believes we are more than halfway along in the destruction of our Constitution. If he is right, our republic is in grave danger.

We live today in a culture that is becoming much more anti-law and anti-God.

If the Constitution is rewritten, it should be done only by our legislative branch, or Congress, and the president, or the executive branch. If they err, these leaders are subject to the voters. But that is not true of the judicial branch—the courts. The U.S. Supreme Court justices are selected for life by the president.

Our forefathers designed the Constitution that way so the U.S. Supreme

Court justices would not be so concerned about the people when unpopular judgments had to be made. THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ARE SUBJECT ONLY TO CONSTITUTIONAL LAW—NOT THE VOTERS!

THEIR JOB IS TO INTERPRET THE LAW—OR BETTER, TO LET THE LAW INTERPRET ITSELF. They have no authority to rewrite the law. If they rewrite the law, it’s almost impossible to correct the error.

In our history, there was a judge who wanted slavery. He kept searching the Constitution to support his belief.

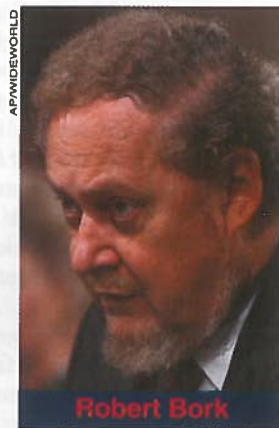
He found the phrase “substantive due process,” and he twisted these words to show that slavery was constitutional.

It took a civil war to overturn that decision. That gives you some idea of how hard it is to change what judges do! Today judges used that same reasoning—“substantive due process”—to say that abortion is constitutional. Mr. Bork believes that reasoning to be a dangerous mistake, and so do I.

If the judges are not subject to constitutional law, they are subject to nothing and nobody!

Law schools routinely teach about being “legal realists.” Like former Vice President Al Gore, they want an “evolving Constitution.” But this reasoning gives the judges despotic powers. It also takes us away from the foundational law established by our forefathers.

Then why do our politicians allow it? The president and Congress often like the judges to do this, if the decisions are favorable to their views and



they know their views will *not* be approved by the voters. Still, the judges are taking power from the legislature and the executive branches as they rewrite the Constitution.

Our politicians simply lack the vision to see how disastrous this process is. IT IS BASED ON SELFISH LAWLESSNESS—NOT LAW!

The Supreme Court justices are gaining dictatorial powers, and none of them were voted into their offices or approved by the people. The democratic process is being destroyed. That means we cannot maintain the rule of law. Our future is very black indeed unless we make far-reaching changes.

Usually the people know very little about how the law works. But they know enough to lose respect for our governmental institutions. They also lose interest in the whole political system.

As a result, they end up doing what our predecessors in ancient Israel did. "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Jud. 21:25). To prove that we are the modern descendants of biblical Israel, write for our free booklet on *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

This is the history of our own people. And the book of Judges is a part of the biblical books called the *former prophets*. That means it is prophecy for this end time.

Today, we have no king or president or real authority figure that we look to for leadership. And that means WE ARE A NATION WITHOUT STRONG LEADERSHIP. (The same is true of Britain.)

No ship of state can find its way to a safe harbor without a captain to guide it. That is exactly the way it was in ancient Israel JUST BEFORE THEY WERE CONQUERED! And that is exactly where America and Britain are today! THERE IS NO LEADER WHO CAN OR WILL ESTABLISH THE RULE OF LAW. This sad state of affairs was also prophesied (Isa. 3:1-5). In this prophecy, our leaders are likened to children!

What most people don't see is that we are destroying the rule of law. And history tells us that our republic cannot stand unless that evil is corrected.

The media is a big part of the liberal culture—about 80 percent of them. The destroying of our constitutional

republic would not be possible without their support. All too often they are deceived, and in turn they have the power to deceive our citizens.

Mr. Bork relates how the Constitution is the big trump card in American politics. Today it is being used by the liberal culture to *force* their *unlawful* ideas on people!

The great heresy being taught in our law schools is that the judges are not



Even the politicians who established our republic were more spiritual than most of our religious leaders today!

bound by law. Some are saying the Constitution isn't even law!

That means we are being led by the human reasoning of a liberal culture.

That is often the opposite of establishing the rule of law. Again, history reveals that empires are destroyed if they fail to establish the rule of law. But THE LIBERAL CULTURE OFTEN HAS CONTEMPT OF HISTORY AND OUR FOUNDING FATHERS. They foolishly rely on their own reasoning, which is not grounded in foundational law.

The founders of the Constitution put in place the walls, roofs and beams of our Constitution, as Mr. Bork said. The judges' purpose is to preserve the architectural features—adding only filigree or ornamental work. Instead, the lawyers and judges are changing the very structure of our representative democracy.

The Constitution is being altered dramatically. AND IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC! We are experiencing a constitutional earthquake and most of our people don't even know it—yet. Your future is being changed for you, and often you have no input.

This process is sure to lead to anarchy! That is why you and I should be deeply concerned.

Seeking Lawlessness

Why did our Founding Fathers work so hard to establish the Constitution? Because it was to be the supreme law of the land.

"A well-known Harvard law professor," Mr. Bork wrote, "turned to me with some exasperation and said, 'Your notion that the Constitution is in some sense law must rest upon an obscure philosophic principle with which I am unfamiliar.'"

But notice what the Constitution itself states: "THIS CONSTITUTION, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, SHALL BE THE SUPREME LAW OF

THE LAND; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, any thing in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding.

"THE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, SHALL BE BOUND BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION, TO SUPPORT THIS CONSTITUTION; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

A Harvard law professor is actually stating that the Constitution is not even law! That view comes from our most prestigious university. The very fact that he would even make that statement shows that we are already getting into EXTREME LAWLESSNESS!

The majority of our leaders now agree with the Harvard law professor. He made a statement that shows we are failing to establish the rule of law. The real issue here is *lawlessness*.

That means your future will be adversely affected.

Cal Thomas wrote in the March 8, 2000, *Washington Times*, "In the final Democratic debate before the Super Tuesday election, Vice President Al Gore responded to a question about the type of Supreme Court justices he as president would select: 'I would look for justices of the Supreme Court who understand that our Constitution is a living

and breathing document, that it was intended by our founders to be interpreted in the light of the constantly EVOLVING EXPERIENCE of the American people.'...

"Mr. Gore's view of the Constitution, shared by most political liberals, IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PHILOSOPHIES OF OUR TIME. It establishes a class of philosopher-kings who determine the rights of the people and shreds the CONSTITUTION AS A DOCUMENT THAT CONFORMS PEOPLE TO UNCHANGING PRINCIPLES that promote their own and the general welfare.

"A 'living' Constitution, notes constitutional attorney John Whitehead, means the Constitution is 'up for grabs,' and it becomes whatever the justices decide, not the people through their elected representatives....

"THE FOUNDERS NEVER INTENDED THE COURTS TO BE SUPREME. THEIR INTENTION WAS THAT THE LAW, ROOTED IN OBJECTIVE AND UNCHANGING TRUTH, WOULD BE PRE-EMINENT."

Law scholars today don't believe the Constitution was "ROOTED IN OBJECTIVE AND UNCHANGING TRUTH"—that is, they don't believe our founders established the rule of law. But that's just what the founders did. And now most lawyers and judges reject their foundational work.

Our views today reflect a deadly degeneration into lawlessness!

The liberal culture in politics wants a "living Constitution." Mr. Bork stated that many liberals imply the Constitution is dead. THEY DON'T WANT UNCHANGING TRUTH, ESTABLISHED 200 YEARS AGO, TO DIRECT THEIR LIVES.

The liberal *religious* culture similarly wants a "living Bible." Their "intelligence" demands that they adapt the Bible to modern times—even though every word was inspired by God (Matt. 4:4).

Most religions preach that God's law was done away, in spite of what Jesus said in Matthew 5:17-18: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Christ came to fulfill, or fill, the law to the full. He essentially was saying every *t* must be crossed and every *i* dotted. Still, many thought, and still think, that He came to destroy the law. They *refuse* to believe the truth!

Christians are supposedly people who follow Christ, the Lawgiver. That

is how they got their name "Christian."

But whether secular or religious, WE ARE RACING INTO LAWLESSNESS, and our nation is plunging toward disaster. Any good history book will show us that!

The Bible should be even more convicting. Study it and see the deadly danger of lawlessness.

When the new U.S. government was established, Benjamin Franklin said that we have "a republic, *if you can keep it.*" It's all about either establishing the rule of law—or descending into lawlessness.

Stumbling at the Law

Some time ago I read one of the most unbiblical statements about God's law ever made by a religious leader in God's Church. Joseph Tkach, Sr., now deceased, was pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God. He wrote in his member and co-worker letter of May 27, 1992, "The Ten Commandments are important, but they are not enough. Jesus warned the Pharisees, who were strict legalists: 'Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness' (Matt. 23:27-28)."

THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY "WOE TO YOU, TEACHERS OF THE LAW." That was Mr. Tkach's interpretation. The better translations make no mention of the word *law*. You can find the word *law* in some paraphrased versions of the Bible and a few INCORRECT translations that ADD the word *law* because translators thought it fit the context—or because they hate God's law. The word *law* is not in the Greek manuscript. The word *law* is inserted by those men who are either ignorant of God's law or are trying to destroy it!

Mr. Tkach said this in that same co-worker letter: "These moral problems, along with the more 'invisible' moral problems of neglect and oppression of the weak and the poor, and corruption in business, politics and religion, would indeed be improved if people began keeping the Ten Commandments. However, it is a common mistake to assume, 'If everybody would just keep the Ten Commandments, what a nice world we would have.' Christians should consider that the Ten Commandments do not require kindness,

mercy, compassion, generosity, sacrifice for others, impartiality, patience or love. Nor do the Ten Commandments specifically forbid conceit, envy, hatred, rage or selfish ambition."

He said "the Ten Commandments do not require kindness, mercy...." Let's back up just four verses before those Mr. Tkach quoted: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted *the weightier matters of the law*, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matt. 23:23). Here the "law" is mentioned in God's word. And it says ONE OF THE WEIGHTIER MATTERS OF THE LAW IS "MERCY"!

Mr. Tkach also said the Ten Commandments "do not require sacrifice...or love." But notice 1 John 5:3: "For this IS the LOVE OF GOD, *that we keep his commandments*: and his commandments are not grievous." God says keeping the law IS love! In other words, if you don't keep the Ten Commandments, you don't have real love.

Mr. Tkach created his own phony "love" outside of God's law.

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:36-40). The great commandment that sums up the Ten Commandments is the subject here. God says the law means you must love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself!

How could you love your neighbor as much as yourself without SACRIFICE? Without *patience*? How could you love your neighbor as yourself (an unbelievably deep, hard-to-fathom love) and still have "conceit, envy, hatred or selfish ambition" toward your neighbor?

Mr. Tkach made some outrageous statements. However, it was all prophesied to happen to God's own Laodicean Church in the end time: "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. But YE ARE DEPARTED OUT OF THE WAY; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi,

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At the Crossroads

After the cold war ended, the world entered a tumultuous decade—one that forged the foundation for the breakup of old alliances and the establishment of a new order. What form will the new order take? What risks will it pose for the U.S. in its perceived role as the world's policeman?

BY RON FRASER

OFTEN A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT brings with it new hope. Despite the challenge of the left to the legitimacy of George W. Bush's win in the U.S. presidential elections, President Bush is now firmly seated at the helm of the world's greatest single nation.

Many have commented that this presidency's greatest challenge will be that of *foreign policy* in a world seeking new global alliances. It is said that President Bush's advisers are divided in their vision of foreign policy. The world awaits evidence of whether America is set for a new era of isolationism, or an era of containment, and where it will seek to assert itself as the dominant world power.

The president has increased expenditure on arms in his first budget. Will this spur a new arms race? The new administration has signaled its determination to proceed with building up a national missile defense system, to the chagrin of other world powers. It has drawn back on international environmental initiatives, changed America's approach to diplomacy in the Balkans, Middle East, Russia and China. Is America standing at a foreign-policy crossroads?

Changing Roles—Confusing Policies

By the end of the 19th century, a century of peaceful progress, Britain was unchallenged as the world's singular superpower. Its vast empire was secured by the possession of most of the world's crucial sea gates based upon the sea-power of its seemingly impregnable navy. Progress and prosperity for its own peoples, its colonies and dominions and their native peoples were unprecedented.

Behind this protective and benign shield, the United States was free to

pursue unprecedented expansion of its great democracy.

Few, if any, could have predicted that the Anglo-Americans would be forced to join in a united effort to, within the next 15 years, defeat the "volcanic energy" of "the mighty strength of the Teutonic race" (Winston Churchill, *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, vol. 4, p. viii). The assertions of Prussian hegemonic power put an end to the vision of "purposeful, progressive, enlightened, tolerant civilization" (*ibid.*) which obtained in 1901. Thirteen years later, the world erupted in war.

Following the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919, only 21 years of peace were to ensue before the world entered the even greater bloodbath of World War II. After five years of brutal conflict in Europe, northern Africa, Russia and the Pacific, the world literally exploded into the post-war era by the unleashing of the horrific power of a new weapon: nuclear technology, in the form of the atom bomb.

In his famous address given at Westminster College in Fulton, U.S., on March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill dramatized the commencement of the standoff between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union by declaring, "An iron curtain has descended across the Continent." An era spanning over 40 years, termed universally the "cold war," followed. This was to maintain a balance of power across the globe, involving the United States, Britain and their allies in the West, Russia and its Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with varying support from China, in the East, and a whole grab-bag of "non-aligned" nations in the middle.

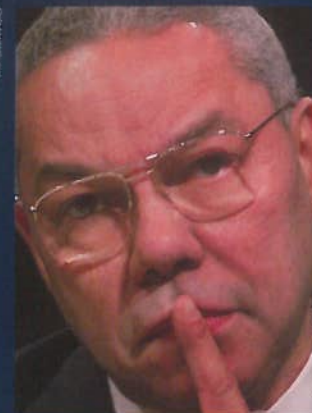
This all changed in November 1989 when the Berlin Wall came crashing

CORBIS



Forging a foreign policy

Bush ponders America's place in the world.



Can't we just get along? (L-R) Cheney, Powell and Rice

down. Germany united, and within two years the Soviet Empire collapsed.

What followed in the decade of the 1990s, Professor Francis Fukiyama of George Mason University described as the “end of history,” maintaining that liberal democracy had finally triumphed as the chosen means of government of most nations. This is pure fiction. It may be true that most nations *claim* to sport democratic governments at present, but dig under the surface and you will see the rampant corruption, the gross violations of human rights, the raping of the environment and the destruction of the quality of life, and know that Francis Fukiyama’s claim to the world having reached an end to history is a false dream.

The final decade of the 20th century is now renowned as a decade of new *world disorder*, leaving many foreign-policy gurus, ignorant of history, grasping for precedents. With the collapse of the bipolar balance of power between the U.S. and Russia, nations and groups of nations spent ten years jockeying for influence and alignment within the new order.

Foremost of these groups was the *European Union*. Upon entry into the 21st century, we see the U.S. pushed into second place, economically, by the EU, and seemingly “all at sea” in the foreign-policy arena.

Foreign-Policy Dilemma

Two factors are fundamental to the traditional American approach to foreign policy: 1) the naïve assumption that all peoples think like Americans; 2) the infamous American tendency for even-handedness. These have inevitably led to the consistent failure of America’s foreign policy since its inception as a nation.

A third factor has been added to this mindset since World War II, exacerbated by the foreign-policy failures in Korea and Vietnam: the unwillingness of successive U.S. administrations to fight skirmishes or wars, at any level, in a configuration which risks American casualties. The strike power of U.S. forces, despite the unfortunate impact of the Clinton administration’s anti-military policies, remains awesome, compared to that of any other country. Yet what is lacking in America is the *will* to use that firepower in any situation which risks an outcry from the living-room electorate viewing images of body bags containing U.S. servicemen. The American soldier is simply losing his reason for being—to place his life *at risk* by going to battle for the protection of the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of his country.

War is simply *war!* It is a contest between two opposing sides, fought for the victory of one over the other. It seems that Americans just cannot grasp the mentality of their traditional enemies. The oft-stated intentions of these enemies—be they Islamic, Oriental, or, as has been the case in the two greatest wars America has fought, Teutonic—is to not just have the victory in battle; it is *utter conquest* to the extent of completely *vanquishing* their enemies! Such a concept seems foreign to the Anglo-American mind. Winston Churchill summed up the Anglo-American approach to war thus: “In war, resolution; in defeat, defiance; in victory, magnanimity; in peace, goodwill.”

That is not the mindset that could initiate a holocaust. It’s not the mindset of a Stalin, Pol Pot or Saddam Hussein. See how *they* treat their *own* people, let alone their enemy! No, there’s something quite different about the

Anglo-Americans. They are at heart *peace-loving* peoples—and their enemies know this, and play it to their own advantage.

High Risk and Heavy Odds

World leaders have blazed a trail to the White House the past few months. They are worried. Worried about confusing signals from Washington.

In a destabilized world, foreign policy is played out often at high risk against heavy odds. Rumor has it that the president's foreign-policy advisers are divided. Certainly, it is known that differences of philosophy and approach exist between Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell. In addition, presidential adviser on foreign policy Condoleezza Rice exhibits a certain liberal ethos in her views. Such a mix of minds may well provide a confusion of views that will frustrate decision-making for the new president.

Whatever the reason, the Bush administration is off to a shaky start in the foreign-policy arena. The deportation from the U.S. of over 50 Russians accused of spying, while no doubt designed to send a signal to Russia of a more hard-line stance, has simply driven Russia closer to the EU diplomatically. The stated intention of the U.S. administration to proceed with the development of a national missile defense capability has only served to drive a deeper wedge between Russia and the U.S., and resulted in agreements between Russia and the EU to share technology for the development of Europe's own missile defense umbrella. This spells danger for the U.S., considering the decoupling of America from the Continent which is already taking place.

Japan, highly insulted by the previous U.S. administration's treatment, at real loss to its ailing economy, lost more face when a U.S. naval submarine speared a trawler, resulting in loss of Japanese life. This incident has not gone down well with the Japanese public and has not helped the new administration's early efforts at Japanese diplomacy, particularly considering that the condition of that nation's economy is largely held to ransom by the Federal Reserve's fiscal policies.

A weak-willed U.S. approach to maintaining order in the Balkan Peninsula allowed civil war in Macedonia to spark. This will only serve to influence a policy of U.S. disengagement from the Balkans. Condoleezza Rice vir-

tually promised a U.S. troop withdrawal from Yugoslavia as part of President Bush's electoral platform.

America, by condemning the lack of current German investment in national armaments, has greatly misread the European scene. This will only serve to encourage an emboldened German administration to take the U.S. at its word and more aggressively militarize, at the appropriate time, with the full backing of its old enemy!

The spy plane incident with China has further strained relations between the U.S. and that rapidly developing nation while giving it, free of charge, access to the very latest U.S. secret surveillance equipment to add to the stolen technology that China obtained under the Clinton administration. In the meantime, China delivered a blow under America's belt by having its president, Jiang Zemin, visit Latin America in an effort to win business away from the U.S. Despite this, Secretary of State Powell continues to insist that the Panama Canal, back-door to the U.S. (and for all intents and purposes now owned by the Chinese), has "no strategic value" to the U.S. Something's amiss here.

Following the Rice philosophy, the Bush administration has accepted a basically hands-off policy on Balkan, Mideast and Irish affairs—all the subject of intense, if inept, diplomatic activity under the previous administration. Someone had to fill the vacuum. Guess who? The EU slipped in quickly to seize the advantage and is speedily taking over the Middle East peace process, while the Germans are coming out from under the table to take the lead in the Balkans (see pages 9 and 20).

Even as Washington focuses its gaze on China, which is hardly in a position

to rattle sabers at the U.S. in terms of the relative size of its military power, the heat is being inevitably turned up on the U.S. across the Atlantic.

America is focused on the wrong horse! Bible prophecy declares that in the short term, in the foreign-policy arena, this will develop into a one-horse race. The front runner is a Trojan horse. The European Union, busily filling the foreign-policy gaps left in the changeover of U.S. administrations, presents itself still as a benign, peace-loving trading empire, all the while working avidly, within its own backyard, to set up an infrastructure that will propel it to the fore in high-tech rocketry and space warfare technology. America sleeps as the Trojan horse emerges. The time fast approaches when it will disgorge its hidden cargo to the incredible shock of the slumbering American giant.

Leadership Vacuum

"Ye fools and blind" was how Jesus Christ addressed the intelligentsia of His day (Matt. 23:17, 19). These words aptly describe those at the same level in today's society. Too few of our leaders look with unblinded eyes at the national health of the United States and see this once-great nation for what it has now become: a nation wallowing in the flab of its acquisitive, self-centered, materialistic culture. A nation rotten at its moral core, the stench of its sins reaching to heaven. A nation living off a hollow economy, built upon the greed and fear that drive its stock market, awash with the plastic dreams created by a billion credit cards, with the piper greedily waiting to be paid—with *interest*—as consumers dance to his empty tune.

A Shaky Start

Foreign affairs in the Bush administration's first months



Captive
The U.S. spy plane in Hainan

- **Feb. 2:** U.S. sub surfaces under a Japanese fishing boat, killing nine.
- **March:** President Bush boycotts international peace talks in Colombia.
- **March 21:** Powell says 50 Russians accused of spying must leave the U.S.
- **March 23:** President Bush snubs North Korea by cancelling talks on its missile program, putting South Korea in a tough spot.
- **April 1:** U.S. spy plane collides in midair with a Chinese fighter pilot; crew of 24 is detained for weeks on Hainan Island in China.
- **April:** President Bush pulls out of Kyoto global warming agreement; Europe says it will push the plan through anyway.

As the U.S. pulls back, Europe steps up.

Filling the Vacuum

FEW WOULD CRITICIZE THE European Union for pushing itself too aggressively as a foreign-policy player on the world stage. The union of 15 states has been scrambling to organize itself politically well enough to speak with one coherent voice. In spite of this, though, a single EU voice is beginning to be heard, encouraged along by the world's only superpower, the United States.

The Bush administration, with a far more restrained foreign policy than that under former President Clinton, has already established itself as one that views international engagements as very much second in priority to its domestic concerns. Whether or not President Bush's administration has carefully weighed the effects on its global neighbors of America's reduced participation in world affairs, one effect is already clear: The

destabilizing vacuum created by America's scaled-back involvement in several key areas of the world is quickly being filled by the only force in the world at this time with the economic, political and, increasingly, military might to do so—the European Union.

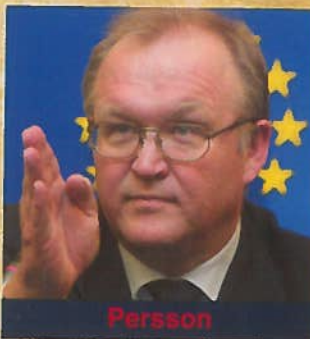


Solana

The now decade-old Balkan war will be remembered as the event that pushed the European Union into the political spotlight and gave its foreign policy unprecedented influence. As the U.S. decided to withdraw tanks and heavy weapons

from Bosnia, it welcomed EU Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana's successful efforts to help bring ethnic Albanian groups and ruling parties in Macedonia together. (Read our story on page 20 about Europe's involvement in the Balkan region.)

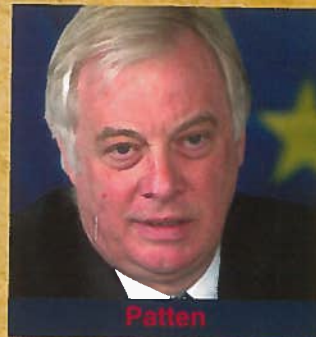
Again, when President Bush recently decided to withdraw from negotiations intended to promote reconciliation between North and South Korea, the EU stepped up to the challenge. Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson quickly made plans to visit the two Koreas to try and keep dialogue between them alive.



Persson

In what represents perhaps the most telling example, the EU has a unique op-

portunity to begin to exert itself in the Middle East peace process. While the Palestinians are convinced that the U.S. is pro-Israeli and therefore incapable of being an objective arbitrator, both they and the Israelis, albeit cautiously, seem to trust Javier Solana. This may be the fruit of months of efforts by Mr. Solana and EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten of trying to convince Israel that



Patten

the EU is an honest broker.

As the world continues to digest the reoriented outlook of the new U.S. administration, the momentum is quickly picking up for a more assertive role for the European Union in world affairs.

Too few see the lust in the eyes of the nation's enemies as they gloat over its secrets stolen under the nose of naïve, ignorant, liberal-socialist bureaucrats and administrators who gullibly think that Gentile minds will readily embrace the principles of a free and peace-loving democracy. Too few hear the swell of voices across the Atlantic, across the Pacific, to the north, south and east, rising to a full tide of hatred for all things American. Too many gullibly embrace the soft-porn, drug-inducing sub-culture peddled by the media, music and movie moguls who rape the country's youth of all sense and sensibility and lead their minds to dwell upon the crazed and demented dreams of deviates, sapping them of the vigor and vision that once pioneered a nation to greatness with the dream that nothing was impossible for those who dared.

King Solomon declared, "Where there is no *vision*, the people *perish*" (Prov. 29:18). The Prophet Hosea de-

clares, "My people are destroyed for *lack of knowledge!*"

Where is the nation's strength of *leadership*? Where is its sense of *purpose*?

Where is its *vision* of its *future*?

Churchill, not long ago, described America as "a very great country...not pretty or romantic but great and utilitarian, [where] everything is eminently practical and things are judged from a matter-of-fact standpoint." Americans, he said, were a "great, crude, strong, young people," who conduct their affairs "with a good-hearted freshness which may well be the envy of older nations of the Earth" (*Smithsonian*, April 2001).

How then did America come to the brink of moral collapse so rapidly? The answer lies in the visionary words of another ancient prophet: "O my people, *they which lead thee cause thee to err*, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isa. 3:12).

The close of the 20th century saw the American economy at the cusp.

Emerging into the 21st century, it is in decline, and its economy which led the post-war world for 55 years is now relegated to second place behind the powerhouse economy of the new global power—the *European Union*.

The United States may well go down in history as the shortest-lived of the singular superpowers which have strutted this world's stage since Babylon, the world's first great empire.

The U.S., which last January tipped over the edge and commenced its descent from a political economy of singular greatness, is destined to slide into second-rate power status. This process will not take a century. In all probability it will not even take a decade.

Americans face the gravest of risks. Their corporate economy is overinflated and undercapitalized. America's infrastructure is aging. Drug money floods through the clearinghouse of its stock market and into the economies of its southwestern states. The U.S. military is

America is a nation in decline whose impending fall from greatness will soon ring with a resounding crash that will shake this world.

demoralized, weakened within its moral fiber by the inane policies of politically correct politicians, judges and academics. America's intelligence networks and major channels of communication remain greatly exposed, *startlingly vulnerable* to attack by terrorist computer hackers. God is legislated out of America's schools. American women are taken out of their God-designed mothering, homemaking roles to sink their energies into jobs that steal work opportunities from youth. American men are becoming largely feminized.

This is a nation going the way of ancient Rome—the way of all great powers of the past. America is a nation in *decline* whose impending fall from greatness will soon ring with a resounding CRASH that will shake this world politically, economically, financially and commercially.

Watch!

Jesus Christ commanded His disciples, "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrow, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping" (Mark 13:35-36).

What you read in the pages of this magazine are *signs* of the imminency of the dramatic intervention of God in the affairs of man.

Watch America! Watch for its decoupling from Europe—soon! Watch for the European Union (EU) to fill the global leadership void—soon! Watch for America's role as peacemaker to be taken over by a *peace enforcer*—the European Union, via its emerging rapid reaction force. Watch for NATO weapons and military matériel to be taken over by the EU army. Watch, and PREPARE for, the future great crash, as American economic growth, at some time in the future, grinds to a THUNDEROUS HALT, and quickly reverses into a recession that will trigger a national economic collapse greater than that of the Great Depression, far more quickly and with much more devastating results.

Above all this, watch for international foreign policy to be taken over and run by the new world superpower, the German-led federation of Europe, currently known as the *European Union*. Watch for the emergence of the

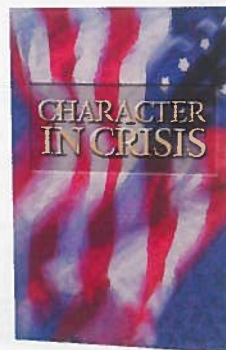
world's final *three great power blocs*: the prophesied *king of the north*, a Vatican/German-led European combine extending from Spain to the Middle East, from the Nordic countries to northwest Africa; the *king of the south*, the Islamic crescent sweeping from Libya to the Caucasus in the north to Pakistan in the south; and the *kings of the east*, incorporating Asia, China and the rebuilding Russian empire.

But as you watch and see this new world balance of powers emerging, remember that Jesus Christ and the prophets of old foretold that these great, climactic world events would be but signs of a far greater event—the imminent installation of a Superpower that will overcome all world governments and, indeed, *enforce peace on all nations*: the coming, *world-ruling government* of the eternal Creator of man!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 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 with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isa. 9:6-7).

As we anticipate this great event, desired of many for so long, as we see the great acceleration of fulfilled *prophecy*, forecast in your Bible millennia ago and publicized *daily* in the news of *world-wide current events*, recognize that it is time to heed the words of the greatest of all prophets, Jesus Christ Himself, King of kings, the coming Prince of Peace: "And what I say unto you I say unto all, *Watch*" (Mark 13:37). ♦

Character in Crisis is available to you at no cost. Visit www.pcog.org to order online, or see the inside cover of this magazine for information on how to order by phone or mail.



The U.S. has waded into the murky waters of Colombian drug-driven politics—at a time when illegal drugs are a significant contributor to the U.S. economy. Plan Colombia may well become

America's Colombian Folly

BY RON FRASER

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

TO THE CLASH OF CYMBALS, BLARE OF bugles, pounding of drums and trill of glockenspiels, Bogotá's presidential guard has just marched through the presidential palace gates. It's the occasion of the daily ceremony of the changing of the guard. A detachment hauls down the gigantic green, orange and white tricolor that is Colombia's national ensign and folds it away for the night as the band plays the Colombian national hymn.



Pomp The Colombian presidential guard

Not far away from the perimeter of this national capital of Colombia, a group of well-armed guerrilla fighters prepares for the night by posting its own camouflage-clad sentries for the evening watch.

Some miles away at a Venezuelan air force base, a U.S. spy plane rotates its motors in preparation for takeoff, destination Colombia, where it will fly over the vast tracts of rural land in the country's southwest in an effort to pinpoint guerrilla encampments for the benefit of Colombian government troops on the ground.

Tomorrow, crop-spraying aircraft will resume the poisonous task of low flying over thousands of acres of coca and cannabis crops in Colombia's southwest corner, spraying chemical defoliant on the illicit weed that would normally be destined to blow the minds of young sophisticates in U.S. and European cities. No one has calculated the sum total of the destruction to the atmosphere, soils, water tables, rivers and other water bodies, let alone the toll on animal, bird, insect and human life that this chemical attack is destined to yield. But in the collective estimation of the Colombian government and the advisers to the U.S. government, it's somehow all worth it. This is Plan Colombia in action.

History

Colombia gained its independence in 1819, following the defeat of the Spanish at Boyacá that year. Originally established by Simon Bolivar as the Republic of Gran Colombia, incorporating modern Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama, Colombia has been subject to continual political unrest. The revolt of 1840 led to the emergence of two bitterly opposed factions, one liberal and one conservative. In 1849 a liberal uprising sparked the Thousand Days War, which lasted to 1903. A long struggle, termed La Violencia, broke out in 1948, leading to the creation of the National Front in 1958. The resultant coalition led to representatives from each faction being elect-



ed as president in rotation. Since 1974, multi-party elections, though helping to lift prosperity, have brought little enduring peace. The power of guerrilla groups, underpinned by the blood-thirsty violence of the drug cartels, has resulted in gunshot wounds to Colombia's citizenry becoming almost as common a cause of death as heart attacks.

The two main guerrilla factions, murderously opposed to each other, are the powerful Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the smaller, radical right-wing paramilitary militias, the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC). Another significant rebel group is the National Liberation Front (ELN), stationed in the north. FARC, the last surviving Marxist-Leninist group in Latin America (with 15,000 armed personnel compared to about 7,000 opposition paramilitaries), derives most of its resources from drugs.

It was Margaret Thatcher who declared, "Never negotiate with a terrorist." She knew that once a terrorist gained ground through receiving just one concession, he would stick to that gain like a limpet as a platform from which to gain more concessions. This is the vicious circle that enmeshes President Andrés Pastrana. It's the same vortex into which those who have made concessions to Irish, Palestinian and Albanian terrorists now find themselves sucked.

Economy

While traveling with a British and a Colombian assistant for seven days in Colombia, the sole evidence of any prospect of trouble in our visit to three large Colombian cities—the bustling capital, Bogotá, the country's second city, Manizales, and the more provincial Medellin in the northwest—was having our taxi stopped by the police in Bogotá and a cursory search made of the contents of the trunk. Apart from this incident, to the tourist, those three Colombian cities presented quite a peaceful façade. But appearances can deceive.

The beauty of the Colombian countryside is most impressive. Split by two mountainous, verdant cordillera, the Occidental and the Oriental, running north to south in the country's west, this is a country rich in mineral and agricultural resources. Step out of the aircraft in Manizales, a mile high, and the bougainvillea smacks you in the eye with its magenta brilliance con-

trasting against the lush green of the terraced hillsides. The locals are friendly, warm and hospitable, the food generally presenting a healthier and more balanced diet than in many a North American household.

Yet high unemployment, low wages and long work hours attest to an economy in deep trouble. Although mainly agrarian, the country is becoming increasingly industrialized. A great range



of food crops grow in Colombia's equable climates, which vary between the mainland, highland and coastal periphery. Although coffee accounts for one third of all official export revenue, cannabis and coca provide Colombia's drug cartels with twice this amount. Herein lies Colombia's most deeply entrenched economic, political and cultural challenge.

Where the U.S. and Colombian economies meet is in huge sums of cash being laundered through the New York Stock Exchange and the American banks. Stratfor Systems recently reported that the economies of America's southern states are powerfully underpinned by corporate investment funded via illicit drug transfers.

Politics

President Pastrana traded land for time when he conceded a demilitarized zone (DMZ) to FARC in 1998. He did the same with Colombia's second-largest rebel group, the ELN, in April last year. His strategy of granting a DMZ to the ELN was to buy time to allow him to put pressure on FARC by concentrating government troops in the FARC's southern stronghold.

To be sure, the allocation of the \$1.6 billion U.S. aid package has helped Pastrana make some progress in his attempt to crack down on FARC. Yet his DMZ concession has only served to solidify FARC's hold in the south. As Stratfor Systems reported a year ago, "Satis-

fied with their jungle sanctuary, making money off the drug trade and crossing the Ecuadorian border for beer and cigarettes, the FARC has had little reason to reach a peace settlement now" (*www.stratfor.com*, April 27, 2000).

During a meeting with FARC leader Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda last February, President Pastrana made no ground in his efforts to stop FARC's in-

tentions to extend its control over the so-called DMZ, which incorporates nearly 17,000 square miles in the south. This may have triggered the president's initiative to globalize the Colombian "peace process."

However, inviting the FARC's leadership to sit down at the negotiating table with international representatives from many countries only serves

to further legitimize FARC as a political entity, as has been the case elsewhere with the homicidal PLO, IRA and KLA. No doubt this latest effort at internationalizing an essentially domestic situation in Colombia will yield similar bitter fruits to those produced by these other cancerous so-called peace processes. The cost in human life, government concessions and billions of dollars will escalate. Further U.S. involvement will result in America becoming, yet again, the pariah.

Global Arena

On March 8, President Pastrana convened a conference of representatives of 24 countries to resume peace talks with FARC. The group included a strong delegation from European countries, Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom, nine Latino countries, officials of the European Union, the United Nations and the Vatican. By inviting an international group to participate in his peace plan, President Pastrana raised the profile of the process to place it on a par with similar internationalized peace processes involving the Middle East, Ireland and the Balkans. Pastrana simply took his major domestic political problem and threw it out into the global arena.

This move placed the U.S. in an invidious position. As the major international player in the drive to contain the operations of FARC, the U.S. was conspicuous in its absence from Pastrana's peace conference. President Bush declined the offer to send a representative to the conference.

Yet, three factors will combine to draw the U.S. more deeply into the vortex of yet another seemingly insolvable conflict: 1) the fact of the U.S. being the largest customer of Colombia's illicit drug barons; 2) the strengthened presence of the U.S. military in support of Colombian efforts to stymie FARC; and 3) America's continuing efforts to advance a wider trade agenda in Latin America through the extension of the North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA). The U.S. is now the meat in the sandwich as the EU and other national groupings enter the "peace process," all with their specific agendas to push to their own advantage. Most have an axe to grind against the U.S.

A Mini-Vietnam?

With the U.S. commitment to support the Pastrana regime in Colombia

The China Connection

TWO YEARS AGO THE U.S. GAVE AWAY A unique piece of sovereign territory—the Panama Canal—claiming that it had no strategic value to America. That view has since been reinforced by Secretary of State Colin Powell: The gateway between the Americas has *no strategic value!*

There is a great difference between American thinking and Oriental thinking. The average American thinks short term—*very* short term. The Oriental mind is geared to moving slowly, with inscrutable visage, over an extended period of time toward fulfilling *long-term goals*. Short-term, myopic vision led the U.S. to give up Panama. The long-term view of the Chinese led them to secure the entry and exit ports at each end of the Panama Canal.

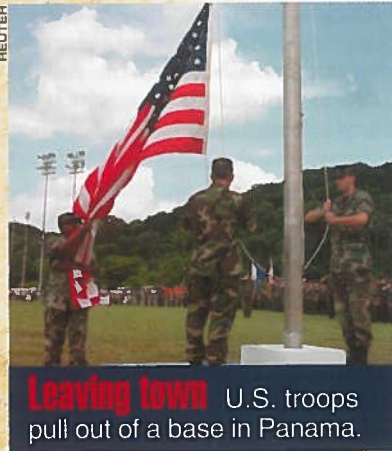
The Chinese have since announced their interest in a multi-billion dollar development project that will upgrade the Panama Canal's facilities to accept the largest container vessels to be built in the foreseeable future.

The U.S. view that the canal has no strategic value fails to account for it being one of the largest gates through which the narcotics and guns that saturate America's inner cities flow to their corrupt destinations. As the Mexican border is policed heavily, Panama is the preferred gate that is willingly swung open by its Chinese operators to give access to the free flow of illegal drugs and armaments north to the U.S. and northeast to Europe. Only one other corridor is available to the Colombian drug lords to peddle their perverse business: Venezuela.

For some time Mexican and Colombian drug lords have battled for supremacy in the U.S. market. The Colombian narco-czars want their product to have a secure route to the U.S. which bypasses Mexico. The only alternative to Panama to ease shipment of illegal drugs, neighboring Venezuela offers a gateway to North America via the Caribbean. Here China enters the scene again with its reported purchase of the highly strategic Bahaman port of Freeport.

The Chinese, who became suckers for the opium trade which built the British banking business in Hong Kong, have turned the tables and now play the Anglo-Americans for suckers at their own game. They control the prime sea gates which in turn control the supply of illegal drugs internationally, 75 percent of which is consumed in the U.S.

Having the above in mind, it is no small wonder that Chile, in possession of that prime southern gateway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Straits of Magellan, should be courted by China into becoming China's gateway to trade with Latin America. Chile was the first Latin American country to recognize the People's Republic of China. Chile is second only to Brazil in Latin American trade with China. China's long-term strategy for the control of the flow of both legitimate and illegitimate cargo through the southern seas and oceans is steadily working to its long-term advantage.



Leaving town U.S. troops pull out of a base in Panama.



AP/WIDEWORLD

Embracing terrorists President Pastrana meets FARC leader Marulanda.

heighten Colombia's trade prospects with the EU, to the detriment of the U.S. free-trade agenda with Latin America. Failure of the U.S. to involve itself in the peace negotiations will also negatively impact its political influence in the region.

"[Venezuelan] President Chavez and Cuban leader Fidel Castro see their direct engagement in the Colombian peace process as a way of helping to legitimize the FARC's political status, while deepening their joint opposition to what they call the single-power hegemony of the United States.... In pursuit of this goal, the two leaders have built bridges to both Iran and Iraq, while

having escalated drastically since launching Plan Colombia last October, the sudden thrusting of the Colombian "peace process" into the international arena poses a real headache for President Bush. In fact, it could lead to a strategic nightmare.

To this point, Mr. Bush has declined direct involvement in President Pastrana's talks with FARC. But as Stratfor again opined, "Internationalization of the Colombian peace talks will make it impossible for Washington to keep the conflict from entangling the U.S. agenda of free trade" (www.stratfor.com, March 7).

The continuing presence of the Vatican, the EU and individual EU member nation representatives, in the continued absence of the U.S. during ongoing negotiations in this "peace process," may

strengthening their economic and military linkages to the People's Republic of China" (ibid.).

This "peace process" could well provide a forum for nations such as Brazil to expand the South American Customs Union (Mercosur) at the expense of NAFTA, and exploit trade linkages with the EU. The U.S. also has to consider the position of another participant in the peace process, Venezuela, which remains one of America's most significant foreign oil suppliers.

Cause and Effect

So! We have yet another "peace process" involving negotiations between a legitimate national government and an illegitimate group of terrorists. Yet again, the U.S. is the largest foreign dollar and military equipment

contributor to one side. The U.S. administration is the prime supplier of intelligence, military training and advice to the national government of Colombia. Yet again, political forces are arrayed against the U.S., this time to take advantage of its absence at the bargaining table and position themselves to lay the blame for any failure of the process on American shoulders. Will the Colombian peace process turn into a mini-Vietnam for the U.S.? Another American folly?

Chances are that unless Americans learn to deal with *cause* rather than *effect*, their continuing efforts at dealing with the insidious effects of narco-trafficking are doomed to failure. As journalist Denise Dresser opined in one of Mexico's leading newsmagazines, "It's up to U.S. society to deal with the addictions of its adolescents. It's up to Washington to understand that the real enemy is...not the flow of drugs, but *human weakness: compulsion, evasion, the search for instant gratification*" (*Proceso*, Jan. 28).

What is really amiss in the whole equation of America's insatiable lust for narcotics is a deep understanding of *human nature*, an understanding of what man is, of his unsurpassable destiny, his incredible, God-given, human potential. It is the aching, gnawing void in man, the *lack* of the spiritual dimension which he needs to fulfill this potential, that leads to his desire for the thrill of the moment. This is what the narco-traffickers take advantage of.

"When man refuses to admit even the very existence of his own Maker, he shuts out of his mind vast oceans of basic true knowledge, fact and UNDERSTANDING. When he substitutes FABLE for truth, he is, of all men, MOST IGNORANT, though he professes himself to be wise.

"When man, in the name of science, denies—or by indifference, ignores—his Maker, he blinds his mind to what he is, why he is, where he is going, and what is THE WAY! No wonder this world is filled with evils! There has to be a CAUSE for every effect" (Herbert W. Armstrong, *What Science Can't Discover About the Human Mind*, 1978).

Yes! Eliminate the *cause* of the lust for illegal drugs, and you simply cut off the demand, starve the line of supply and eliminate the soul-destroying *effect*. Believe it or not, that will soon happen! If you want to find out how, write for our free booklet *Human Nature—What Is It?* ♦

The Islamic Connection

THERE MAY BE A FURTHER ITEM IN THE COLOMBIAN EQUATION WHICH COULD compound the concerns of U.S. strategists involved in Plan Colombia—the involvement of militant Islamic cells based in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. With FARC having declared both U.S. military personnel and the civilian contractors supporting them as legitimate military targets, the prospect of FARC aligning with Hezbollah is strong. Hezbollah provides FARC with logistics support in connecting their Colombian-based activities through bordering Brazil, via Paraguay to Argentina.

The well-respected think tank Stratfor Systems recently mused, "The threat posed to the U.S. embassies in South America could come from Hezbollah or the FARC or both.... If this is the case, it could lead to a dramatic increase in the breadth, intensity and depth of U.S. involvement in Colombia's long-running civil war" (www.stratfor.com, April 6).



PROTESTERS AND POLICE clash outside the Summit of Americas.

protected U.S. products as steel, sugar, fruits and peanuts. The fact is that the U.S. must do something fast. Either it secures a free flow of trade throughout the hemisphere of the Americas, or it stands to lose out to increasing pressure from the European Union,

◆ U.S.

Trade wars?

As 30,000 anti-free-trade demonstrators chanted their opposition, representatives of 34 countries within the Americas gathered for the third Summit of the Americas in Quebec last month to hear President George Bush declare his commitment to negotiating a free-trade zone for the region.

When the dust settled and both demonstrators and delegates to the conference had left this French-Canadian city, the nature of the seemingly impossible task the U.S. president had set for himself became clear. The obstacles are considerable.

Arrayed before the U.S. president are 34 disparate governments, including his own, each of which remains to be convinced of whether or not a free-trade zone will be to its own advantage. The U.S. has, up to now, enjoyed the advantage of its anti-dumping legislation to protect its home market from the import of cheaper products from other countries. This is a real bone of contention with such countries as Chile, whose agricultural and fishing industries have been hard hit by U.S. sanctions. On the other side of the coin, U.S. producers fear the loss of markets should these sanctions be lifted on such pro-

which is aggressively penetrating Latin America. This is one reason why President Bush has set such a tight deadline, the year 2005, by which to conclude a Free Trade of the Americas pact.

The prospect of such a zone being created in South East Asia also looms on the horizon, with Japan, the world's second-largest national economy, being a real wild card in this equation. Add to this the increasing alliance between the EU and Russia, and it becomes clear that unless the United States enters some sort of a cooperative deal with one of the world's emerging trading blocs, it could soon be left out in the cold.

The success of the North America Free Trade Agreement, negotiated in the 1980s, to this point remains questionable, although it seems that the U.S. has been the real winner in this arrangement, to the detriment of many Latin American countries. The signatories to NAFTA will be out to drive a far harder bargain with the U.S. this time around. President Bush must also obtain approval from Congress to fast-track negotiations by setting up a negotiating authority to carve out heads of agreement with the fractious nations involved. The U.S. Congress must give approval to create such an authority before the president can proceed further with this project.

The deck seems to be stacked very high against this

bold initiative of the new U.S. president. Should it succeed, it could become the feather in his cap, which he desperately needs in a log-jammed foreign-policy agenda; or it may yet, should it fail, prove to be his nemesis.

◆ SPACE

New space race?

Remember the space race? The U.S. and the old Soviet Union were locked for decades in a race to see who would conquer and rule the territory above the Earth's atmosphere. Sputnik is now almost ancient history. We've lived through the era of space stations and space shuttles. This was once the stuff of science fiction novels. However, as the Scriptures note, that which man imagines, he inevitably is able to achieve (Gen. 11:6).

Another sign that America's ten-year dominance of the world as its singular superpower is over was reported recently: "Representatives of the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company [EADS] and the Russian Aeronautics and Space Agency [RSA] agreed April 4 to pool resources on several projects. Their new partnership will allow Russia to maintain a semblance of a space program and help Europe push its space program to the forefront of the industry. The real long-term loser in this equa-

tion is the American space program" (www.stratfor.com, April 19).

This news has U.S. military strategists and foreign-policy experts deeply concerned. Not only are the European Union and Russia creating history by establishing a security and defense alliance for the first time, they are now signaling the prospect of taking that cooperative capability beyond the stratosphere, into space.

Although an American aeronautic and space technology entity, Boeing has an existing design bureau inside Russia, cooperating in joint space programs. The European Union's entry into a joint program with the Russian Aeronautics and Space Agency signals the EU's intention to compete against the U.S. in the space arena. The EU space conglomerate's cooperative military alliance with RASA is an effort to separate itself from its current dependence on U.S. technology.

Up to now the U.S. has had a stranglehold on satellite navigation through America's Global Positioning Satellite System (GPS). The EU intends to clone its own GPS-style system, using its own satellite network and thus freeing itself of U.S. involvement in its space and earthbound navigation. This will leave a huge gap in the existing monopoly which the U.S. has on space and earthbound tracking intelligence.

In direct defiance of the anti-missile START treaties, Russia is converting many of its intercontinental ballistic missile propulsion systems to launch satellites into space. Thus the EU will have the advantage of a very cost-effective means at their disposal to launch their new satellites. As Stratfor commented, "The



United States is falling further behind in research and development—even as it shares its existing technology with potential competitors, including Europe” (ibid.).

◆ CUBA

Cuban pawn

Cuba was the only Latin American country not invited to attend the recent Summit of the Americas in Quebec. The criterion for attendance was that the representatives hail from “democratic” nations. As Cuba’s aging communist president



HISTORIC VISIT The pope with Castro in Cuba, January 1998.

Fidel Castro railed against his tiny island nation’s exclusion from the summit, perhaps few gave much thought as to how Cuba’s denial of an invitation to attend may fall right into the strategy of another rapidly growing trading bloc—the European Union.

One of the prime catalysts for the drive to form a free trade zone between North and South America is the threat posed to U.S. markets by increasingly aggressive penetration of Latin America trade by the EU. Cuba thus has a strategic part to play in this process. The reason is that, following along hard on the heels of trade, the EU is subliminally worming its way into the religious, political, defense and security systems of those countries with which it deals. This includes such penetration of Latin America via the EU’s Mercosur trade

agreements with much of Central and South America and Mexico.

Cuba is, for all intents and purposes, a stepping-stone to the U.S., just as Cyprus is to the Middle East. The EU is courting both these island nations, in their separate hemispheres, for very similar purposes. The purposes have to do with a wider agenda than trade.

Following Pope John Paul’s visit to Cuba as the 20th century waned, relations between Cuba and the Vatican have continued to warm. As communist Cuba struggles economically without the benefit of the financial support that it formerly enjoyed from its old mentor, Russia, the EU, increasingly revealing its fascist origins, becomes more of an attractive alternative than does any prospect of linkage with Cuba’s giant northern neighbor. By driving Cuba into isolation from any association with the Americas free-trade

zone, the U.S. is simply pushing Cuba into the waiting paws of the Eurobeast. Watch for increasing initiatives from the EU to woo Cuba into the EU camp as Castro gradually loses his grip on that nation in his waning years. These will present, to that rising phoenix of the old Roman Empire, the prospect of plucking its ripest plum in Latin America from right on the doorstep of a United States increasingly revealing the signs of its decline.

◆ INDONESIA

Out of control

Australia’s closest Asian neighbor is in deep crisis. Back in February, Vice

President Megawati Sukarnoputri told a news service, “We are now going through the worst times we have experienced in the last 56 years” (Agence France Presse, Feb. 9). After the Southeast Asian economic meltdown of 1997, Sukarnoputri declared, “Problems have spread to other spheres such as politics, society and security, which is alarming.”

One of the most worrying aspects of the Indonesian crisis is the level of violence that has spread throughout this island archipelago. “Violence should have no place in a modern democratic country,” Sukarnoputri stated.

Yet, like so many countries which declared themselves “democratic” following decolonization, Indonesia is far from a classic democracy. Under its founding father, President Sukarno, the country was run more akin to an Islamic socialist republic.

Under Sukarno’s successor, President Suharto, it was administered more like the Russian family cartels of post-cold-war Russia, with nepotism rife throughout the Suharto family.

Since the corrupt Suharto’s demise, Islamic cleric President Abdurrahman Wahid has been dramatically unsuccessful in bringing any stability to Indonesia. In fact, as Sukarnoputri inferred, the combined political, social and security situation within the country has imploded to add to the economic woes of a stagnant economy that collapsed during the Southeast Asian crisis over three years ago.

Plagued by foreign debt, Indonesia’s woes are compounded by the reduction of industrial operations in many spheres, as law and order and

the country’s financial infrastructure have largely collapsed. Almost blind and weakened by a series of strokes, President Wahid faces the prospect of censure at the least and a coup at the worst as tensions mount within the political sphere.

Under Suharto, a rule of fear was enacted, with any opposition to his regime brutally crushed by Indonesia’s police and military. This climate of fear kept any prospect of mob violence under rigid control. After Suharto was forced from office, however, his rule of law broke down under the challenge of those who had been

cruelly suppressed during his 35-year reign.

Now vigilantes rule in many a community, with the severest punishment meted out to “offenders,” such as the torching of a man for pilfering a chicken. The most savage occurrence



Sukarnoputri

was the decapitation of 500 migrants by Dayak tribesmen in Borneo last February.

Increasingly Indonesia is taking on a climate of fearful violence which verges on the brink of anarchy. The situation is much akin to so many African nations where mob rule has too often replaced the stability of the colonial era. It seems that the violent human explosion is bringing oil- and resource-rich Indonesia to the brink of national collapse.

Outside intervention seems imminent, as the world needs ready access to Indonesia’s energy resources in this time of restricted flow and high price of energy. The only question that seems to remain is, who will intervene, and what form will that intervention take? Watch the EU and watch Japan for involvement in the outcome.

THE LEPER OF EUROPE

Britain's plagues are more than a mere run of bad luck—and they're driving the island nation ever further from the Continent. BY JOEL HILLIKER

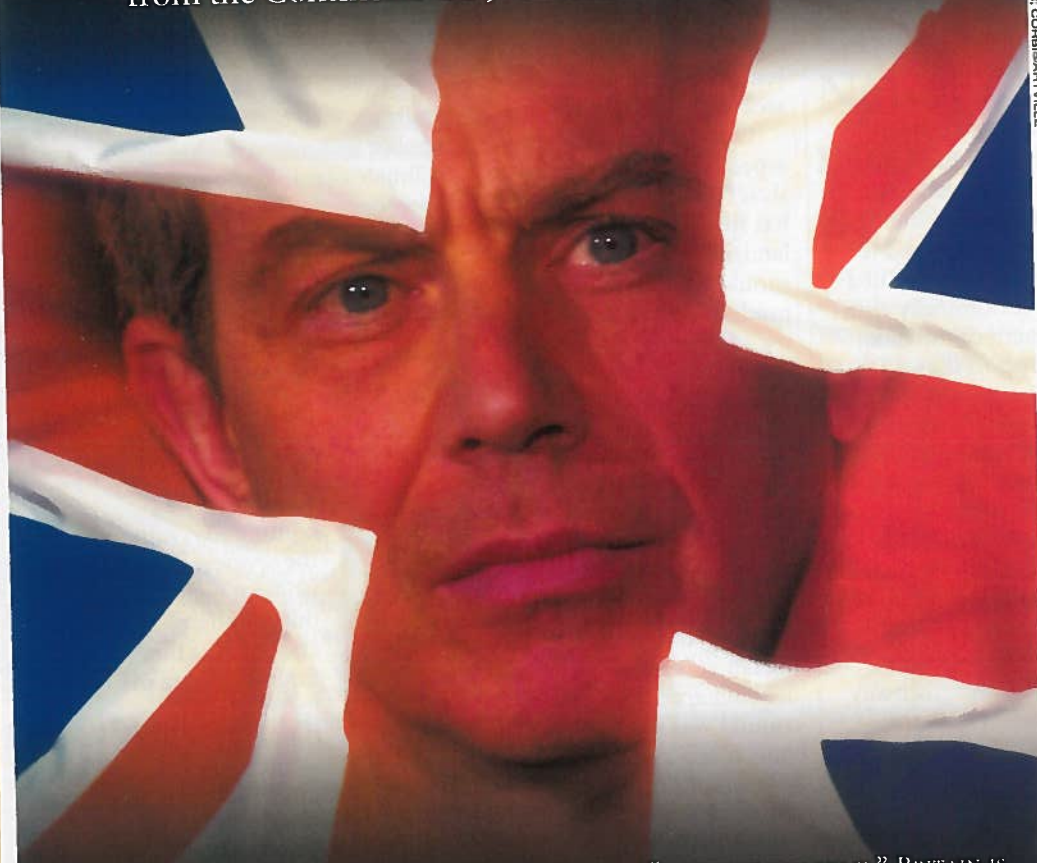


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOEL HILLIKER, COMBIA/ARTVILLE

SOME HAVE CHARACTERIZED IT AS MERELY “A RUN OF BAD LUCK.” BRITAIN IS crumpling under a string of nasty events that are testing its patience, its attitude and its will. Polly Toynbee of London’s *Guardian* newspaper characterized Britain as “A country on the verge of a nervous breakdown.”

Alone, none of these problems necessarily would have raised many eyebrows: terrible weather, subway strikes and train disasters, the ignominious closures of its much-touted Millennium Dome and Millennium Bridge, highly publicized cases of murderous doctors. But then came foot-and-mouth disease: In February a raging case of the plague slammed Britain’s livestock industry. With its countryside dotted with macabre pyres of burning carcasses and mass animal graves, widespread quarantining slowing tourism to a crawl and no end in sight, the government faces a bill approaching \$4.3 billion for tackling the epidemic. To top it off, in April a major outbreak of tuberculosis hit a school in the Midlands of England, which medical officials fear will erupt throughout the community.

Is it just bad luck?

In the long view, these setbacks lately seem endemic to the unhappy mother country. Formerly the greatest empire the world has ever known—even at its apex, the vast, glorious and powerful Roman Empire never equaled the British Empire at the peak of its power—Britain has made a staggering decline this past century. After two world wars that decimated the strength of its manpower, a slow and steady process of devolving its empire and commonwealth, an earnest, decades-long but never-quite-successful campaign to hitch itself to a uniting Europe, and a complete revolution in morality, culture and religion, it has found itself sidelined, languishing in minor-power status, the victim of a seemingly endless stream of such “luck.”

Can the British really afford not to take responsibility for their fate? Was it luck that gifted to them their prosperous, globe-girdling empire? Was it luck—merely a hapless reversal of fortune—that ripped it from them?

For answers, we must look far beyond the immediate perspective offered by recent events.

Nearly 3,000 years ago, God prophesied exactly what would happen to the British Empire. He foretold, with precision, its rise and its decline. He anticipated the very curses that Britain is experiencing today, including its foot-and-mouth epidemic. And—the world would do well to note—He laid out well in advance the precise set of circumstances that would precipitate Britain’s eventual *demise!*

The fact is, the present problems are far from being a run of bad luck. If the people of Britain find themselves overwhelmed by the way things have been going, they should consider God’s vision of what is to become of their country—and realize that what is assailing them now is actually a tremendous *blessing*. What the British are experiencing is the concerned, chastening hand of a loving Father trying to deliver them—or, at least, a very few of them who will heed—from the far *worse* events that will soon descend on their country. *God is trying to send Britain a message.*

Cursed in the Field

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and *cursed shalt thou be in the field*. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, *the increase of thy kine [cattle], and the flocks of thy sheep*” (Deut. 28:15-18).

God said He would pronounce these curses against the nation of Israel, should they disobey Him. That ancient, biblical nation did turn its back on God, and suffered as the prophecy warned they would. But the people of Israel did not die out. Through the centuries, they survived defeat, dispossession, captivity and slavery—and their descendants still live today.

Incredible as it may sound, what we are witnessing in Britain is a fulfillment of these very same curses—upon one

very prominent descendant nation of ancient Israel!

We have proof of the biblical identity of Britain in our booklet by Herbert W. Armstrong, *The United States in Britain in Prophecy*. Though U.S. courts presently have stripped us of all Mr. Armstrong's other material, this is an uncopyrighted version of this astounding truth. It gives a good introduction to this most important of keys to understanding Bible prophecy. This book shows the source of the unparalleled abundance enjoyed by modern Britain, as well as explaining what is presently happening and what will occur in the near future.

A century ago, with the British Empire approaching its peak, the British agricultural industry was the envy of the world. Its natural farming practices, based on small farms using rotational multi-cropping, led the British farmer into a close conformity with the natural laws of the land he farmed. These practices spread throughout the British Empire with similar positive results.

In those days, herbivores were treated as herbivores, feeding naturally off the sweet grasses that grew in the home meadows and fields of the mother country and swept across the British dominions around the world. The empire and commonwealth enjoyed a robust herd of prime breeding stock.

Then something happened.

The industrial revolution spawned a farming revolution in Britain. The farmer lost the contact he had with the land while plodding behind a horse-drawn plow. He got up onto the seat of a new-fangled machine called a tractor, which belched fumes from the fossil fuel that ignited its internal-combustion engine. Looking for ways to force more from his land, he replaced natural, organic methods of replenishing the nutrients of his soil with synthetic fertilizers and chemical compounds. Soils died as a result. Crops became diseased and weakened in natural food content. Monoculture—single crops consuming vast acreage, lacking the requisite crop rotation to retain soil balance and nutrients—became the norm.

Then the farmer turned his hand to changing the age-old grazing practices



CURSED IN THE FIELD One of thousands of pyres burning Britain's cattle in an effort to purge foot-and-mouth

“Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof.”

Deuteronomy 28:31

of his herds of cattle and sheep. Driven by greed from profits, he ignored the obvious—that God had intended these beasts to live off the herbage of the land (Gen. 1:30). The horrible outcome was the cannibalizing of Britain's cattle: feeding them offal, ground meat offcuts, ground cattle bone meal, cattle and chicken waste.

It should come as no shock that such imbecilic, unnatural practices had devastating kickbacks. In 1985 the first case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was detected, a fatal brain disease which progressively destroys the nervous system (hence its more common name, mad cow disease). As it spread, government advisers, bureaucrats, politicians and farmers argued over its seriousness and its possible effects. By 1992, mad cow had become epidemic. After subsiding, it exploded again in 1996—and by this time scientists had linked BSE to its deadly human counterpart, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

The 1996 mad cow epidemic effected dramatic changes in Britain's livestock industry, as British beef exports were largely banned and farmers experienced an average 40 percent drop in income. Many consolidated their operations, creating larger holding pens and slaughterhouses with greater concentration of animals—a situation, according to Britain's ministry of agriculture, ripe for spreading disease quickly.

That's just what has happened. As if mad cow disease wasn't bad enough.

The foot-and-mouth outbreak was confirmed on February 20 of this year. A March 26 *U.S. News & World Report* article reported speculation that it was

the result of an Iraqi bio-terrorist attack. Whatever the cause, it spread ferociously. All animal, meat and dairy exports were instantly banned. Hunting was halted. Still, over the following days and weeks, new cases began emerging with forbidding speed—far quicker, as a result of modern food production and distribution methods, than any prior plague of its kind. All movement of livestock was suspended; nature reserves and livestock parks closed; horse racing, sporting events and other tourist activities stopped. It wasn't long be-

fore supermarkets began reporting meat shortages. Then the government started its slaughter campaign.

Over 2 million animals, both infected and healthy, have been condemned for culling to stop the spread of foot-and-mouth. Britain has called upon its army to assist in the ghastly mission of disposing of the carcasses—transporting live animals in leak-proof containers, slaughtering them and dumping them by the tens of thousands into deep, gargantuan mass graves. “It is an apocalyptic task. This is a mass problem,” said Brigadier Alex Birtwistle, who commands the army deployed in an area hit particularly hard by the virus. Already more animals have been slaughtered than in a devastating 1967 outbreak of foot-and-mouth. The government estimates that more than 4,400 British herds will be infected by June.

True to the words of the prophecy in Deuteronomy, Britain is being *curled in the field*. That prognosis continues, “Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them” (Deut. 28:31).

Aggravating Europe

Within just over a month from the outbreak of foot-and-mouth, the disease had spread all over Britain, including Scotland and Wales, to Ireland, and—much to the dismay of Europeans—even across the English Channel to France and Holland. Now Europe faces a 94 percent ban on its

beef exports, and it is angrily putting the blame squarely on Britain.

As has been the case repeatedly since the Second World War, Britain—the former empire, the fearsome superpower—is being looked upon by continental Europe as a liability. The same thing happened in 1996. Fierce agitation with Britain welled up on the Continent, particularly in Germany, when European Union beef exports were banned because of the British mad cow scare. Europe's agricultural industry has been hit hard, twice now.

Europeans are heaping scorn on Britain, calling it "Plague Island" and "Septic Isle." As Jonathan Freedland lamented in the *Guardian* on April 4, "For them, foot-and-mouth is not an isolated, freakish episode but part of a continuum—with BSE the defining event.... Foreign observers are linking foot-and-mouth not only with our agricultural plight, but with the very way we function as a society. Italy's *L'Espresso* cited our stubborn rates of poverty, the Hatfield rail disaster and the Real IRA's ongoing campaign of bombing, as well as the animal epidemics, AS PROOF THAT BRITAIN WAS A NATION UNDER A 'CURSE.'" Talk is intensifying over whether Europe would be better off without Britain altogether.

These are merely steps in an inexorable march toward the fulfillment of Britain's prophesied end—plainly explained by Herbert Armstrong in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* over 50 years ago!

While building its empire, Britain was proudly independent of Europe. But in the midst of its precipitous decline, its relationship with Europe has been marked by cautious, often awkward efforts at joining forces. This uneasy association is an accurate measuring stick of just how far Britain has fallen.

Britain emerged from World War II, having fought European foes, clearly with the upper hand. But the war had taken a heavy toll on its manpower and wealth. Its economy was left in a shambles. Only through austerity measures such as rationing and borrowing heavily from other countries was Britain able to stay afloat in the years after the war. It was repeatedly teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.

As the United Kingdom's economy floundered, the European Common Market began to take shape. Britain, at first too proud to join, soon realized that it was actually too weak to stop it and too small to compete with it. In short-sighted desperation, it tried to hook up with its former enemy. However, its appeal to join the Common Market was bluntly turned down by Germany and France. It applied for membership in the European Community in 1961. France vetoed it. In 1967 Britain again applied for full EU membership and was again dismissed.

The Britain-Europe relationship has been difficult and problematic throughout the intervening years. Now the United Kingdom is a part of the European Union, though its choice to stay out of Europe's new common currency has generated no shortage of friction with the big players in Europe—primarily Germany. The partnership has hurt both sides! "Ephraim [Britain], he hath mixed himself among the people.... Strangers [i.e. foreigners] have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not" (Hos. 7:8-9). Despite a groundswell of popular conviction that they should separate from Europe, Britain's present government is as pro-Europe as they come.

What significance does Britain's role in Europe have in regards to its present domestic problems? The answer is that if this country does not wake up and accept its correction in the form of this chain of frustrating but manageable trials, its dealings with Europe will end in a tribulation far more difficult to ignore.

Britain's Warnings

God never intended Britain to join with Europe. In fact, their ill-fated efforts to do so have revealed fatal weakness and lack of trust in the Source of their national greatness—and at the same time portended the downfall of their country.

But beleaguered Britain has received, and ignored, several strong warnings!

The *Trumpet's* parent publication, a monthly prophetic newsmagazine called the *Plain Truth*, began warning in the interim years between the two world wars that Britain would lose its empire. Through its several decades under the editorial eye of Mr. Armstrong, the *Plain Truth* reported in detail the curses that were increasingly plaguing Britain, all the while forewarning that they were merely the prelude to far worse curses.

A number of notable *Plain Truth* articles throughout the 1960s in particular detailed Britain's woes at the time, which were considerable: economic problems, low food production, struggles with defining its commonwealth, racial tension, a burgeoning and unsustainable welfare system, notorious laziness and preoccupation with immoral entertainment. Even then, Britain began to be looked upon as inferior to Europe. Widely referred to as "the sick man of Europe" and "an international charity case," it was certainly never considered integral to the economically uniting Continent. The *Plain Truth* even laid out, on more than one occasion, detailed steps that would turn Britain around and set them back on a course lined with blessings.

Consider, as an example, these paragraphs from a December 1964 *Plain Truth* article: "Relations between Britain and Europe will continue to deteriorate until 'The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far... which shall not leave thee corn, wine or oil... he shall besiege thee in all thy gates...'" (Deut. 28:49-52).

Is Britain Really Israel?

WHY DOES ISRAEL PRIMARILY REFER TO BRITAIN and America? The birthright blessings that God had promised to Abraham—the unconditionally granted material and national prosperity and power—were passed on to his grandson Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel. It was to Israel's two grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh, that he said, "Let my name be named on them" (Gen. 48:16), passing on the birthright blessings just before he died. Thus the names Jacob and Israel often refer in prophecy to the modern descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh, the peoples of Britain and the United States respectively.

Write for a FREE copy of our booklet on *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for a thorough explanation of this eye-opening truth! It will unveil many biblical prophecies that God intended to be understood and heeded in these end times!



THE
UNITED STATES
AND BRITAIN
IN PROPHECY



“These prophecies reveal a soon-coming ‘siege’—a trading blockade—of modern-day Israel!

“Of all the nations that compose modern-day Israel, none is more vulnerable to such a trade embargo than the United Kingdom. Under present conditions, the British Isles are entirely unable to feed their population without massive food imports. Even during the strenuous agricultural efforts of World War II, Britain was able to produce barely half her food requirements! Since then, population has increased, farming land diminished.

“Yet the British public remains apathetic!... The new generation insists only on less work and more benefits.

as it may sound, the very fact that the nation is suffering is evidence of His perseverance and mercy. “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons” (Heb. 12:6-7).

Shortly after Herbert Armstrong’s death in 1986, the warnings issued by the *Plain Truth* were taken up by Gerald Flurry and published in the *Trumpet* to be delivered to a new, largely more corrupt generation. His booklet explaining God’s condemnation of Britain in the biblical book of Hosea is a must-read—and we will send you a free copy upon request.

Perhaps the leaders of Britain responsible for its 300 million citi-

hath hired lovers” (Hos. 8:9). (For the astounding proof that *Assyria* refers to Germany, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

In 1966, the *Plain Truth* made this important statement: “The big question: ‘WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO WAKE UP THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN?’ Will it take a terrible economic depression, or will it take national military defeat at the hands of a German-dominated United States of Europe?” (“Britain—‘Sick Man of Europe,’” *Plain Truth*, Oct. 1966; emphasis mine).

There the article referred to the prophesied ultimate fall of Britain!

As the *Trumpet* has often explained, and as the Bible makes clear to those who have the key to understand it, God prophesies that Britain will NOT



WARNING BRITAIN A *Plain Truth* from the 1960s

The welfare state, supported by each government in turn, encourages just such an attitude.... But as the cry grows louder for wage increases, unemployment pay, sick benefits, pensions, allowances, national assistance, grants and payments—the entire economy STAGGERS, unable to stay afloat!”

Now, having stumbled through those tough times with no appreciable change in its behavior, Britain faces an intensification of its problems. Diseased with its cattle contagions and unrelenting “bad luck,” it is no longer merely “the sick man of Europe”—BRITAIN HAS BECOME “THE LEPER OF EUROPE!”

God makes and unmakes nations. “He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again.... Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing” (Job 12:23; Isa. 40:15). He made Britain what it once was, and He is unmaking it today.

But God has not yet given up hope on reaching the British people. Strange

even so, at least the 1.6 million readers of this issue of the *Trumpet* will have this warning set before them. Perhaps some of you will heed.

“Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away” (Hos. 4:1-3).

God told Britain what would happen. He has explained His reasons for bringing these curses upon them. Still, Britain toils on, trying to solve its problems with its own muscle and ingenuity. And instead of looking to God, Britain is relying on its “allies” like Europe—or, as the Bible refers to them, its “lovers.” “They are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: Ephraim

zens would think this message silly or quaint. But

learn its lesson except through total defeat and subjugation as slaves to a United Europe!

“I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord.... Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria [Britain is fulfilling this prophecy even as you read this article!]. When they shall go, 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.... Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb. My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations” (Hos. 5:3-4; 7:11-12; 9:16-17).

Yes—WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO WAKE UP THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN? Will you wait until being besieged by a frightful foreign army, rounded up and thrust into captivity? Or will you accept God’s correction and heed God’s warning now? ♦

“The big question: ‘What will it take to wake up the people of Britain?’ Will it take a terrible economic depression, or will it take national military defeat at the hands of a German-dominated United States of Europe?”
“Britain—‘Sick Man of Europe,’” *Plain Truth*, Oct. 1966



THE UNRESOLVED WAR The Balkans continue to simmer: Here, Macedonian soldiers fire upon Albanian rebel positions in an Albanian-controlled town in Macedonia.

Germany's Balkan Coup

Unrest in Macedonia is the final piece of the puzzle. Here's how German-led Europe conquered the Balkans in just a decade.

BY GARETH FRASER

WIT IS OUR INFLEXIBLE PURPOSE TO destroy *German militarism* and *Nazism* and to ensure Germany will never again be able to *disturb the peace of the world*," wrote Winston Churchill in a signed document with Franklin Roosevelt after World War II (emphasis mine here and throughout). The past decade of Balkan destabilization sadly proves this noble three-pronged goal an *abject failure*. Why?

First: *German militarism* is being encouraged by the involvement of German combat forces in the Balkans and German leadership of the developing European Union rapid reaction force.

Second: *Nazism* is back. This time it's disguised in the form of the political "Third Way," the socialist-fascist doctrine cloaked in business suits extant in globalist strategy boardrooms and enmeshed in mile-long treaties.

Hitler's Reich is replaced by the European Union, the long-desired revival of the ancient Holy Roman Empire.

Third: Germany is once again *disturbing the peace* of the world, unified now for a decade and emboldened by its role as the supreme European power. In 1991 it, with strong Vatican support, pressured the United Nations, United States and European Union member nations into recognizing the breakaway Yugoslav states of Slovenia and Croatia. In an effort to humble Serbia, its most ardent enemy in Europe, it plunged the region into its greatest conflict since World War II, fracturing all six states of Yugoslavia in the process. It caused the destruction of the capital, Belgrade, causing the greatest European refugee crisis in 50 years and laying the groundwork for a German-led peace enforcement initiative to secure the Balkans as the EU's first colonial extension.

Recent local violence and diplomatic posturing by the EU in the former Yugoslav state of Macedonia represents the final piece of the Balkan puzzle falling into place for the Germans. In just ten years they will shortly have achieved their goal of Balkan domination. All that they await now is for the U.S. to withdraw its troops and peace-making responsibilities to be handed over to the EU.

Prescription for Chaos

The Balkan region has long been known for its ethnic rivalries. But after World War II it enjoyed relative stability under Marshall Tito. His death heralded a new era of leadership. Initially,

during Slobodan Milosevic's rise to power, aided by Communist backing, the region remained stable. It even hosted the Winter Olympics in 1984 in the city of Sarajevo. With the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union soon after, Yugoslavia was left to largely fend for itself.

A reunited Germany saw the crack in the Balkan door and proceeded *carefully* and *methodically* to enact a strategy at which they are expert: Create a crisis and then pose a solution to solve that crisis in terms which benefit their own national interests. As in World Wars I and II, German strategists knew that to successfully control both Eastern and Western Europe it had to neutralize the Balkan region by fracturing it and crushing its longtime Slavic enemy, Serbia. As Paul Kennedy wrote in his bestseller, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, Germany has historically been acutely aware of "the importance of eastern Europe and the Balkans within the continental balance of power" (p. 319).

In June of 1991, it appeared that the Catholic Yugoslav state of Slovenia would break away and declare independence. James Baker, then U.S. secretary of state, flew to Belgrade for a meeting with leaders of Yugoslavia's six republics. His message was simple: Yugoslavia must remain united. The last person he met with that day was the federal prime minister, Ante Markovic.

Days later, Slovenia seized federal customs posts along Italian and Austrian borders. The Yugoslav prime minister then ordered the federal army into Slovenia. Armed with *German-supplied handheld anti-tank missiles*, the Slovenes resisted and succeeded in killing 37 federal soldiers and destroying a number of tanks. Mr. Markovic, fearing more bloodshed, ordered the federal army to retreat. When the forces withdrew into Croatia, they came under fire from Croatian military, who were also *armed with German weaponry*.

James Bissett, then Canadian ambassador to Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania, witnessed the events unfold. "The 'Slovene War' marked a turning point in the attitude adopted by Western governments toward the possible disintegration of Yugoslavia," he wrote.

"Prior to the Slovene unilateral action, the European Union and the Unit-

ed States were in agreement that the nation must remain united. *This policy soon changed, and it became evident that Germany and Austria were pressing for the recognition of Slovene and Croatian independence.* It is now known that as early as 1990 Croatian and Slovene leaders held meetings with senior politicians from both of these countries [Germany and Austria] urging support for independence. During this time *the Vatican was openly lobbying for independence and had particular influence on German politicians in Bavaria*" (*History of Western Interference in the Balkans*, p. 7).

Opposed by the United Nations, the United States and the European Community (now the European Union), Germany still went ahead with its prescription for chaos and recognized the breakaway states of Slovenia and Croatia.

Jack-Boot Politics

The *New York Times* reported on Germany's bombshell thus: "The incident underscored Germany's growing *political power* within the 12-nation European Community, diplomats said. Some added that it marked **THE SINGLE MOST VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THAT POWER** since reunification of the two Germanys more than a year ago [in 1990].

"Moreover, in its unusual assertiveness in moving ahead with a plan to extend diplomatic recognition to the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, Germany has **STIRRED TROUBLING HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS.... Nazi Germany DOMINATED the two Yugoslav regions during World War II, absorbing Slovenia into the Third Reich and CREATING A PUPPET REGIME IN CROATIA**" (Dec. 16, 1991).

Just a short look back over the past ten years reveals powerfully that Germany has worked (behind the scenes) to dominate and dictate Balkan foreign policy. How could one nation so pressure the rest of the world into recognizing two small breakaway states, thereby plunging Europe into a ten-year Balkan war? By using as a battering ram the support of *the Vatican*. This powerful illustration of German-Vatican cooperation trumping the rest of the world revealed where events in Europe were leading.

This perhaps was one of the West's best opportunities to enforce the Churchill-Roosevelt doctrine and "ensure Germany will never again be able

to disturb the peace of the world." But they failed, and consequently rolled out the red carpet to German-Vatican, *Holy Roman*, European ambitions.

Fact: Germany, with support from Austria and the Vatican, *willfully* initiated the Balkan war. Fact: The UN, NATO and the U.S. all allowed themselves to be drawn into the Balkan quagmire supporting the Vatican-German initiative. Fact: Forced by Germany and the Vatican to lead in the resolution of the conflict, they collectively mismanaged the entire operation. This neatly diverted attention from the German-lit spark that started the Balkan dissolution, putting the focus instead on the inept management by the UN, NATO, U.S. and British combine of the conflagration that ensued.

Recognizing this last fact, George Friedman, chairman of Texas-based Stratfor Intelligence Systems, stated in an interview with the *Trumpet* on April

8, 1999, "I think one of the consequences of this crisis is that so many Europeans are appalled at American leadership that they are going to step up to the plate. One of the things that's happening, this very minute as we speak, is a great maneuvering going on within NATO for how to end the war. *The Germans are under the table, if you will, playing an extremely aggressive role in this....* The quiet news in this whole war is, *when it's time to make the peace, the Germans are going to be the ones to make it.*"

That's right! Do you understand that all along there has been a methodical plan to events unfolding in the Balkans? Those who forced the Balkan war on the world will be the very ones to initiate its *peace enforcement!*

U.S. broadcaster Herbert W. Armstrong understood these German traits. In a radio broadcast given May 9, 1945, he warned, "We don't understand Ger-

A Gift From NATO

UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF NATO, Germany has, over the past few years, obtained complete acceptance by the West of the deployment of both its ground and air forces in combat roles. Not only that, it now seems that the Kosovo conflict will gain for Germany that which it has sought all along in the Balkans: a warm water port.

Tirana, a deep-water port on the coast of Albania in the warm Adriatic Sea, is the plum. The port of Tirana, located near the junction of the Adriatic and Mediterranean seas, is within closest proximity of any port in either sea to the largest concentration of ballistic and anti-ballistic weaponry in the entire Mediterranean region. As Germany quietly performs its duty as a loyal NATO member, the U.S. and Britain plus the NATO allies busily reconstruct Albania's infrastructure. Albania will become the main base of operations for the peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia. The trade-off is the huge benefit to its weakened ex-Maoist economy. When the U.S. and NATO withdraw, their place taken in the future by the coming Euroforce which will be initiated by the EU within the terms of the Maastricht Treaty, the German-led EU will take over all of the infrastructure put in place and maintained to that point largely by U.S. and British tax-payers' money in support of their defense contribution to lame-duck NATO.

Game, set and match to Germany. Germany—the peace-broker in Kosovo, the future administrator of Kosovo and of the whole Balkan Peninsula—the lead nation in the Eurocombine shortly to rule the European continent and extend its powerful reach globally to impact all nations. *Ron Fraser*



Ten-year Balkan STRATEGY

GERMAN TROOPS arrive in Kosovo in 1999 to cheers from local ethnic Albanians.

1991

Slovenia and Croatia are formally recognized by Germany and the Vatican. Six republics of Yugoslavia declare independence. Croatia, Serbia go to war.

1994

NATO jets shoot down four Serb aircraft.

1996

German troops on the ground in the Balkans.

1998

Civil war continues in Kosovo.

2000

Serbian President Milosevic loses national elections.

1992

Bosnia, Serbia go to war.

1993

Bosnian Croats, Muslims go to war.

1995

NATO's Operation Storm. U.S., Germany finance and arm enemies of Serbia.

1997

Albanian government collapses.

1999

NATO bombs Serbian capital, Belgrade.

2001

Albanians attack Macedonia.

man *thoroughness*. From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have *carefully, methodically planned...*”

Luring NATO

As part of this planning, the German-led EU knows that it must build an influential link with NATO *before* its rapid reaction force (RRF) will be permitted to assume peacemaking responsibilities in the Balkans.

“Politically, the EU began building the link to NATO with the wise appointment of former NATO Secretary General Javier Solana as the EU’s first high representative for common foreign and security policy” (*Current History—Europe*, p. 133). This consultancy link of a former NATO secretary general will work to well please the U.S. and pave the way for the Bush administration to approve the delegation of Balkan peace enforcement to the RRF under the auspices of NATO. Many European officers already hold top military positions in NATO’s Balkan peacekeeping force, KFOR.

The EU’s RRF will link communication systems with NATO and share sensitive intelligence and military hardware. Not surprisingly, the EU announced that German General Klaus Schuwirth, son of a World War II Nazi officer who taught at the Hitler war academy, would lead the RRF forces. With a fully functional headquarters and support system, the RRF will select battle troops from its soldier “catalogue” of 15 mem-

ber nations for specific missions. Aside from this newly created RRF, the EU already has a collective military force of over 2 million personnel in uniform within its member countries.

In a November 28, 2000, interview with the *Trumpet*, prominent British political economist Rodney Atkinson provided his view of the RRF. “It’s the beneficiary, this idea...of Germany, through its secret service, undermining and destroying Yugoslavia. That led to a crisis. Then they say, *Okay, we’ve got a crisis; we’ve got to have an army to deal with it. We can’t rely on the Americans to come and help us. And that rapid reaction force is, and is meant to be, an embryo European army.*”

The entire Balkan crisis has, as intended, provided the Bundeswehr the convenient “humanitarian” excuse to breathe new life into its combat forces.

Predicting this German-led European political, economic and military expansion, Herbert Armstrong, with unique prophetic insight, declared 20 years ago, “You may be sure the West European leaders are conferring hurriedly and secretly about how and how soon they may unite and provide a united European military force so they can defend themselves!... And who will they blame for their humiliation and their necessity now to have a united Europe, with a united government, a common currency and a common military force as great or greater than either the USSR or the U.S.? They will blame the United States!” (*Plain Truth*, April 1980).

Scratch My Back...

Europe’s boldness in the Balkan region reveals three distinct global indicators worth noting. First, a *weak-willed*, U.S.-led NATO; second, a *strong* German-led Europe; and, finally, a *suspicious* yet cautious Russia trying to play each side against the other.

One of the main goals of the German-Vatican destabilization of the Balkan region was the removal of Russian influence and herding of the embattled peninsula into the waiting arms of the EU. This strategy was designed to consolidate this important European crossroads under EU power, giving it control over the land, air, river and pipeline routes for the movement of goods, services and oil, and to open up warm-water access for the EU to the Mediterranean via the Adriatic.

The EU sees Russia now seeking to drag as much of its ex-Soviet territory into a reassembled empire as it possibly can. This is spurring the EU on to developing its own standing army and increasing the pace of EU integration of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria in the East. The German-Vatican led crisis in the Balkans was also *methodically designed* and *planned* to parallel EU eastward expansion. With the northern frontier secured and Malta and Cyprus both on board, Yugoslavia is left as the vital link in the EU equation to enable successful eastward hegemony in 2003-2004. In January 2000, before the fall of



EU'S POINT MAN Kostunica is more favorable to Europe than was Milosevic.

Slobodan Milosevic, the *Trumpet* forecast, "It's only a matter of time before a government 'acceptable' to the EU is installed in power, by hook or by crook, and the EU takeover of the Balkans completed."

Today, we see a Serbian government working in cooperation with the EU. President Kostunica has offered the EU commitments to promote regional stability, which gained Yugoslavia (now just Serbia and Montenegro) entry to the Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe. Also, the implementation of a security agreement between KFOR and the Yugoslav government paves the way for Serbian deployment in Kosovo under UN auspices. The last-minute detainment of Milosevic during the final hours of the month of March, coinciding with a U.S. congressional deadline for review of \$50 million dollars worth of aid to Yugoslavia, revealed that Kostunica is doing just enough to appease his taskmasters.

Eager to see Kosovo formalized as an Albanian enclave, angered by the EU and NATO making eyes at Belgrade, Albanians have taken matters into their own hands. Former Kosovo Liberation Army rebels, backed by money generated by a flourishing drug and prostitution racket, already well armed with German and American weapons, are antagonizing their former allies in a bid to

achieve their objectives. Thus, Albania the ally has become Albania the enemy.

And where is Russia in all of this? Communist Albania, as a former Russian satellite, once looked to Moscow for leadership—not so today. Make no mistake: There is a definite reason for Russia's present silence over the recent Macedonian violence and the EU's Balkan bravado. After a recent flurry of diplomatic shuttling between Berlin and Moscow by such notable figures as Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev and German counterpart Rudolf Scharping, events point to a behind-the-scenes deal between the Germans and the Russians. It's as simple as the old adage of "Scratch my back and I'll scratch yours": While Russia looks the other way as the EU secures the Balkans, Europe ignores Russia's rebuilding of its former dominions. It appears the two have settled on the Ukraine as the buffer zone between each other. Thus, while Russia's silence over the recent conflict in Macedonia becomes deafening, we see EU diplomats lobbying hard to bring Macedonia, the final piece of the Balkan puzzle, into the European family.

Rod of Mine Anger

Surprising as it may seem, Germany's Balkan coup will soon directly affect your personal life. "O Assyrian [the modern Germans], THE ROD OF MINE ANGER, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation" (Isa. 10:5). God is about to use Germany to correct the United States, Israel, Britain and its former commonwealth nations and specific countries making up the northwest democracies of Europe (for more information request a free copy of our booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*). These nations are referred to as Israel in your Bible. They are rotting at their moral core. God has repeatedly given these nations the opportunity to repent and turn to Him, and they have impudently turned their national faces from Him. However, God will soon get the attention of these nations through a punishing tribulation (Matt. 24:21-22).

God says, "I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets" (Isa. 10:6). Germany's current rise to power (driving the EU) is God's doing! Events presently unfolding within Europe are

working to fulfill God's master plan.

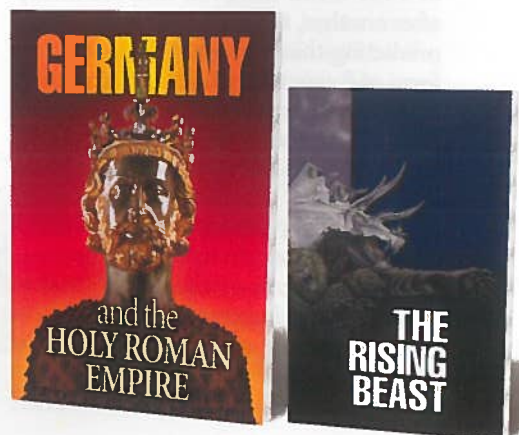
The sinning nations of Israel have had a history with God. He wanted them to set the example for the world and they have failed Him. Thus, God is miraculously raising up again the fearsome Germans to correct them. The vanquished will soon conquer their vanquishers.

This rapidly developing Eurobeast will soon inflict stinging suffering. Whole cities will be destroyed by nuclear destruction (Dan. 8:24). It must be remembered that the European Union currently has in its possession 710 nuclear weapons, with an additional 150-200 bombs courtesy of the United States. As the nuclear doomsday clock ticks towards midnight, America and Britain sleep while European military aspirations quickly reawaken. Very soon YOU will need a place of protection from this coming storm.

Events unfolding in Europe's Balkan Peninsula are a *major sign* of how close Germany is to achieving its worldwide goals. These events are not some biblical fantasy; they are living, breathing prophecy being fulfilled before your very eyes! *Time is running out for you to respond to this message.*

All readers of this magazine would do well to ponder and heed the serious warning delivered by our editor in chief in our May 1999 issue: "The American and British peoples are without excuse. And so are YOU. Only God can save YOU from a disastrous future. Now is the time for every wise person to heed this message. There is so little time left to respond." ◆

For free copies of our booklets *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* and *The Rising Beast*, visit www.pcog.org to order online, or see the inside cover of this magazine for how to order by phone or mail.



Is the World UNRAVELING Financially?

Is a turnaround in sight for world economies? What can we expect next? America, Japan or Europe: Your Bible says ONE is destined to lead the way out of this global financial slowdown. Who will it be?

BY J. TIM THOMPSON

OVER 10 TRILLION DOLLARS OF paper wealth was DESTROYED worldwide over the last year as the Internet age of the 1990s unraveled financially before our eyes. Money in global stock markets had reached \$35 trillion by March 2000 for an astounding 110 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP)—the total value of the world's annual output of goods and services—up from 40 percent in 1990. That means stock markets became worth *more* in early 2000 than the entire amount of WORLD OUTPUT in that year!

Yet, almost one third of that value has now *evaporated*, seemingly overnight. *Never* has so much money been LOST in such a short time!

Just as the Asian financial meltdown of 1997-1998 infected one economy after another, some economists are now predicting that the NIGHTMARE of a new form of financial contagion is spreading by way of international stock markets, as those markets move more closely in lock-step with each other. World markets now seem to uniformly rise and fall together. That means wonderful *prosperity* for the world in a *rising* market, but horrifying DISASTER when a market "correction" plunges values.

How has this widespread carnage in global stock markets come about? What changed?



For example, the rapid rise in U.S. stock prices between 1990 and the peak of the market in March 2000 created \$14 trillion in paper wealth in America alone. It is estimated that this remarkable gain added at least 1 percentage point to the economy's growth each year between 1995 and 2000 due to the creation of all the jobs, wages and profits which accompany such a rise.

However, since March 2000, falling stock prices in the U.S. have vaporized over \$4.5 trillion of America's paper

wealth (or about 40 percent of its GDP), which is expected to *cut* at least that same 1 percentage point off the economy's growth rate each year for 2001 and 2002, and possibly beyond. National economies around the world have been TRAUMATIZED by this *plummeting* of the markets! And it is *not* just the world's wealthy who have lost money as markets dropped like a rock off a cliff.

The *Economist* article describes how the *entire world*—not just America—discovered the excitement of share ownership in the 1990s, and the "wealth effect" it created as investors watched their stock values increase dramatically in the ensuing decade. The article said (emphasis mine here and throughout), "Stock markets used to be seen as the reserve of pinstriped brokers and their wealthy clients. No longer. Over half of all Americans now own shares, twice as many as on the eve of the 1987 [U.S. stock market] crash. Share ownership is even higher in Australia, an economy which not so long ago was run by trade unions [which traditionally discourage workers from aligning themselves with company interests through stock own-

How Did This Happen?

The *Economist* of March 10 stated, "Nowadays, falling share prices hurt economies more than they used to because stock markets are everywhere much bigger not just in absolute terms [of amounts of money invested and number of shares traded] but also in relation to national income [as a percentage of GDP]."

ership]. In Germany, where cautious investors used to put their money in bonds, one fifth of adults are now shareholders, twice as many as three years ago. Even poor countries, even communist ones—China is both—have become *crazy* for shares.”

Yet, that is all changing rapidly as stock prices around the world collapse. The “little man” is *pulling out* after seeing his savings account go up in smoke—after losing the money for his children’s education, after watching his nest egg and his retirement vanish with the stroke of a pen. The bear market—a prolonged period of falling share prices—has struck!

The average Joes around the world—white-collar and blue-collar workers alike, small business owners and office workers, plumbers, electricians, hair stylists and others of lower-to-middle incomes—the many who tried getting rich in the stock market—by and large, have been WIPED OUT by the sudden fall in prices and will *not* be returning to the market. The *Economist* article says, “After an 11-year bear market in Japan it is hardly surprising that less than 10 percent of households still own shares.”

Lack of Experience and Wisdom

The *Economist* of April 7 sounded a very resonant chord about how all this happened: “The real test of a company’s strength is how it handles the *bad* times.” Anyone can sail a boat in smooth seas; it’s when the waters get rough that good, seasoned, veteran sailors show their skill.

In that article, “Managing the Downturn,” the *Economist* wrote, “Most corporate managers in the United States doubtless feel that living through the longest economic upswing ever experienced was fun while it lasted. Certainly, it was more enjoyable than what is now following: a LONG, MAYBE VERY LONG, PERIOD OF RETRENCHMENT.... One problem is that the sheer length of the upswing means that most of today’s chief executives were, at best, middle managers last time around [when there was a downswing]. Indeed, some of today’s most high-profile companies (Cisco Systems, Vodafone, AOL) are essentially *children of the good years*. Unlike executives running many European companies in the 1990s, their managers have *known nothing but growth*. Almost no executives who are under the age of 40 have any *firsthand experience* of what it is like to manage

As we see one Internet company after another falter, we are reminded that the greedy pursuit of riches while following young, inexperienced technocrats who lack depth of wisdom and cautious judgment based on experience has cost the world economy \$10 trillion!

through the DOWNSWING in the business cycle. And, given that the fastest-growing businesses have tended to have *young talent at the top*, this BODES ILL.”

The March 19 *Washington Post* echoed that sentiment: “After the recent stock market slide, people are dusting off their *Japanese comparisons*. Japan’s bubble was inflated during the spectacular growth of the 1980s, fueled by productivity gains even more marvelous than those of the United States in the ensuing decade. Japan’s firms ramped up investment spending by an extraordinary 6 percent of the gross domestic product—the same increase American firms registered during the ’90s. In both cases, this UNSUSTAINABLE SPENDING was justified by the *supposed* discovery of a paradigm-busting MAGIC: in Japan, a new economic model; in America, the Internet....

“Bubbles can be inflated *only* if people move in herds, and if they are closed-minded enough to *ignore* WARNING SIGNALS.... What’s more, ground zero of that high-tech sector, Silicon Valley, has more in common with Japan than you might imagine....

“The Japanese believed so strongly in the magic of their model that they did not pause to ask if anything was *wrong* as they bought shares in each other’s firms and drove stock prices to COMIC LEVELS. The denizens of the valley believed so strongly in the power of TECHNOLOGY that they thought nothing of taking CONCEPTS, as opposed to *actual businesses*, and floating them on the stock market. In both cases, the real MADNESS set in when *outsiders* who could read neither Japanese characters nor HTML [Internet] code bought into the [idea] and THREW DUMB BILLIONS at it.”

U.S. News & World Report of April 9 put it clearly when it wrote, “As investors are discovering to their consternation, more than a few dotcoms [Internet companies] *promised a lot more than they could deliver*....

“But *planning* to be big and *actually being it* are DIFFERENT things. ‘They’re geeks,’ says [Overstock.com’s CEO Patrick] Byrne of some of the man-

agers of companies he now *liquidates*. Some, he said, were spending \$20 million to \$30 million to build warehouses outfitted with top-of-the-line shelving, racking systems, and conveyor belts while many were amassing more than *three times the inventory* typical for a bricks-and-mortar [non-Internet] retailer. ‘They’re way into technology. They would’ve been better off RUNNING A 7-ELEVEN FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS AND LEARNING INVENTORY CONTROL.’”

As we now see one Internet technology company after another warn that slowing demand for their products will hurt profit and sales, which is sending stock markets lower and lower, we are reminded that the greedy pursuit of riches while following young, inexperienced technocrats who lack depth of wisdom and cautious judgment based on experience has cost the world economy 10 TRILLION DOLLARS! Youth, it seems, use a straight-line ruler to forecast sales, and those who should have known better have followed blindly, and greedily, along. What an indelible lesson for history!

Unprecedented Conditions

In 2000, economic growth for the global economy almost reached a *spectacular* 5 percent. A phenomenal figure, and the fastest growth rate in 16 years. The two biggest single-nation economies in the world—America and Japan—comprised 46 percent of world output. Yet both now are teetering on the brink of recession (two consecutive quarters of contracting or falling output). Fears are mounting that the rest of the world is also falling into recession, especially emerging economies like Argentina, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Turkey, which are at great risk of total collapse, and tech-oriented markets like Taiwan, Korea and India, which have already crashed due to the tech stock sell-off.

If both America and Japan move into recession this year, it will be the first time since 1974 that this has happened simultaneously in the world’s two largest national economies. In America’s last three recessions, Japan has boomed economically, and when Japan slumped in 1998, America’s roaring economy continued.

But this present potential recession is different than every other recession in the last four decades. During America’s recent ten-year expansion, inflation remained under control,

whereas in every other expansion since World War II, a marked rise in inflation has preceded each recession. In each of those cases, interest rates have been raised to fight inflation, and that monetary tightening and increase in the cost of borrowing has slowed the economy and moved it into a contraction or recession.

That is not the case today, at least not in the traditional sense. The current weakening of the American economy is *not* due to inflation, although the traditional yardstick for inflation should have been expanded to include price inflation in the stock market, and then interest rates would have been raised earlier in the expansion in order to temper the boom while it was still manageable. Instead, a market bubble was allowed to inflate and then burst. In contrast to inflation-led recessions, the current slide in America's economy has been brought on by such factors as weaker profits, falling share prices and falling investment. This is more like the old-fashioned "investment boom and bust" recessions prior to the Second World War than the usual post-war recessions caused by rising inflation and resultant higher interest rates.

Today, Americans are saving less—indeed, *much* less, even to the point of "negative savings," in which they are spending more than their income. In the 1990s, total savings and investment of households and companies fell dramatically from a *surplus* of 5 percent of GDP to a *deficit* of 6 percent in 2000. This lack of savings, combined with a simultaneous sustained boom in business investment, is HISTORICALLY UNPRECEDENTED and of special significance to the future of today's marketplace. We need to look overseas to find similar examples; and they are not only *alarming*, but possibly indicate a *long* and *deep* American recession lying on the *immediate* horizon.

Other Similarities to Today

Japan and Britain in the late 1980s are the most recent of cases similar to America today. In the *Economist* of March 10, an article written about the cycles of the American economy stated that Japan and Britain "experienced a similarly dramatic deterioration in private-sector net saving," and that "when asset [stock market] prices tumbled, firms and households tried to restore their financial positions and net saving increased sharply. *This caused deep re-*

Dismal stock market performance is undermining consumer confidence—and consumer spending accounts for two thirds of America's GDP. Without consumers generously (and foolishly) opening their pocketbooks, a deep American recession is almost assured.

cessions [because the savings took consumer money out of circulation]. In Britain, during the boom, private-sector net saving fell from plus 5 percent in 1985 to minus 6 percent in 1989; then, as recession took hold, it reversed even more abruptly, to plus 6 percent by 1994 [and drove the British economy deeper into recession]. Japan's net saving fell from plus 5 percent in 1986 to minus 2 percent in 1990. Later, it rebounded. *Again that caused a deep recession, from which the economy has yet to recover, ten years on.*"

Studies reveal that the average recession since 1945 has lasted 11 months, while recessions between 1854 and 1945 averaged 21 months. This is believed to be because it is easier to tame inflation by simply raising interest rates than to purge financial excesses such as too much inventory, too much production capacity or too little savings.

Many other symptoms in America today are similar to Japan in the 1980s. Both showed classic symptoms of economic and financial bubbles, along with rapid monetary (credit and money supply) expansion, surging share prices, rampant GDP growth and a boom in investment. In both America and Japan, inflation remained under control by traditional measures, and the central banks saw no reason to raise interest rates; therefore the cost of borrowing remained low for financing stock purchases or adding additional industrial capacity or more employees, and the economies expanded out of control.

Likewise, share prices in America are following the same path as those of Japan in the 1980s, when Japan's Nikkei stock market rose to a peak of 34,059 in 1989 before falling by 70 percent to a 16-year low of 11,819. America's Nasdaq share prices reached a high of 5,048 on March 10, 2000. That number has since fallen by two thirds to a low of 1,673; high-flying tech stocks Cisco Systems and Lucent have recently fallen by 83 percent and 90 percent, respectively.

As a result of falling share prices, the net worth of American households FELL in 2000 for the *first time* since records

began 55 years ago. Such dismal performance is rapidly undermining consumer confidence—and consumer spending accounts for two thirds of America's GDP. Consumer confidence plunged to a four-year low in February. The destruction of \$4.5 trillion in stock market wealth will likely continue to curtail spending, and without consumers generously (and foolishly) opening their pocketbooks, a deep American recession is almost assured.

The main risk to America is the labor market, which is beginning to erode: Unemployment is ratcheting higher, as over half a million jobs have been cut since December 2000, and new weekly claims for unemployment benefits on April 5 reached their highest level since July 1998. Unemployment tends to lag behind economic activity, so the worst may lie ahead, and such a strong dose of reality can severely dent consumer confidence and spending, thus extending the recession.

Just as in Japan's decade-long stagnation and decline, America experienced a decade-long recession in the 1970s. And we should never forget the agony after the market broke in 1929 when it took a mind-bending 25 years for the Dow Jones Industrial Average to regain its former peak.

Just as importantly, the biggest *differences* between Japan of the 1980s and America of the 1990s are equally disturbing and bode ill for America's future. The March 10 *Economist* wrote, "Japan had a large current-account [trade] surplus when the bubble burst; America has a large deficit [meaning the U.S. is importing dangerously more than it is exporting]. This makes it more VULNERABLE to a *run on the dollar* if foreign investors lose their appetite for American assets." Such a flight of foreign capital would be *devastating* to the American economy, just as it was to the Asian economies during the crisis of 1997-98.

"The character of this current cycle, and the similarities it highlights between America now and Japan in the 1980s and 1990s, are enough at least to raise the *possibility* that America may face a recession this year—and *maybe a bad one*—rather than a mere pause. Even when PROPER WEIGHT is given to these risks, *which it rarely is*, the idea that America could follow Japan into a decade of pitiful underperformance still seems utterly incredible. Let us hope it still seems so a year from now" (*ibid.*).

Europe to the Rescue

In spite of denials to the contrary, European industry is clearly feeling the impact of the global slowdown. Falling demand is leaving many companies with oversized inventories which must be financed. Declining domestic demand and exports, along with shrinking corporate profits, are causing cuts to investment plans, downgrading of profit expectations, corporate restructuring and downsizing of staff and employees to prepare for the growing economic storm.

And yet, Europe remains relatively unscathed by the sharp fall in America when compared to the rest of the world, and is expecting a fairly respectable rate of growth of around 2.5 percent in 2001. With exports to America of only about 2.5 percent of its GDP, Europe is somewhat insulated from all the turmoil afflicting other U.S. trade partners, as it so heavily trades within its own Eurozone. These reasons explain why the European Central Bank (ECB) has not felt the need to cut interest rates.

That is not to say that Europe is not experiencing problems and profit failures during the slowdown. The *Economist* of March 3 wrote, "In recent years European firms have built up large stakes in American companies, and so a growing share of their profits depends on the fortunes of corporate America. Germany is particularly exposed. The sales of American-based affiliates of German companies are five times bigger than Germany's exports to the United States.

"The good news," the *Economist* wrote, "is that European consumer confidence is less sensitive to swings in share prices than American consumer confidence: Europe's households own fewer shares. [Also,] in Europe, household saving rates have remained fairly high, and private-sector borrowing has been relatively modest.... *Growth in the euro area is almost certain to outpace growth in the United States this year....*

"While growth has remained robust, the ECB's main concerns have been inflation and a weak euro.... After regaining about 15 percent against the dollar between last October and early January, the euro has since slipped back. If it resumes its climb, that would probably encourage the ECB to cut rates, in order to prevent a tightening in overall monetary conditions. *If America really does*

America's present-day fall is a gigantic step toward fulfillment of the prophecies that Germany will lead a group of European nations to destroy biblical Israel. That prediction is spread throughout your Bible, but so very few understand it today.

go into recession, the euro might well climb strongly against the dollar."

What Your Bible Says

The *Trumpet* has been warning for over a decade now that America is going to fall and Europe is going to rise to singular financial superpower status. How can we know this? Because the word of God says so!

THE IDENTITY OF BIBLICAL ISRAEL is one of the *major keys* to unlocking the TRUTH of your Bible. For over 60 years, the Church of God has proclaimed that identity. Without an understanding of the identity of biblical Israel and other modern-day nations, approximately 90 percent of your Bible will be a *mystery* to you. Primarily, America and the British nations around the world are the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel. For further explanation, please write for your FREE copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* by the late Herbert W. Armstrong.

YOUR Bible says that GREAT TRIBULATION is about to come upon the nations of Israel, the ferocity of which has never before been seen in all history (Matt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1). Jeremiah 30:12-15 clearly reveals how and why America and the other nations of Israel receive such fierce punishment in this very end time in which we live. "For thus says the Lord [to Israel]: Your affliction is incurable, Your wound is severe. There is no one to plead your cause, That you may be bound up; You have no healing medicines. *All your lovers have forgotten you; They do not seek you;* For I [God] have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of your iniquities, *because your sins have increased.* Why do you cry about your affliction? Your sorrow is incurable. Because of the multitude of your iniquities, *because your sins have increased, I have done these things to you"* (NKJV).

National sins and leadership scandals are a *stench in the nostrils of the Eternal*. And what is worse is that the people of America DON'T CARE as long as their lust for money and economic

well-being are satisfied. But America's economic "lovers" (including Europe and Japan) will soon turn and tear her to pieces! As we are seeing today in America's unprecedented loss of wealth, the riches of this world are going to be *stripped from Israel* to leave her bare and naked *in all her shame!* (Ezek. 7:19; Luke 23:30; Rev. 6:15-16).

Economic Beast Power Arises

In Revelation 17 and 18, there is described a tremendous economic powerhouse led by a great false religion. This union, characterized as a "scarlet colored beast," will make merchants of the earth and kings of nations *rich beyond their wildest dreams* when they put their economic and military might behind the rising beast.

The beast power of Revelation is the German-led consortium of nations known today as the European Union! It is the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire spoken of in Revelation 13 and 17 and Daniel 2:40-43 (for more information, write for a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*).

In Europe today, we are seeing the final fulfillment of those prophecies, and America is hastening that culmination with its economic failures!

Do we understand that America's present-day fall is a gigantic step toward fulfillment of the prophecies that Germany will lead a group of European nations to destroy biblical Israel? That prediction is spread throughout your Bible, but so very few understand it today.

The nations of Israel, led by America, are going down! And because of America's meteoric fall from unprecedented heights, all nations on Earth are about to go through a *time of world trouble* like no other time past or future.

It is Europe that will arise from the ashes of this global financial conflagration to dominate the world. Europe will be the sole remaining financial superpower which enriches the world (Rev. 18) until the prophecy in Daniel 11:40-45 comes to pass. At that time, Europe, the king of the north, will be crushed by the combined military power of Russia, China and other Asian nations, who will then be likewise destroyed by the returning Jesus Christ (Rev. 19:11-21) as the Kingdom of God is set up on this Earth. Until that time, Europe will reign supreme and all the nations of Earth will bow before it!

Be *forewarned*, this WILL happen. It is only a matter of WHEN! ♦

Law *from page 5*

saith the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 2:7-8). If we know the Bible, we know Mr. Tkach CAUSED MANY PEOPLE "to stumble at the law"! He "departed out of the way." He led *many* away from God's law. Woe be to those who follow his instructions!

God's Nature and Character

In his book *Mystery of the Ages*, the late Herbert W. Armstrong wrote (pp. 47-48), "Most important of all however is what is God's nature—his CHARACTER—like? One cannot know *what* God is unless he knows what his CHARACTER is!

"The CHARACTER of both God the Father and Christ the Son is that of spiritual holiness, righteousness and absolute perfection.

"That character might be summed up in the one word LOVE, defined as an outflowing, loving concern. It is the way of giving, serving, helping, sharing, not the 'GET' way.

"It is the way devoid of coveting, lust and greed, vanity and selfishness, competition, strife, violence and destruction, envy and jealousy, resentment and bitterness.

"God's inherent nature is the way of PEACE, of JUSTICE, MERCY, HAPPINESS and JOY radiating outward toward those he has created!...

"Their [God's and the Word's] way of life produced perfect peace, cooperation, happiness, accomplishment. This WAY of life became a LAW." God's way of life *became* the law!

When two leaders of God's Church have such fundamental and gigantic differences in how they teach God's law, ONE OF THEM IS FRIGHTENINGLY WRONG!

God's people are being judged NOW by whom we follow and how we keep God's law.

Eternal Life at Stake

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18-19).

Those are very strong words. The subject is those who lose their eternal

lives because of how they deal with the words of God's Bible. If you *add* to God's words, you receive the plagues that are written in the Bible.

But that's not all. If you take away some of the words of the Bible, YOU WILL LOSE YOUR ETERNAL LIFE! What could be more serious?

Mr. Tkach, Sr., was in the Worldwide Church of God since the 1950s. He worked unusually close to Mr. Armstrong the last seven years of Mr. Armstrong's life. He was given an opportunity to learn the truth of God as few men on this Earth ever have been!

Let all ministers of God beware of how they handle God's words!

Source of Lawlessness

Even angelic empires fell because of lawlessness. This was Lucifer's problem. "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:15). The word *iniquity* means lawlessness. Lucifer was perfect until he rejected God's law. "By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire" (v. 16). He *sinned*, and sin is the transgression of God's law (1 John 3:4). Then violence was all around him. God's law prevents violence. But this lawless world is filled with violence.

God had to cast Lucifer down. Today Lucifer (renamed *Satan*) has no more access to God's throne. So his empire was shaken and is destined to totally fall.

Satan is still the god of this world, though shortly to be replaced by Christ. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:4). That means this world worships him as its god and follows his *lawless* ways!

Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). And this world continues in his violent ways. Human survival has become our number-one problem. We would destroy every man, woman, child and all flesh if Christ didn't intervene and stop human annihilation (Matt. 24:21-22).

The wonderful rule of God's law is about to be established forever! ♦

RECENTLY I MADE A FAMILY VISIT TO HOLLAND, and nobody seems to be happy with the loss of national currency and that they get the euro. What upsets people also is that they were never asked to vote for the euro. Democracy has gone out of the window and, as you point out in the *Trumpet*, fascism will be the rule of law in future Europe.

Australia

I WORK FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND work with our allies. I have seen firsthand how the German government continues to hoodwink the U.S. and its allies in every type of negotiation. It sends shivers down my spine every time I see how we think we have the upper hand and are swiftly shuffled into a position where the German government wanted us to be in the first place.

Alexandria, Va.

IT SEEMS GERMANY IS HIDDEN FROM THE news. Things are coming to pass at blinding speed. Mr. Armstrong is proven to be 100 percent correct. I believe you are too!

Pontiac, Mich.

I WAS VERY HAPPY TO READ "EDUCATION With Vision" and other articles in the February 2001 issue. As a headmistress of a high school, I asked my teachers to read the same. These articles enriched our knowledge, enabling us to give better education to our students. We are grateful to you for giving us truthful and useful information.

Andhra Pradesh, India

ONE DAY WHILE LOOKING THROUGH A SECOND-hand book store I came across *Mystery of the Ages*; it cost me \$4. The best investment I have made. Within weeks I received my first copy of the *Trumpet*. The coincidence was exciting if not God-sent. I learned about author H.W. Armstrong and how the church he founded tried to hide this eye-opening, truth-telling work of God. I was hooked and started requesting all the PCG literature. All I can say is thank you, and keep up God's work.

W.A., Australia

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 faxed to (405) 359-6280 or e-mailed to letters@thetrumpet.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Subscription inquiries can be made by calling (405) 340-7474 or writing Trumpet Subscriptions, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. Please provide complete address, including zip code.

GERALD FLURRY AND ERIC ANDERSON

Why School Violence

What God says about our violent youth

THE REBELLIOUS YOUTH MOVEMENTS OF THE 1960S SPARKED the beginning of a social revolution—a cultural war. Back then, this defiant minority was called a counter-culture because it wasn't accepted by the masses. Since then, however, that rebellious spirit of "absolute freedom" has spread like cancer. It now permeates nearly every facet of our modern society—including education.

As the problem of school shootings worsens, the fact that there is a missing dimension in education becomes more evident. Prior to the '60s, school shootings were virtually unheard of. Today they are becoming commonplace. They can happen anytime, anywhere—with little or no warning.

After Andy Williams's March 5 shooting spree—the worst since the April 1999 Columbine massacre—California District Attorney Paul Pfingst publicly addressed the incident, saying, "I know in your minds is the overriding question *why*.... I AM NOT SURE IN ANY REAL WAY WE WILL EVER KNOW WHY..." (emphasis ours).

There *is* a reason for school violence, and for more than 60 years we have been explaining that answer—via radio, television and the print media—to anyone who will listen.

The answer to the school violence problem is clearly revealed in God's instruction book for mankind: the Holy Bible.

In Ezekiel 7:22-23, God states, "My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute my secret [holy] place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it. Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence." Here, the Almighty Creator of mankind promised that He would not bless or protect His chosen nations of Israel if their leaders would tolerate bloody crimes in their lands!

Over the past five years, there has been a chain of bloody crimes in America's schools. God is clearly upset about this ongoing problem! He is deeply concerned about kids killing kids—as well as the other bloody crimes which prevail in our land.

Notice what God says He will do if we allow school shootings and other bloody crimes to persist: "Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be defiled. Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients" (vv. 24-26).

Why would a merciful and just God punish so severely? Because He will not tolerate rebellion against His government and law! Because of the widespread tolerance of "bloody crimes" in our land, because of a culture which glamorizes violence in its entertainment and abandons its children morally,

our Creator **MUST** punish us! The Bible reveals that a penalty **MUST** be exacted anytime God's laws are disregarded or broken (Rom. 6:23; 1 John 3:4).

God's laws, when followed, bring great peace, happiness and true freedom. The merciful, loving Creator desires our greatest happiness. It pains Him when He sees us suffering as a result of broken law. In the long run, His chastisement prevents the greater measure of suffering.

This truth underpins God's instructions on rearing our children. As God canonized through the pen of one of the wisest men ever to live, Solomon, parents are to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

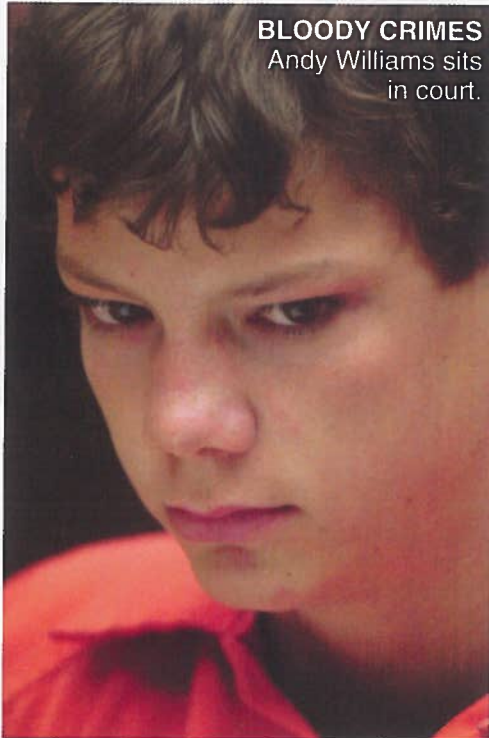
Elsewhere God says, "And thou shalt teach them [God's laws] diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:7).

The Fifth Commandment requires children to honor their parents—and by extension *every* human being, including their classmates. The Sixth Commandment forbids murder. Both of these laws are still very much in effect today.

If these two commands were taught and obeyed today, our nations would prosper and enjoy widespread peace. We would not see kids killing kids. But because our heavenly Father's laws are largely rejected or ignored, school shootings and other bloody crimes continue unabated.

Parents, especially fathers, are obliged to exercise loving family government in the home. Dads and moms should uphold God's laws and teach their children—by *personal example*—to respect authority and not hate or fight with others. If this responsibility is not fulfilled, if children are neglected, or if they are exposed to wrong examples or influences, they can become suicidal or even aggressive to the point where they will shoot and kill others!

Curbing school violence *must start in the home*. It's all about family. Then, after that, the problem must be addressed in schools and work places—and eventually, peace will spread to the nation and the world. That's exactly how God will bring peace to this entire world when Jesus Christ returns! He will use **FAMILY GOVERNMENT** and **LAW** to do it.



BLOODY CRIMES
Andy Williams sits in court.

AP/WIDEWORLD



THE KEY OF DAVID

Tomorrow's News Today!

Television and Radio Listings

United States

Nationwide satellite—Galaxy 3R/3 11:00am ET, Tue; 11:00am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)

Nationwide cable & satellite—Goodlife Network 6:30am ET, Mon

Nationwide cable & satellite—TNN 8:00am ET, Sun 7:00am Central; 7:00am Mountain; 8:00 am Pacific **

Northeast cable—WWOR 7:00am ET, Sun
Arkansas, Little Rock—KQYK 8:30am, Sun
California, Los Angeles—KCOP 7:00am, Sun
California, San Diego—KTLA channel 14 9:30am, Sun
Connecticut, Hartford—WCTX 7:00am, Sun
Florida, Orlando—WRDQ 11:30am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago—WJYS 12:00Noon, Sun
Illinois, Harrisburg—KBSI 7:30am, Sun
Illinois, Mt. Vernon—WDKA 7:30am, Sun
Kentucky, Louisville—WBNA 9:30am, Sun
Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 7:30am, Sun
Kentucky, Paducah—KBSI 7:30am, Sun
Louisiana, Lake Charles—KBMT 9:00am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit—WADL 9:00am, Sun
Missouri, Cape Girardeau—KBSI 7:30am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City—KCWE 8:00am, Sun
New York, Plattsburg—WVNY 7:00am, Sun
New York, New York City—WWOR 7:00am, Sun
North Carolina, Ashville—WASV 8:00am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte—WAXN 8:00am, Sun
North Carolina, Kannapolis—WAXN 8:00am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville—WKFT 8:00am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh—WKFT 8:00am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City—KOCB 7:00am, Sun
South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WASV 8:00am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont—KBMT 9:00am, Sun
Texas, Tyler—KLTV 10:30am, Sun
Vermont, Burlington—WVNY 7:00am, Sun
Virginia, Roanoke—WDRL 10:30am, Sun

Canada

Nationwide satellite—Galaxy 3R/3 11:00am ET, Tue; 11:05am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)

Nationwide satellite—WWOR 7:00am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable—TNN 8:00am ET, Sun

Alberta—CKRD 9:30am, Sun
British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 9:00am, Sun
New Brunswick—CIHF 7:00am, Sun
Nova Scotia—CIHF 7:00am, Sun

Ontario—CFMT 8:30am, Sun
Prince Edward Island—CIHF 7:00am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal—WVNY 7:00am, Sun

Latin America

Regional satellite—Galaxy 3R/3 11:00am ET, Tue; 11:00am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)

Argentina—TNN 9:00am, Sun, WWOR 8:00am Sun

Belize—TNN 6:00am, Sun **;

Goodlife Network 5:30am, Mon

Bolivia—TNN 8:00am, Sun **

Brazil—TNN 9:00am, Sun **; WWOR 8:00am, Sun

Chile—TNN 8:00am, Sun **; WWOR 7:00am, Sun

Colombia—TNN 7:00am, Sun **; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

Costa Rica—TNN 6:00am, Sun **

Dominican Republic—TNN 8:00am, Sun **

Ecuador—TNN 7:00am, Sun **

El Salvador—TNN 6:00am, Sun **

Guatemala—TNN 6:00am, Sun **

Honduras—TNN 6:00am, Sun **

Mexico—TNN 6:00am, Sun **; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

Nicaragua—TNN 6:00am, Sun **

Panama—TNN 7:00am, Sun **

Peru—TNN 7:00am, Sun **

Puerto Rico—TNN 8:00am, Sun **; WWOR 7:00am, Sun

Venezuela—TNN 8:00am, Sun **; WWOR 8:00am, Sun

Caribbean

Regional satellite—Galaxy 3R/3 11:00am ET, Tue; 11:00am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)

Aruba—TNN 9:00am, Sun **

Bahamas—TNN 9:00am, Sun **; WPLG 7:00am, Sun; Goodlife Network 6:30am, Mon

Cuba—TNN 8:00am, Sun **; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

Grenada—CCN 8:00am, Sun

Haiti—TNN 7:00am, Sun **

Jamaica—TNN 7:00am, Sun **; WWOR 8:00am, Sun

Tobago—CCN 8:00am, Sun

Trinidad—CCN 8:00am, Sun

Middle East/Africa

Algeria—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Bahrain—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Cyprus—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Egypt—Star World 11:00pm, Sun

Ethiopia—Star World 12:00am, Sun

Iran—Star World 1:30am, Sun

Iraq—Star World 11:50pm, Sat

Israel—Star World 11:00pm, Sat

Jordan—Star World 11:00pm, Sun

Kuwait—Star World 12:00am, Sun

Lebanon—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Morocco—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Oman—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Palestine—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Qatar—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Saudi Arabia—Star World 12:00am, Sun

Somalia—Star World 12:00am, Sun

Sudan—Star World 11:00pm, Sat

Syria—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Tunisia—Star World 1:00am, Sun

United Arab Emirates—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Yemen—Star World 1:00am, Sun

Asia/Pacific

Cambodia—Star World 4:00am, Sun

China—Star World 5:00am, Sun

North Korea—Star World 6:00am, Sun

South Korea—Star World 6:00am, Sun

Hong Kong—Star World 5:00am, Sun

India—Star World 2:30am, Sun

Nepal—Star World 2:45am, Sun

Pakistan—Star World 2:00am, Sun

Kazakhstan—Star World 4:00am, Sun

Uzbekistan—Star World 2:00am, Sun

Georgia—Star World 12:00am, Sun

Indonesia—Star World 4:00am, Sun

Malaysia—Star World 5:00am, Sun

Maldives—Star World 2:00am, Sun

Brunei—Star World 5:00am, Sun

Vietnam—Star World 4:00am, Sun

Papua New Guinea—Star World 7:00am, Sun

Philippines—IBC TV 7:00am, Sun; Star World 5:00am, Sun

Fiji—Star World 5:00am, Sun

Singapore—Star World 5:00am, Sun

Taiwan—Star World 5:00am, Sun

Australia/New Zealand

Australia nationwide—Network Ten 4:30am, Sun

New South Wales—NRTV 4:30am, Sun

Canberra—Ten Capital 4:30am, Sun

Queensland—QTV 4:30am, Sun

Victoria—Ten Victoria 4:30am, Sun

New Zealand nationwide—TV3 6:00am, Fri

Nationwide satellite—Sky TV 6:00am, Sun

Internet Station listing at www.keyof david.com

** Indicates a new station or time change

Printed in the United States of America

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Post Office Box 3700
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA 73083 U.S.