

JUNE 2003

SPECIAL: AFTER THE WAR

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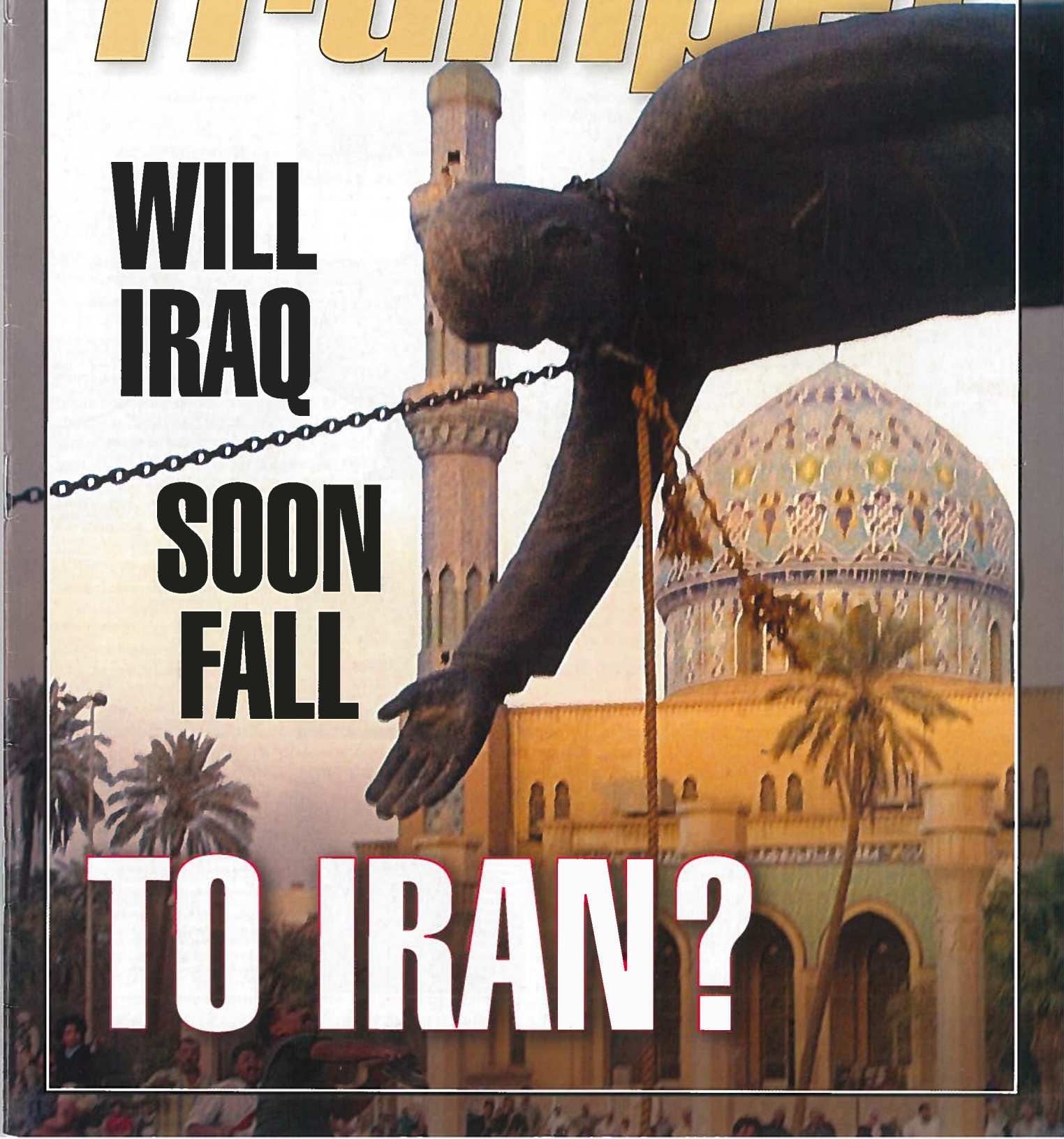
The Philadelphia

Trumpet

**WILL
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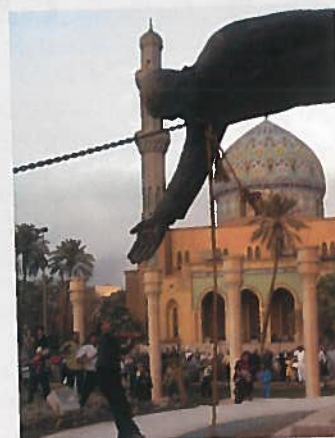
TO IRAN?



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PUBLISHER and EDITOR IN CHIEF Gerald Flurry
NEWS EDITOR Ron Fraser
SENIOR EDITORS Stephen Flurry
Dennis Leap
Joel Hilliker
MANAGING EDITOR Ryan Malone
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR Donna Grieves
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Eric Anderson
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Wik Heerma
Jason Hensley
Mark Jenkins
CONTRIBUTORS Gareth Fraser
William Ghannam
Stephen Hill
Wilbur Malone
Gary Rethford
RESEARCH ASSISTANTS Zrinka Peters
Lisa Godeaux
Christine Klotz
PHOTO RESEARCH
PREPRESS PRODUCTION Ryan Malone
CIRCULATION Jason Hensley
INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS EDITOR Wik Heerma
French Daniel Frendo
German Hans Schmidl
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OFFICE DIRECTORS
Australasia Russell Williams
Canada Wayne Turgeon
Central & S. America, Caribbean Ron Fraser
Britain, Europe, Middle East, Africa Alex Harrison

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United States: P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083
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The Dream That Was Raised From the Ruins

Herbert W. Armstrong raised up Ambassador College in Pasadena, Calif., a liberal arts college sponsored by the Worldwide Church of God (WCG). I graduated from there in 1970. Recently I viewed a video of the college's 1987 commencement exercises. IT FILLED ME WITH A HEAVY SADNESS—AND INSPIRED ME WITH A WONDERFUL HOPE!

Let me explain *why*.

That class of '87 was comprised of nearly 300 graduates. Over 100 students received diplomas from a two-year program, with students from 17 different countries. There were 172 students graduating from a four-year program, with young people from 15 countries.

They all marched down the aisle of the beautiful Ambassador Auditorium. The orchestra was playing music that stirred me emotionally. I knew the conductor quite well, and also several of the faculty members.

In the 1987 commencement address, the chancellor had this to say: "We are going to maintain the dream that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong had. That dream will never die."

But that dream did die! I watched it being strangled to death. It was a colossal disaster beyond the mind of men to imagine!

As we told readers in our last issue, we have just won a court case against the WCG. Their present leader said it was their "Christian duty" to keep Mr. Armstrong's

writings out of print. However, we have just won back 19 of Mr. Armstrong's major works. We now own the copyrights.

These 19 works contain the dream of Mr. Armstrong—especially his book *Mystery of the Ages*. (Request a free copy if you don't have one.) Not only did they lose the dream, they fought us in court to prevent anybody from even knowing about it!

All the faculty members lost the dream, or vision. And all the students lost the dream, except two, one of whom is my daughter. These two 1987 students are helping give Mr. Armstrong's dream to the whole world—because it is a dream for the whole world!

That is what 95 percent of the WCG and Ambassador College graduates are not doing. *Mystery of the Ages* explains why that is such a towering catastrophe.

Shortly after the dream died, so did Ambassador College! It no longer exists! I believe time will prove this to be one of the most diabolical disasters in the history of *true* education. That is a deeply depressing failure.

However, God has raised up Imperial College. It is a soaring success. This May, we had our first two-year graduating class. It was a small class, but Mr. Armstrong's dream is very much alive!

The 1987 disaster demands an explanation. The Ambassador College graduates said they understood the mysteries of life. And they did. But they lost them—they let the dream die.

We risked everything in our court battle with the WCG to keep the dream alive. This world urgently needs to know why Mr. Armstrong's works were so important—and the whole world is going to know!

The *commencement* exercises were only the *BEGINNING* of a dream. That is the point where we *begin* to implement the dream. But the beginning is useless if we lose the dream.

Where did the dream of the '87 class take them? Not to where they believed they would go at that time. The *final* destination is what counts, not the beginning.

This world is headed for the worst suffering ever known on this planet (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21-22), unless we change our ways. And for the class of '87, there are eternal consequences far beyond that. We need God's protection—physically and spiritually.

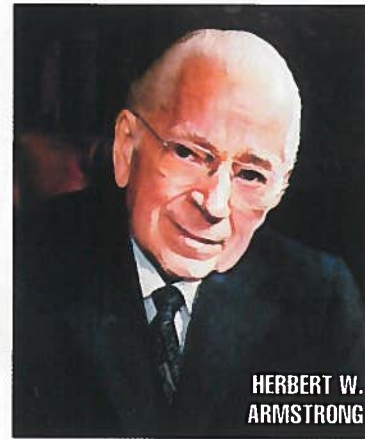
The 19 works that we won in court are going to be used to educate this world. And

you and I have an opportunity to help teach that message to the world (today and in the World Tomorrow). That was a major part of Mr. Armstrong's dream—and our dream.

The education of this world is leading to catastrophe. We must have an education that brings peace and hope. That is the kind of education our Imperial students receive. We have the missing dimension in education. True education in this world is a *mystery* (our book *Mystery of the Ages* explains why). But it's not a mystery at our Imperial College.

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

Educators today do not understand "who and what is God" (chapter 1) or "the mystery of angels and evil spirits" (chapter 2) or "the mystery of man" (chapter 3). You can't properly educate man until you know why he is here. Then life is filled with profound meaning and unbounded hope!



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

The education of this world is leading to catastrophe. We must have an education that brings peace and hope.

SPECIAL FEATURE

AFTER the **WAR**



PROPHECY COMES ALIVE IN IRAQ!

TRUMPET RETROSPECTIVE

From the *Trumpet's* earliest editions, our editor in chief has focused readers' attention on specific prophecies about Iran and the Middle East. The Iraq war has shown us how these may be fulfilled. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE REAL meaning of world events as they occur. Media and technology open to us oceans of information, but to discern what is important can be difficult. Often, only with the benefit of hindsight can we begin to make out the significance.

However, there is something that can eliminate those limitations in our perspective and give us deep insight into what we are really witnessing. It can give us a map, setting those truly monumental events and trends in stark relief from everything else.

What is it? It is Bible prophecy—prophecy delivered to us by the great God, who forecast with accuracy what major events would unfold at the end of this age of man. “I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to

graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: *before they spring forth I tell you of them*” (Isa. 42:8-9).

We need not be ignorant of these prophecies. Elsewhere in His Word, God promises, “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). This is the perspective that this magazine takes in its news analysis.

Events in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East provide gripping testimony of the power of predictive analysis of world events based on Bible prophecy.

To understand, let's revisit some statements printed in the *Trumpet* over the course of its 13-year history.

A Pillar Prophecy Revealed

Herbert W. Armstrong established the Worldwide Church of God. But upon

his death in 1986, the Church radically departed from his teachings. In December of 1989, Gerald Flurry founded the Philadelphia Church of God to return to and preserve those truths originally taught by Mr. Armstrong.

The first copy of the *Trumpet* was issued just two months later—in February of 1990.

Later that year, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Mr. Flurry was watching these events very closely.

In the fifth edition of the *Trumpet*, September/October 1990, appeared the headline, “King of the South—Is He Now on the World Scene?” In this article, Mr. Flurry dramatically *changed* the Church's thinking about a pivotal prophecy in the book of Daniel.

“Herbert W. Armstrong prophesied for decades that we should focus on the Middle East. That is where the world order would begin to unravel—triggering World War III!” he wrote.

“Mr. Armstrong gave us an outline of prophecy that has been fulfilled precisely. However, his understanding of the king of the south was incomplete. Partly because he couldn't see what w

see today, Mr. Armstrong erred about when this king would appear on the world scene. ... God is now leading the Philadelphia Church of God to the correct understanding. That is necessary because of what is happening on the world scene this very moment!

"Egypt was the king of the south in past history. But who is this mysterious man and nation today? This king is a key player in the book of Daniel—and at the very end time."

Mr. Flurry then quoted this important prophecy—Daniel 11:40: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over." He commented, "Mr. Armstrong saw Hitler marching in World War II and believed it was a fulfillment of this verse. Then the tide of World War II began to change. Immediately he began to preach that Germany would rise again! He did that because of what is prophesied in God's Word! But he continued to think that Daniel 11:40 occurred in World War II. Actually it's a prelude to World War III."

Mr. Flurry locked in on this scripture from the very beginning of the *Trumpet's* existence. In the time since then, this has proven to be one of the pillar prophecies driving world events!

The Push

In 1990, it appeared that the strongest leader in the Mideast was Saddam Hussein. Mr. Flurry speculated that Hussein and Iraq might fill the king of the south role. But he KNEW, based on Daniel 11:40, that whoever this king was, he would have the will to PUSH at the king of the north, which Mr. Flurry knew to be the rising European Union.

His September/October 1990 Personal continued, "The *Gesenius Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon to the Old Testament* says the word *push* means 'to strike—used of horned animals,' or, 'to push with the horn.' It is 'used figuratively of a victor who prostrates the nations before him.' It also means, 'to wage war with anyone.' *Push* is a violent word! ...

"That violent *push* has not occurred in recent history. No such *push* has caused the king of the north to respond

in kind—yet! *But the stage is being set—RIGHT NOW—for this to occur!*"

Later in the article Mr. Flurry wrote, "So we see that Daniel 11:40 through Daniel 12:13 [happens during] the 'time of the end.' IT IS ALL TRIGGERED BY THE KING OF THE SOUTH! It doesn't have to be Saddam Hussein—though it could very well be. Even if it isn't Saddam Hussein, the king of the south shall rise in that part of the world—and soon!"

How right he was.

Iran

As early as the July 1992 *Trumpet*, his analysis of events began to turn Mr. Flurry's attention from Iraq to Iran.

When reports emerged of Iran gaining nuclear weapons from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, this altered the landscape of the Mideast drastically. "This is a FRIGHTENING DEVELOPMENT and our government KNOWS IT!" he wrote. "The U.S. plan to stop nuclear proliferation has failed! Kazakhstan, an Islamic nation, gave nuclear weapons to another Islamic nation, Iran. Their Islamic faith usually gives them a fierce loyalty to each other.

"Much of the world is unaware of WHAT A POWERFUL AND DANGEROUS FORCE THE ISLAMIC CAMP IS BECOMING."

What Mr. Flurry wrote a little further down is interesting: "The king of the south could rule Iraq or Iran or both countries. But it is looking more now like Iran may produce this king." Already he was indicating the possibility of Iran actually *gaining control* of Iraq.

"Much of the world is unaware of what a powerful and dangerous force the Islamic camp is becoming."

Gerald Flurry, July 1992



EARLY PREDICTIONS Articles from the Sept/Oct 1990 (left) and July 1993 *Trumpets*

He then quoted the *Islamic Affairs Analyst* of May 13, 1992, which focused on Iran's aggressive regional ambitions: "The main strategic aim of Iran is to dominate the Persian Gulf and environs. An important step in achieving this goal is to GAIN UNDISPUTED LEADERSHIP OF THE RADICAL ISLAMIC CAMP." Mr. Flurry commented, "It looks very much like the end-time king of the south will rule THE RADICAL ISLAMISTS! Iran is a natural leader for many of them today. Iran also has a goal to lead this group."

This was all printed before these key players were making much of a splash in the mainstream press.

An Islamic King of the South

One year later, Mr. Flurry's conviction that Daniel 11:40 would be fulfilled by Iran leading a confederation of Islamic peoples was much stronger.

In the July 1993 *Trumpet*, he focused his attention on the phrase within Daniel's prophecy, "the time of the end." Look at Daniel 12:9, which says, "And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." "So when does the king of the south *push* at the king of the north?" Mr. Flurry asked. "It must happen AFTER the book of Daniel was revealed to Herbert W. Armstrong in this end time. Daniel 12:9 TELLS US THE TIME OF THE END BEGINS WHEN DANIEL WAS REVEALED. So the king of the south must arise after Daniel was revealed to God's end-time Church—specifically to Herbert W. Armstrong.

"These verses point to a king of the south that is yet future. And I believe all indications point to radical Islam, headed by Iran as this king."

Within this article he focused on the importance of OIL as a means for the king of the south to consolidate power. He quoted a November 7, 1992, *New York Times* article that said, "The political significance of a revitalized oil industry, although not clearly spelled out by Iranian officials, is obvious. Becoming second to Saudi Arabia as a world oil power, Iran expects to further its greater ambition of being the most important regional power in the Persian Gulf, a long-held foreign-policy objective.

"More troubling to other countries in the area and to the West is the other side of Iran's plan to achieve this objective: a huge rearmament program,

financed largely by the new oil money.”

Mr. Flurry then commented, “This means Iran could control the oil of other Middle East oil producers as well.”

All of these statements take on greater significance in light of the United States’ recent action in Iraq.

Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?

Then, in December 1994, Mr. Flurry wrote a Personal with this provocative headline: “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?”

“Iraq’s economy is in near ruin because of the United Nations embargo,” he explained. “Iraq sits on top of the world’s second-largest oil reserve, behind Saudi Arabia. But they are unable to sell that oil and buy food and other essentials.

“Intelligence reports also state that there is high-ranking discontent in the Iraqi military. However, they fear to revolt because the country is ruled by a minority of Sunni Arabs. The Shiite Arabs compose the majority of the population in Iraq. If the Shiites should get control, there could be a bloodbath similar to the one in Rwanda.

“The Shiite Iraqis have been encouraged to revolt by Iran, which is almost totally Shiite.” Read the following article, “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” by our editor in chief about the media reports that have emerged since the Second Gulf War which verify the truth in this analysis.

Now notice this stunning prediction: “The most powerful Arab country in the Middle East is *Iran*. Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world? If so, there seems to be little doubt that Iran would lead the king of the south (Dan. 11:40).

“Such a takeover by Iran would SHOCK the world—especially Europe. It would be a strong impetus for Europe to unite quickly. Such a move would, in all likelihood, give Iran power to cause a sizable increase in the price of oil. This could help trigger a collapse of the Western world’s weak currencies. This in turn could cause Europe to quickly unite into the most power-

ful economic bloc in the world. That very event is prophesied to occur in your own Bible!”

An Altered Landscape

Iran fought a bloody, costly and inconclusive war with Iraq throughout the 1980s. That country can only be happy over the recent removal of Iraq’s Sunni Muslim leadership, so long a thorn in its flesh.

Is it possible that the United States has unwittingly cleared the way for Iran to fulfill its long-held regional ambitions? Might Mr. Flurry’s predictions actually be expedited in their fulfillment, with the U.S.’s help?

As Amos 3:7 explicitly states, God ensures that His true servants are alerted to the most important trends that will affect world events. We cannot afford to ignore these powerful statements in the *Trumpet’s* history. These predictions resulted from prayerful study and comparison of several relevant Bible prophecies with current events.

However, God does not give us a complete picture all at once. As the Apostle Paul said, “now we see through a glass, darkly” (1 Cor. 13:12). God requires of us, “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36). The Apostle Peter said that “We have also a more sure word of prophecy,” but explained how our understanding of it becomes more clear the closer we get to Christ’s return to Earth (II Pet. 1:19). As events unfold, we see better how specific prophecies will be fulfilled.

Suddenly, the American-led coalition has taken Iraq out of the picture in the Middle East, much more quickly and decisively than the first Gulf War, or the sanctions imposed afterward. The landscape has been drastically changed. Mr. Flurry’s following article will better show you how these events will play into the prophetic picture for the region.

Iraq—and Iran—deserve our closest scrutiny in the months ahead. Daniel’s vision about the end-time rise of the king of the south is LIVING PROPHECY! ♦

“The most powerful Arab country in the Middle East is Iran. Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world?”

Gerald Flurry, December 1994

IS IR

This headline first appeared

BY GERALD FLURRY

THE KING OF THE NORTH and the king of the south are two powers prophesied to clash in this end time. It is vital that we understand who they are.

“And AT THE TIME OF THE END shall *the king of the south* push at him: and *the king of the north* shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over” (Dan. 11:40). Both powers are rising quickly on the world scene right now. This clash WILL SHAKE THIS WORLD AS NEVER BEFORE! And that is the good news. The bad news is, it will lead to World War III—UNLESS WE HEED GOD’S PROPHECY AND REPENT!

Islamic extremism is going to be the king of the south. You need to understand why.

The Muslims of the world are comprised of a population second only to that of China. They inhabit a geographic area larger than Russia. The Islamic world also controls much of the world’s oil resources.

The stage is being set for an Islamic group of nations, almost certainly to be led by Iran as the prophesied king of the south, to push at the king of the north, the European Union. Iran has a foreign policy with a lot of “PUSH.” And since the end of their war with Iraq in 1988, Iran has accumulated a massive arsenal of military weapons to back up its aggressive foreign policy.

Now that Iraq has been taken out of the picture, Iran is even closer to becoming the reigning king of the Middle East. It may seem shocking, given the U.S. presence in the region right now, but prophecy indicates that, in pursuit of its goal, Iran will probably TAKE OVER IRAQ. At least, it will have a heavy influence over the Iraqi people.

IRAQ ABOUT TO FALL

in the *Trumpet* in December 1994. Recent events make this even more of a possibility.

SYMPATHIZERS Iraqi Shiites in Baghdad protest U.S. occupation, May 19. Some hold posters of the Ayatollah Khomeini, who established Iran's Islamic regime in 1979.

TO IRAN?



Iran's Nuclear Power

Iran has long sought to become the undisputed leader in the region, largely through aggressive and ambitious military development.

Iran's weapons program is of enormous concern to the U.S. It isn't only former Soviet weapons and weapons-usable nuclear material that Iran is getting its hands on—it has also actively recruited former Soviet atomic scientists. Communist China has also supplied the Iranians with nuclear technology.

It is clear Iran wants its own production capability. Under the guise of creating a civilian energy program, it is pushing to bring home whole facilities like uranium-conversion facilities—spend-

ing far more annually on nuclear hardware than would be required for mere domestic energy production. It now has two nuclear power plants. Iranian diplomats state that they were built only for energy. But nobody believes that, since their country is glutted with oil.

All this is in addition to nuclear weapons that Iran *already has*, thanks to the Islamic former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

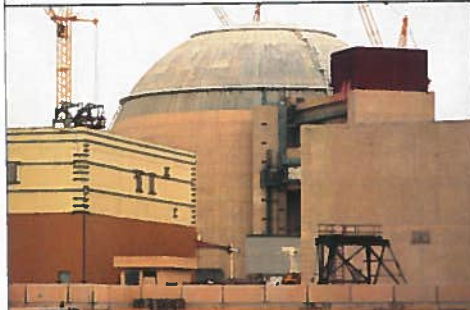
Notice this quote from the *European* newspaper over a decade ago, in a front page article titled "Iran Has N-Bomb": "Iran has obtained at least two nuclear warheads out of a batch officially listed as 'missing' from the newly independent republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union."

This article said the Russians sent a top-secret report to the CIA disclosing that several nuclear warheads vanished from a just-closed nuclear base in Kazakhstan. "Two of the nuclear weapons were smuggled across the border from Kazakhstan into Iran last year and are now under the control of Reza Amrollahi, the head of the Iranian Organization for Atomic Energy. The fact that Amrollahi is also in charge of recruiting former Soviet atomic scientists has sharpened the West's anxiety over Iran's efforts to build an Islamic bomb" (May 7, 1992).

But nuclear capability is just the capstone of a comprehensive Iranian military buildup.

As far back as 1994, *U.S. News &*

World Report gave some alarming statistics as to just how strong Iran's military was becoming (emphasis mine): "Iran has been vigorously rearming its regular forces as well, mainly with help from Russia. The Rafsanjani government has spent up to \$4 billion a year for the past five years on everything from artillery, tanks and advanced sea mines to missiles and Russian jets. Iran has even bought two attack submarines from Russia, and a third is said to be on the way. With some 1,200 tanks, 2,300



SUSPECT Russian-built Bushehr nuclear power reactor in Iran, which many fear is part of a program to build nuclear weapons.

artillery pieces, 100 attack helicopters, two dozen Scud and Chinese CSS-8 cruise missiles, and 16 fighter and ground attack squadrons, the IRANIAN MILITARY IS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST IN THE REGION. "They are rebuilding their forces in a very calculated way," says Zeev Eytan of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies and co-editor of the *Middle East Military Balance*. "They are spending money *carefully* and buying GOOD EQUIPMENT" (Nov. 14).

These are the actions of a country intent on becoming the superpower of the Middle East! They weren't just buying cheap weapons.

Today, regionally speaking, Iran trails only Egypt in the size of its army (11 million men fit for military service, with over 800,000 more reaching military age annually), but it outranks Egypt in military expenditures, which, since that 1994 *U.S. News* article was published, have climbed toward \$9.7 billion a year.

Iran also has several thousand tons of chemical agents stockpiled, including blister, blood and choking agents. According to testimony by Leonard Spector before the House International Relations Committee in 1996, it is capable of producing an additional thousand tons of these agents every year. And in viola-

tion of the Biological Weapons Convention it signed, Iran has had a biological warfare program for two decades, beginning back during the Iran-Iraq war.

For delivery of these deadly materials, Iran has artillery mortars, rockets, aerial bombs and Scud warheads—many also delivered from former Soviet countries, China and North Korea. Iran is now working hard to become self-sufficient in its missile production. In July 2000, Iran announced a successful test of its own Shahab-3 missile, which has a range of over 800 miles. Contacts within the Iranian regime claimed that the Shahab-4, with a range of 1,300 miles, was successfully tested in the summer of 2002. This missile uses entirely Russian technology.

In September 2000, Robert Walpole, a National Intelligence Council official, told the Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee on proliferation that "The probability that a missile with a weapon of mass destruction would be used against U.S. forces or interests [or Europe's, I might add] is higher today than during most of the Cold War, and will continue to grow."

In other words, in the hands of a country like Iran, this terrifying arsenal won't sit idle for long. Their history shows that they are adept at USING those means at their disposal to meet their objectives.

The Root of Terrorism

The Iraq campaign was the latest round in America's global war on terrorism. But where did all of this world terrorism begin? Iraq is a dangerous part of the equation, but not the head of the snake.

We must go back in history to see terrorism's roots.

When the Shah of Iran led the country, he was a strong ally of America. But our liberal press and politicians thought he was too undemocratic. So they helped to drive him from power. As he was falling, America gave him little or no support.

Then, in 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah. For 10 years, until he died, Khomeini established Iran as the world's number-one sponsor of terrorism. He was succeeded by Hashemi Rafsanjani, who intensified Iran's worldwide network of terrorism.

Back in 1994, then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Iran "the WORLD'S MOST SIGNIFICANT STATE SPON-

SOR OF TERRORISM." America has known for years who "the world's most significant state sponsor of terrorism" is. But we lack the *will* to deal with Iran. State-sponsored terrorism became deeply entrenched in the 1990s, and our leaders did almost nothing to combat it.

We must understand how this relates to the present situation in Iraq. History shows how Islamic extremism can dramatically change the politics within a country, and it gives us an indication of the kind of power Iran could be very close to achieving.

Let's look at Egypt, where Islamic extremism—which spawns terrorism—is gaining power at a frightening pace. Daniel 11:42 indicates that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south. This prophecy indicates we are about to see a radical change in Egyptian politics! That change is already well under way.

Radical Changes in Egypt

It is interesting that God's end-time apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, visited with two Egyptian presidents, Anwar el-Sadat and Hosni Mubarak. Egypt received a strong warning from God.

In 1981, Mike Wallace of the television program *60 Minutes* interviewed Ayatollah Khomeini. He told the ayatollah that Anwar Sadat had said he was a "lunatic."

Almost immediately afterward, President Sadat was assassinated!

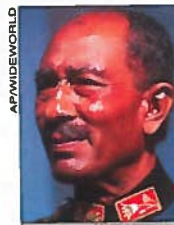
That is the kind of power the leader of radical Islam has! America and the world allowed this evil power to change history. We didn't have the *will* to stop such madness.

When the Sadat assassination occurred, Mr. Armstrong said it was a *turning point in Middle East history!*

And that was almost an understatement. But virtually nobody in the media saw—or they refused to see—what A WORLD-CHANGING EVENT that was!

Iran's terrorist network was working frighteningly well.

MR. SADAT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING THE MIDDLE EAST FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD. He took a stand against his own people and the Arab world to make peace with Israel. He proved to be a truly great man. If the U.S. and Britain had shown his



Sadat

courage, they would have dealt with Iran then. Because of their weakness, the Middle East began to look to the king of terror—the king of the south—for leadership. It all happened because of American weakness.

Islamic radicals are very effective in assassinating top leaders. They probably also assassinated the speaker of Egypt's parliament, Rifaat al-Mahgoub (the country's second-ranking official at the time), in 1990. Gunmen on motorcycles sprayed his chauffeured sedan with automatic rifle fire. They likely were be-

hind the killing of Algeria's President Mohammed Boudiaf in 1992. These are just a few examples of how Islamic extremism can influence Mideast politics.

President Mubarak could be assassinated just as Anwar el-Sadat was. This could radically change Egyptian politics, as happened in Iran in 1979. In fact, the Bible indicates that could happen: "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape" (Dan. 11:42). The king of the north will destroy the king of the south—and

Egypt. Why Egypt? Is it because Egypt is allied with the king of the south? Does that mean radical Islam will soon control or direct Egyptian politics? Bible prophecy answers *yes*. (Here Egypt is mentioned *apart* from the king of the south. This proves that Egypt is *not* the king of the south, although anciently it was, in type.)

Today, Egypt is the most stable country in the Arab world. It is viewed as the leader of the more moderate Arabs. But recently, Egypt has become much more friendly to Iran and more

A MYSTERIOUS ALLIANCE

LET'S LOOK AT A PSALM THAT STRONGLY indicates which countries will be allied with the king of the south.

This prophecy lists several moderate Arab nations that will ally themselves with Assur (Assyria), or modern-day Germany. Because this will

happen *after* Germany and the European Union conquer the king of the south, we can deduce that these countries will not be destroyed in the "whirlwind" described in Daniel 11:40.

"Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken CRAFTY COUNSEL against thy people [Israel], and consulted against thy hidden [or sheltered] ones" (Ps. 83:1-3). God's "hidden ones" are His own people. In the midst of these warring nations, God protects His people (Rev. 12:14). As with many other biblical prophecies, we see God's people in the spotlight.

The "enemies" are an Arab alliance that is about to attack the modern descendants of Israel. That is primarily America, Britain and Judah (the little nation called *Israel* today). Bible prophecy says the end-time nations of Israel are unusually fearful and gullible, like a "silly dove" (Hos. 7:8-12). Their enemies take advantage of their weaknesses to destroy them (Hos. 5:5). God only protects the nations of Israel from grave danger if they are obedient—which they are *not* in the end time.

This will be a deceitful alliance. "They have said, Come, and LET US CUT THEM OFF FROM BEING A NATION; THAT THE NAME OF ISRAEL MAY BE NO MORE IN REMEMBRANCE" (Ps. 83:4). Their goal is to *utterly* destroy Israel—including America and Britain!

"For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah" (vv. 5-8). Here are the modern names of these nations, as taught at Ambassador College under Herbert W. Armstrong: *Edom*—Turkey; *Ishmaelites*—Saudi Arabia; *Moab*—Jordan; *Hagarenes*—anciently dwelt in the land known as



Syria today; *Gebal*—Lebanon; *Ammon*—also Jordan.

Iraq and Iran appear to be missing in this Psalm. And clearly, Egypt is not a part of this alliance. Is this because these countries by this point have already been defeated by the king of the north?

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH AN ALLIANCE TO ATTACK OR TOTALLY DESTROY ISRAEL IN HISTORY. Concerning this Psalm, the *Anchor Bible* reads, "History transmits no record of the national crisis when the nations enumerated in

this Psalm formed a league to wipe out Israel ..."

Lange's Commentary points out, "The 10 nations who are here enumerated as being combined against Israel, are never mentioned elsewhere as enemies allied at the same time and for the purpose of annihilating Israel." Other commentaries make the same point. This must be an end-time prophecy!

Most of the Arabs were allied with Germany in World War II. They knew what Hitler was doing to the Jews, and we know the way many Arabs feel toward the Jews. Since America and Britain support the Jews today, it is not difficult to envision the Arabs and Germans allied against them. And this prophecy ties in with other end-time Bible prophecies very well. After all, God does tell us to put various Bible verses together in order to understand prophecy (Isa. 28:13).

Is this Psalm closely related to what Daniel saw in a vision?

"And ... the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind ... He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon" (Dan. 11:40-41). The area of Jordan (here described as Edom and Moab) will escape.

"He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape" (v. 42). Egypt will be conquered by the king of the north—probably because of an alliance with the king of the south. The radical Islamic movement, led by Iran, is very strong in Egypt and Algeria. This religion will probably take control of both countries very soon.

Iran appears to be on the verge of becoming a world superpower—the kind of superpower that will *conquer* or be conquered!

Daniel's prophecy could certainly account for Iran, Iraq and Egypt not being in the Psalm 83 alliance.

distant from Israel and the West. That happened *after* the death of Sadat and other violent terrorist acts committed against Egypt. In the past, Egyptian politics have been changed radically by Middle East assassinations and other violent acts directed by Iran. Such acts can rapidly change the minds of people. Revolutions often result. However it happens, Egypt will also become the enemy of the king of the north.

If radicals are willing to go to such extremes to influence a country like Egypt, what might they try to do in the weakened state of Iraq? How far would Iran be willing to go to secure the oil wealth of its neighbor in pursuit of its regional ambitions?

Supporting Terrorism

While President Bush considers Iran part of an "axis of evil," most nations think differently. They are trading freely with Iran, making agreements and business deals. There is a lot of talk about how moderate the Iranian people are. That is why, even though Iran has committed worse crimes than Iraq, America's policy has been much more lenient toward that country.

But what are Iran's real *fruits*? After all, Iran is a theocratic republic. That means the religious leaders hold ultimate power. Under Iranian law, the ayatollah (now Khamenei, Khomeini's successor) can override the president on any action he wishes. The 12-member clerical Guardian Council can scrap any decision of the elected parliament. Islamic leaders head the revolutionary court, the Tehran Justice Department and the special court for the clergy.

The fruits of the conservative clergy are those of condemnation of the U.S. (the "Great Satan") and Israel, stifling political control (i.e. banning liberal candidates by the hundreds from supposedly "democratic" elections), censorship (banning books and closing down errant newspapers), floggings and executions, and hugely unsuccessful domestic economic and social policy.

Iran talks as though it is in the vanguard against terrorism. The terrible irony is, Iran's definition of "terrorism" is vastly different from the U.S.'s. And not just among conservatives—even President Mohammad Khatami has said, "Supporting peoples who fight for their land is not, in my opinion, terrorism" (*National Interest*,

Spring 2000). While out of one side of its mouth Iran condemns terrorism, it continues to support terror groups in Israel, Lebanon and Syria that sabotage peace and destabilize the region!

This is documented, proven fact. The evidence is available to everyone. Iran has vast links to regional terror groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad. Iran supports terrorism without qualms—morally, ideologically and economically.

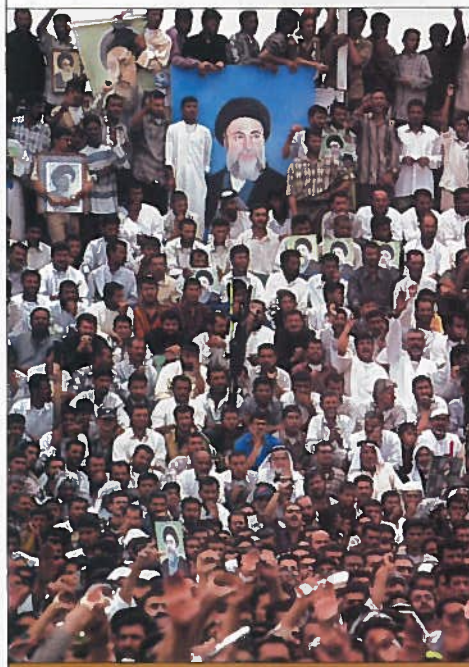
Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?

I believe the American economy will remain reasonably stable for a few years—until God's warning message is delivered. But the U.S. has over a \$6 trillion debt that is going to be a major cause of our economy collapsing very soon. We also LEAD THE WORLD in every major social disease: divorce and family breakdown, crime, drug usage and pornography.

Britain has similar problems.

So what will happen to Iraq when America and Britain can no longer support it? There is going to be a radical change in world events.

Can you imagine the power Iran would have if it gained control of Iraq, which was at one time the third-leading exporter of oil in the world? Experts say Iraq has more oil than any country in the world except Saudi Arabia.



SPIRITUAL LEADER Iraqi Shiites hold pictures of al-Hakim as he speaks in Basra after his return from exile in May.

I have believed for years that Iran will lead the king of the south and clash with the European Union, the king of the north. Iran is far ahead of any other Mideast country, apart from Israel, in developing nuclear warheads and bombs. They are a very aggressive force that will be stopped only by a superior force!

Saddam Hussein was the only leader that Iran feared. Now the U.S. has taken him out of the way. But does America have the will or strength to guard the spoils of war? Prophecy states that it does not.

Have we now cleared the way for Shiite Iran to rule over Shiite Iraq?

It was the U.S. that overpowered Serbian leader Milosevic. He was the only leader in Europe that Germany feared.

The staggering paradox may be that U.S. power cleared the way for both the king of the north (the European Union) and the king of the south—and ultimately paved the way for our own destruction, if we don't repent.

The *New York Times* of May 1 wrote, "In recent weeks, there has been a steady trickle of intelligence reports about efforts by Iran to influence and shape events inside Iraq.

"Iran, in the view of American analysts, does not welcome a strong American role in Iraq, which would extend American political and military influence in the region.

"Under this assessment, Iran is not looking to confront American forces but to influence events so that the United States fails in its effort to shape Iraq and decides to leave."

Of course Iran isn't foolish enough to confront the U.S. directly at this point. After the Iraq campaign, America seems very strong.

But certain aspects of the Iraq campaign that actually show American weakness. And though the current U.S. administration is vowing not to allow an Iranian-style theocracy to gain hold in Iraq, there are also signs in the way it is rebuilding the country that show a fundamental lack of political will to see this pledge through. Perhaps it will not be during the term of the current president, but the Bible shows that America will fail to contain Iran the way it hopes to.

Already, it is clear that Iran is eyeing the situation for opportunities. It

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OCCUPYING FORCE? U.S. Marines watch Iraqi civilians looting in Baghdad.

OUT OF CHAOS, OPPORTUNITY

Defeating Iraq was one thing, rebuilding it is another. America is stretched thin, and "old Europe" knows it.

BY RON FRASER

TO THE AVERAGE AMERICAN, THE military campaign initiated by the U.S. and British-led alliance, with strong support from Australia and numerous other countries, was a resounding success. Their collective desire is now to see quick and effective regime change carried out in Iraq under supervision of the "alliance of the willing" and to welcome their boys back home.

In the average American's mind, the whole world thus owes a debt to the American global policeman for liberating another nation from tyranny and offering them the freedoms of self-government and democracy. The reality check will come later when, as in Afghanistan, the huge task, let alone the massive cost, of nation building and peace enforcement becomes apparent.

On the other hand, the average citizen of the world outside of the United States, it seems, has a different view of the fallout from the U.S.-led victory in Iraq. Think-tank Stratfor recently summed up global reaction to the U.S. victory in Iraq thus: "Everyone is impressed, everyone is worried, no one wants to be the next Iraq and *no one wants to see the United States get any stronger*" (May 7; emphasis mine throughout).

After the U.S. victory in Iraq, no nation of consequence wishes to be

drawn into a permanent subordinate position to America. Hence, as Stratfor concludes, for the U.S., "diplomacy will become more difficult after Iraq" (ibid.). The fact is, the future of Iraq is not at the center of discussions around the table when foreign policy gurus meet. While lustful eyes continue to be cast by Europe's leaders toward Iraq's oil fields, what is most important in the minds of world leaders outside America is the stance that should adopt in relation to the U.S.!

"Throughout history, the blast furnace of war has repeatedly reformed the international structures and major alliances governing world affairs. And it is happening again. The U.S.-led war against international terrorism, and Washington's campaign against Iraq, are already recasting international institutions and the strategic relationships that undergird them. This shift is evident in the number of pillars of the old world order that are shaking and even in danger of toppling" (*National Journal*, March 7).

Consider the most profound of these changes: the fissure that has rent the Atlantic alliance asunder.

Atlantic Alliance Crumbles

"A NATO alliance that unanimously, and for the first time in its history, invoked its founding principle of collective defense on behalf of the United States following the September 11 ter-

rorist attacks convulsed into near-paralysis when Belgium, France and Germany for a time denied Turkey's request for assistance in the event of an Iraqi attack" (ibid.).

The result has been a tension of historic proportions, in post-World War II terms, on the one hand between the U.S. and "old Europe," and, on the other, between the Franco-German alliance within the EU and the rest of its member nations—especially the aspiring EU member nations of Eastern Europe.

Even before the Iraq campaign, the more incisive observers of the Atlantic alliance were aware that Germany and France wished to ditch their post-World War II relationship with the U.S.

"A European Union determined to develop a common security policy, and to speak with one voice on foreign affairs, devolved into a tower of Babel over whether to side with the United States against Iraq. This acrimonious debate pitted the 'new Europe' of Eastern European states, joined by Britain, Spain and Italy, against the 'old Europe' engine of European integration represented by France and Germany" (ibid.).

Author Charles Kupchan, a professor of International Relations at Georgetown University, was quoted by the *National Journal* as he zeroed in on the massive international spin campaign (to which the French and Germans acquiesce only too willingly) that is shaping world opinion powerfully against America: "More broadly, what we're witnessing may also prove an incremental change in the global perception of the United States. People who once saw American power as a benign force may be starting to see us as predatory. ... Such a loss of international legitimacy for the global superpower would change the world" (ibid.).

Franco-German Deceit

The unity of power of English-speaking nations under U.S. leadership has enraged the French and Germans in particular, those the U.S. defense secretary called "old Europe."

But this Franco-German U.S. lobby was built largely on a deceit.

"For old Europe ... arguments gave rise to suspicion that there was a hidden agenda. European public opinion endorsed the idea that the war was [for the U.S.] about oil, a claim that fed into the good old anti-imperialist re-

flex from Cairo to Paris. That oil argument was of course wrong" (*International Herald Tribune*, May 14). It was wrong in relation to America's motives. For in reality, it is their precious source of Middle Eastern oil that Europe has its jealous eyes on!

However, the wrongness of the argument did not change "old Europe's" opinion. To the contrary. The mud stuck to America's already tarnished image, especially in Western Europe.

Such adverse opinion against the U.S. belies reality. For the Germans, in particular, a historically warlike people, to accuse the president of the Americans (themselves historically among the most freedom-loving, magnanimous and peaceful of people) of being more dangerous than Saddam Hussein, is beyond being laughable. But there is a deep frustration at the core of this Franco-German spin against the English-speaking people fueling this great deceit.

The American-led victory made some question the effectiveness of the Franco-German alliance. "The sound we can hear from Paris and Berlin is not the march of ever-closer union, but the rage of ever-closer impotence" (*Spectator*, March 15).



COUNTERBALANCE France, Russia and Germany were united in their opposition to U.S. action.

It is this perception of *impotence* that is arousing within "old Europe" a dangerous spirit—a spirit destined to turn the Franco-German led European Union significantly against the U.S. and Britain, destined to stir the resurrection of an old crusading imperial power—the Holy Roman Empire! "Old Europe" will remain "impotent" only until it bestirs its flagging economy by tooling up to replace the U.S. power that has protected its security for the past half century and more.

It is this spirit of "old Europe"—the Europe of the ancient Holy Roman Empire—that stirs even now within the corridors of power in France and

Germany. As the above-mentioned *Spectator* article goes on to say, leaders within these countries privately confess their determination to seize Anglo-American leadership in world affairs. To this end they are taking it upon themselves to provide the driving force behind a huge, federating European Union. Not just to *contest* the U.S. for what they see as its world hegemony. They are determined to *wrest* world leadership from them!

The German Demon

The Iraq war has, for Germany, been a watershed in its foreign policy. Jeffrey Gedmin, previously a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington D.C., watches the Atlantic rift widen from the perspective of his Berlin-based Aspen Institute overseeing transatlantic affairs. He sees the danger of a more aggressive German foreign policy directed at weakening, if not completely severing, the post-war alliance with America.

Gedmin "says that Germany needs to be careful not to try to create a strong Europe with the sole aim of creating a counterbalance to the United States. 'It will become a problem if the

foreign policy program of Germany is to play the old French Gaullist card, trying to define itself and Europe in opposition to the United States,' Gedmin warned" (*Deutsche Welle*, April 17).

Having worked on both sides of the Atlantic, Gedmin appreciates the deep differences that exist between the political culture and values of the American and German societies. It is so deep as to produce a mutual incomprehension of each. The U.S., by its isolationist nature, is a *reluctant* world power, particularly when it comes to aggressive military intervention in the affairs of another nation. Historically, that is *not* the case with Germany.

"Americans have always hated joining in other people's conflicts. Only unrestricted submarine attacks off their West Coast brought them into the First World War, and only a direct attack on American soil in Pearl Harbor brought them into the second Once roused, however, they have responded with a mixture of determination, loyalty and generosity that no other nation has ever matched" (*Spectator*, op. cit.).

This contrasts greatly with the basic nature of the German people as expressed by German academic and author, the late W.G. Sebald. In an essay titled "A Natural History of Destruction," Sebald stated, "The majority of Germans today know—or so, at least, it is to be hoped—that we actually provoked the annihilation of the cities in which we once lived. ... Albert Speer describes Hitler at a dinner in the Reich Chancellery in 1940 imagining the total destruction of the capital of the British Empire '[W]e can destroy London completely. What will their firemen be able to do once it's really burning!' This intoxicating vision of destruction coincides with the fact that the real pioneering achievements in bomb warfare—Guernica, Warsaw, Belgrade, Rotterdam—were the work of the Germans" (*New Yorker*, Nov. 4, 2002).

World Rule

Thus it is with deep concern that we should read the blatant claims for *world rule* by a foremost German political analyst. "One of the most influential political experts in Berlin believes that the opportunity has arrived to dispute 'world hegemony' with the U.S. He demands that the EU (which he sees as 'a world power in the making') should make use of this chance" (www.german-foreign-policy.com, March 10).

This German foreign policy news service was referring to claims made by Werner Weidenfeld in his article in German newspaper *Die Welt* on March 8. Weidenfeld is director of the Center for Applied Political Research and member of the German Society for Foreign Policy. It just so happens that Weidenfeld is also a senior executive of the Bertelsman Foundation, a company involved in publishing Nazi propaganda in the 1940s.

"Weidenfeld foresees an 'epoch of disorder, risks and crises' for which no new 'forms of order' existed until now.

The U.S. had 'neither the *will* nor *potential*' for a sustained policy of world hegemony. The United Nations could order nothing above its usual strength and capability. Since the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, NATO had lost its function and was displaying 'elements of absurdity' (ibid.).

That's a blunt but precise and realistic assessment of the world situation in its Northern and Western hemispheres.

But what is of real concern is the *solution* to this geopolitical quagmire posited by Weidenfeld. He maintains that this presents an ideal scenario for the German-led European Union to become the *leading* world power!

Weidenfeld's *Die Welt* article stated, "The population of the EU will increase from today's 371 million to 539 million—almost twice as many as the U.S. Its area is ... rather more than half that of the U.S. The gross domestic product is about 15 percent higher than the U.S. This potential could secure the status of a world power—around 35 percent of world production (U.S. 27 percent) and 30 percent of world trade (U.S. 18 percent) lies in European hands. This potential carries outstanding weight." The EU, he asserts, is a "world power in the making" (ibid.).

Here Weidenfeld demonstrates that the EU does have one of the essentials to rule the world, which the U.S. also has—the *potential*. Then, contrasting the EU with the U.S., Weidenfeld asks whether the EU can provide that other essential ingredient, which the U.S. lacks, to sustain itself as a world superpower—the *political will*.

"Weidenfeld believes that what the EU lacks to become the leading world power is essentially the *will* to power. He sees this deficit as 'the lack of effective concentration of political energy and the failure to think in world-political categories. ... The *key question* is this: *Can Europe translate this potential into world-political creative power?*'" (ibid.).

Foreseeing this desire for world power in the nature of the German people, Winston Churchill once said "there will *always* be a German problem."

Weidenfeld identified the catalyst that shall stimulate the political will within Europe's most powerful and influential nation. It is simply the rising prevalence of *disorder* impacting German society. When Germans perceive

· continued on p. 28

BEHIND THE "PEACE" MOVEMENT

BEFORE THE WAR ON IRAQ BEGAN, demonstrations around the world amassed between 6 and 11 million people in 600 cities, from Canberra, Australia, to Reykjavik, Iceland. Even in London, 1.5 million turned out to contest British Prime Minister Tony Blair's pro-American Iraq policy. In the United States too, major protests were held across the country, even in New York City, where one would expect support for the war on terrorism to be higher than anywhere.

What motivated these groups to oppose this war? Was it truly a desire for peace?

Most protesters outside the U.S. were not protesting war *per se*, but *American-led war*. Many countries are doing all they can to limit American supremacy.

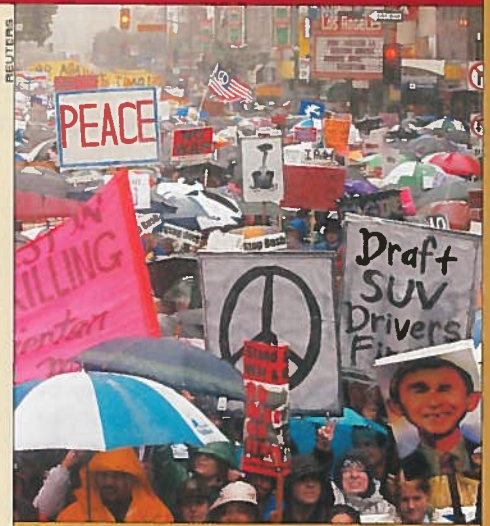
Yet, what about the protests inside the U.S. and allied countries? Many opposed the war for political reasons—simply because President Bush supported it. Others will oppose any war for moral or religious reasons.

But there are also those you may not have considered: People who opposed the war in an effort to bring down the U.S. as a capitalist nation, and those in direct support of Saddam Hussein.

According to *Insight on the News*, "[T]he track record of the [anti-war demonstration] leaders reveals not a principled opposition to war but a calculated commitment to undermining U.S. security and foreign policy ..." (March 17). The Victorian Peace Network, for example, which organized protests in Melbourne, Australia, has a website containing dozens of articles vilifying America.

Moreover, at the heart of the international peace movement—the sponsors and organizers of the mass protests—are groups led by the same people who have defended dictators around the world.

According to the *Indiana Observer*, the Communist Workers World Party (wWP) organized and sponsored major anti-war demonstrations in Washington D.C. and San Francisco. The wWP was formed to back the invasion of Hungary by the Soviet Union and has supported tyrannies ever since. This party praises North Korea as the coun-



AGENDA Thousands march in Los Angeles to protest possible U.S.-led war on Iraq.

try builds its nuclear arsenal, defends the Chinese slaughter at Tiananmen Square and supports Castro (*Herald Sun*, April 3).

Some anti-war groups, including the international ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), which is controlled by the wWP, will not divulge the source of their funding.

Another popular antiwar group is Not in Our Name, which *Fox News* says is financed by the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization. The IFCO "supports Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and once sponsored a group headed by Sami Al-Arian—the University of South Florida professor being charged with fundraising for terrorist organizations Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad" (March 18).

Why would Communists have been against the Iraq war? Ideologically speaking, some opposed the war because they support political and social upheaval. But even more shockingly, some actually supported Saddam Hussein's rulership simply because Iraq was an entirely government-run state, and therefore, to their minds, socialist.

Whether intentional or not, the masses of protesters were backing, largely, organizations that would like nothing better than to destroy Anglo-American democracy. They protested not because they sought peace, but to advance their own agenda.

MARK JENKINS

THE POLISH CONNECTION

Behind the news on Iraq: Thanks to Poland's imminent entry into the European Union, the EU will gain a presence but a step from its coveted icon—Jerusalem!

BY RON FRASER

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT? Poland, the biggest state in Europe in the 17th century, yet almost wiped off the map by the 18th century. Poland, in the midst of the tug of war between Russia to the east and Prussia to the west, enslaved by Nazi Germany, "liberated" by Russia from Nazidom, only to be plunged into the abyss of tyranny under the bootheel of Russian Soviet communism. Poland, its GDP in 1950 equal to that of Spain, now, thanks to the legacy of half a century of communism, two and a quarter times smaller.

Who would have thought that *this* Poland would suddenly rise to center stage in the great political struggle of the emerging new world order in the 21st century?

Following the Iraq campaign, the latest event to deepen the fracture in the Atlantic alliance, Poland has hit the headlines. "Poland Upstages European Powers," declared the *International Herald Tribune* on May 14. The article led, "For Poland, these have been heady times. Not since the country liberated itself from Soviet control has it assumed so visible a role on the world stage, or one so defiant of the wishes of its most powerful future partners in the European Union, which Poland is scheduled to join next year."

Poland? But then again, why not? To the most astute students of world events viewed in the light of biblical prophecy, this has not really come as a surprise. Just connect the dots.

The Polish Pope

Since he gained the papal throne in 1978 as Pope John Paul II, Polish priest Karol Wojtyla has labored tirelessly to use his largely Catholicized home country as a major pawn in the great Eurogame. His aggressive papal diplomacy connected his Jesuit intelligence system

with the CIA and the Communist resistance movement in

Poland to create the scenario that split the Soviet Union apart. The pope's and President Reagan's foreign-policy aspirations coalesced, and their combined treasury and intelligence systems lit the Polish fuse that sparked the Soviet implosion. The rest, as they say, is history.

But Poland has suffered a reality check since the pull-back of Soviet tyranny from its soil. No sooner had the Reds departed than the old Prussian thorn in Poland's flesh began to penetrate its borders once again.

Taking advantage of the depleted Polish economy, German investors plowed welcome funds into Polish infrastructure to the point where the Poles suddenly realized that their old antagonists to the west were gobbling up huge tracts of Polish real estate (read the November 1999 *Trumpet* article "Poland: Sold to Germany" under Issue Archives at www.theTrumpet.com). But the Poles, aspiring members of the European Union, were in a Catch-22. Their economy drastically needed capital investment, and the Germans were the most willing to give it. Would the price be too much for Poland to bear? Poles began to fear that they had escaped one great totalitarian power only to find themselves being dragged into another—a federalized European Union.

The U.S. Hook

Then, right at the very moment that the Poles were feeling most uncomfortable with the encroachment of their Teutonic "EU" neighbors, along came the war in Iraq. With the Franco-Germans opposed to that campaign, Poland seized the moment to assert its sovereignty: It threw its hat into the ring with the U.S.-led "coalition of the willing" and promptly dispatched troops to support the allied effort against Saddam Hussein. It was but a small token, compared



CIRCLING Germany has a presence in the Balkans and Afghanistan. Through Poland, Iraq could be next, bringing it closer to Jerusalem.

to the U.S. and British contribution, a mere 200 special forces troops. Yet they fared well, securing the Iraqi oil fields in the far south with zero casualties.

U.S. diplomacy then came into play. Seizing the moment to play off "new Europe" against "old Europe," the U.S.-led team designated one of the four operational sectors of occupied Iraq to Polish jurisdiction. The Poles then committed to sending up to 2,000 more troops to assist in this effort.

The French and Germans were irate! Had they only been willing to support President Bush in the Iraq campaign, *they* would have been in the prime position within Iraq—not the Poles!

Franco-German Reaction

The first to mock the Poles in their role as "America's greatest friend in new Europe" were, you guessed it, the Germans. "The German media has gushed with mockery, jeers and cynicism about its Polish neighbor The occasion was last week's news that the U.S. wanted to entrust Poland with one of the three occupied zones in Iraq" (*Deutsche Welle*, May 9).

But there's more to this than meets the eye. With the EU's leading duo, France and Germany, so unwelcome in Washington, Poland is now able to play advocate for each in any efforts to patch up differences across the Atlantic.

Beyond that: Not only does the EU find itself playing a key role in Afghanistan, on Iran's eastern border, but if it plays its cards right, with Poland up for EU membership next year, it will still find itself in a box seat in Iraq. In addition to being strategically placed on Iran's western flank, it will also be barely 200 miles from the plum for which it has crusaded since the time of Charlemagne—Jerusalem!

Here's how it works.

The peacekeeping force in Afghanistan is under German leadership. Germany is the EU's leading nation. Recent history shows that when the German-led EU forces move into a region, they do not leave—witness the Balkan Peninsula. The Germans, with the support of the Vatican, created the confusion in 1991 that led to the Balkan wars. U.S.-led forces fought the resultant Balkan wars of the 1990s, only to hand the fruits over to a German-led EU.

Russia failed in Afghanistan. U.S.-led military forces did a better job of routing the Taliban, and then installed a new regime. The German-led EU is now leading the military effort to secure stability in Afghanistan. They will not leave. *Afghanistan presents an ideal bridgehead to the EU from which to stem the incursion of the Islamic hordes into Europe.* The U.S. won the campaign. The EU will enforce the peace!

Will we see a similar situation play out in Iraq, with Poland already having its foot in the door? And, further, because Iran is after the same territory, might this point of contention be part of the spark that ignites the conflict prophesied in Daniel 11:40?

American Drawdown

The U.S.-led alliance invaded Iraq and took Baghdad in record time. But the U.S. needs relief—particularly as it is now forced to look to its Pacific flank with rumblings in North Korea becoming worrisome, and even more so those in Pakistan. Meanwhile, the prospect of a future nuclear-armed Iran looms large on the horizon. Two of the antagonists in the war on terrorism, Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein, remain on the loose. And then there's al-Qaeda. This all must be seen in the light of the effect on American society of the continuance of a war against an elusive enemy, the arch-terrorist, on ill-defined fronts. The location of the next strike is entirely unpredictable. Thus, warning bells are sounding for the U.S. administration.

"The United States is exhausted by the Iraq campaign at all levels. ... U.S. troops are exhausted. The military reserve system has been stretched to the limits. It needs radical surgery if it is to sustain the United States through the rest of the war" (*www.stratfor.com*, March 19).

It would not be surprising to see the U.S., stretched thin as it is in the effort

to forestall and preempt terror attacks on so many fronts, increase the pace of the drawdown of its military forces in Western Europe. "With the Iraq war over, the Pentagon is again focusing on Defense Secretary [Donald] Rumsfeld's favorite topic: reforming the U.S. military. Germany, home to the biggest U.S. bases in Europe, could be hard hit" (*Deutsche Welle*, May 13).

But the EU is not yet ready to lose the guarantee of security that the U.S. has so willingly and selflessly provided it for the past 58 years. It needs time to absorb its 13 candidate nations into full EU membership, time to consolidate its military security and policing structure. Thus, some degree of reconciliation with the U.S. by the EU's leading lights, France and Germany, is necessary. In a speedy about-face (shortly after their jeering taunts at Poland's status), France and Germany agreed to NATO support of a Polish-led peacekeeping force in Iraq.

Enter Poland as the ideal mediator. What is the main strength of this Polish nation, still struggling to cast off the economic slough of decades of Communist rule over its economy? The Polish pope!

Polish Popish Diplomacy

Was it mere coincidence that, within just one week of the jeering German reaction to the Poles being granted jurisdiction over the southern Iraq sector, Pope John Paul II announced his intention to canonize two Poles—Josef Sebastian Pelczar and Urszula Ledochowska? Or was this a publicity stunt timed by the Vatican as an endorsement of the Poles' newfound role in diplomacy across the Atlantic divide?

The Vatican thinks long term. For almost 2,000 years they have sought to possess the prize of Jerusalem. The French and German leadership may have dropped the ball on this one—but this Polish pope won't! Just connect the dots: the Balkans, Afghanistan, Iraq. With the handing of responsibility for peace enforcement to elements of the Catholicized EU in each of these theaters, the EU's presence has moved *south* and *east*. That directly aligns with a prophecy for these times in your Bible.

Bible prophecy indicates that a leader will come upon the world scene intent on moving strategically *south*, *east* and into *Jerusalem*. "And out of one of them came forth a little horn,

which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land" (Dan. 8:9).

That "little horn" represents the biblical king of the north of Daniel 11. That king will be a final revival of the ancient Holy Roman Empire—an entity rising before our eyes in Europe today! Track the progress of the EU's strategic moves. The Balkan nations, Malta and Cyprus, all prime contenders for EU membership, will extend the strategic territory of the EU *south* and *east*. Further east they have a presence in Afghanistan. Soon they will have a legitimate toehold on Iraq, barely 200 miles from Jerusalem—within the "pleasant land"!

A Multinational Force—Prophesied!

"Five European countries—Italy, Spain, Denmark, Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Ukraine—have all agreed to provide troops to help the United States, Britain and Poland police post-war Iraq" (*www.EUobserver.com*, May 5). These are either existing members of the EU or they are aspirants to membership in the very near future.

To whom must these nations, within the scope of the newly drafted EU constitution, yield their military command and control? The draft constitution for the uniting Europe mandates that each country yield control of its military forces to a *central command*. Most influential in the direction of that central command will be the old, revived, *German General Staff*!

See the danger looming in the Middle East! Your Bible warns of the gravest of dangers, encouraging flight to a place of safety when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies (Luke 21:20-21).

A multinational force, significantly comprising nations associated with the EU, in reality a final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, will soon be on the ground in Iraq. Poland, powerfully influenced by the Polish Pope John Paul II, controls one of four sectors of administration in Iraq. Watch for Poland to play mediator in mending the fences between the U.S., France and Germany. Then watch for the Franco-German connection to wheedle its way into peace enforcement in Iraq, only minutes away from Jerusalem by supersonic jet.

And, as you watch, think on these things in the light of the prophecies in your Bible. Think—and pray! ♦



TALLED Officials count votes for Lithuania's referendum on joining the EU.

◆ LITHUANIA

Voting for EU entry

Just as the Catholic Church wooed the Irish to a *yes* vote on entering the European Monetary Exchange, it has now leaned on Lithuanians to ensure their vote against any continuing linkage with the Russian sphere of influence, instead opting for attachment to a uniting Europe.

The London-based *Daily Telegraph* reported, "Heeding the call of Catholic priests, Lithuanians voted overwhelmingly yesterday to turn their backs on the old Soviet sphere and join the European Union in May 2004" (May 12). The result was a whopping *90 percent-plus* response in support of EU entry.

The first Baltic nation to break away from the old Soviet Union in 1990, Lithuania had previously expressed misgivings about the prospect of losing sovereignty by joining the EU. That is a well-founded fear. In an effective demonstration of the power of old Rome, however, the Lithuanians were exhorted from the pulpits of churches across the nation the Sunday morning before they voted to support EU membership.

Such merging of political lobbying and Catholic reli-

gion is not new. It has been part of the European mix since Charlemagne. Yet once again we see a demonstration of the power of the only effective influence that has a hope of binding together the admixture of iron and miry clay that comprises the

EU mess of differing nations and cultures (Dan. 2:41).

It is the religious glue of the Catholic Church which is increasingly swinging the vote in favor of the endorsement of EU policies within that old and historically fractious entity called Europe.

◆ RUSSIA

Ally for Germany?

As history continues to be rewritten from today's events, many recurring themes continue to pop up within the pages of the present. One of these themes is the alliance between Germany and Russia. A few times during the 20th century, these two powerful countries went through the endless cycle of creating pacts—exploiting each other's strengths—and then turning on the other in betrayal. We once again see such an alliance forming between the two nations today.

The Stratfor intelligence firm said on May 14 that "Talks between former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Russian President Vladimir Putin suggest that Germany and Russia will continue to build an alliance ... no matter what

future governments take power in Berlin."

Gerhard Schröder, chancellor of Germany and leader of the Social Democrats in Germany, has continued to strengthen the alliance.

However, there was question as to what would happen if the Christian Democrats came into power in Germany. How would they treat Russia? Would they continue to build the alliance as their predecessors did? These talks suggest that they will.

The article went on to tell why this alliance is so important in the eyes of those involved. "[T]he alliance *should serve as the engine for establishing the future Europe as a major world power*" (emphasis ours).

This is the purpose of the alliance! Both Russia and Germany know that at this time, neither of them can stand by themselves and oppose the United States with any hope of success. However, together, they are much more powerful—and with France united with them and the rest of Europe behind them, they shall be the counterbalance to American hegemony. This is their immediate goal; this is where the Russo-German alliance is leading.

Yet, as in the past, we know that this alliance will only last long enough for each partner to get from the other all it needs, and then it will end in disaster—once again.



RELATIONS Russia's Putin (left) meets with the former German chancellor in May.

◆ GERMANY

Aiming to go nuclear?

We are becoming used to the future prospect of Japan possessing nuclear weapons as a counterweight to China, North Korea, India and Japan in the Far East. But Germany? Dare we trust this historically warlike nation with such a weapon? Well, given the language of the new constitution for the European Union, it is already a *fait accompli*!

It is clear within the context of the draft constitution



GONE? The German General Staff, disbanded by the Allies after WWII, has been revived.

that member nations cede the power of command and control of their armed forces, including all weaponry owned by that state, to the central control of the EU. But what is particularly worrisome in this equation is the basket of demands that the German General Staff (newly revived, notwithstanding the Allies of World War II having determined it was to cease existence in all perpetuity) is submitting in support of an EU army. One of its demands is that the central command of the future European army be given access to British and French nuclear arms.

"These demands are the object of an 11-page paper ... developed by the leadership of the German military and attributed to the highest-ranking military commandant of the Federal Armed

Forces, the inspector general. The catalogue of demands states that the European Union would have to develop independent military capabilities, 'while backed by the security of its own military-political influence,' in order to be able to act independently of the U.S." (www.german-foreign-policy.com, May 3).

But the kicker is a brazen assumption which the Germans make with absolutely no apparent eye to their history. "Since the success of important political projects often depends on 'one side taking on the initiative,' Germany should play the role of the 'pacesetter.' ... The military strategists demand that Berlin should 'visibly provide leadership' in the establishment of such a military 'European nucleus'" (ibid.).

If anyone ever doubted that the German bully has returned (see "The German Bully Returns" under Editor's Choice on www.theTrumpet.com), then the evidence is now clear for all to see!

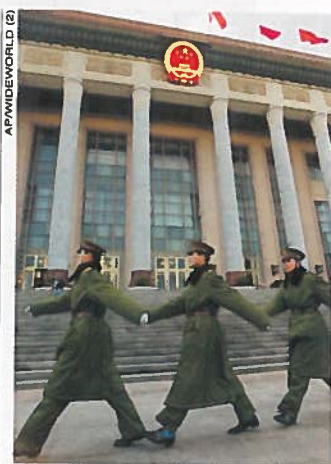
◆ ASIA

China's power play

The nuclear tendencies of North Korea have heightened tensions in the region to an intensity comparable to the Cold War. As the United States contemplates exiting the Korean Peninsula militarily, China has begun to perceive itself as the key to stability.

Sporting the largest military in the world and one of the fastest-growing economies, China has much to offer in the way of enforcing regional stability, although, in terms of seaborne firepower, Japan is far superior.

According to *Asia Times*, May 10, one of China's three



IN SHAPE Soldiers march outside the Great Hall of the People in China's capital.

major goals is "to preserve regional peace and stability to safeguard continued rapid economic development."

As the largest remaining Communist nation, ideologically China feels a moral obligation to lead the region. However, as North Korea threatens every nation in its vicinity, Japan is beginning to take matters into its own hands. It is already speaking of a preemptive strike on North Korea if the situation gets desperate enough. As Japan begins to build up its defensive and offensive military might, China fears the past. China feels a duty to create an anti-venom should the Japanese sting as they did during World War II.

The U.S. sees a potential Chinese-dominated East Asia. After all, it is the Chinese economy that is largely keeping the Asian financial market afloat. *Asia Times* quoted one Asian diplomat: "We aren't hearing a lot being said publicly, but I have no doubt the Bush administration views China as the *greatest long-term danger* to its economic and strategic interests, certainly within Asia and maybe even from the global perspective" (May 15; emphasis ours throughout). According to the Bush administration's U.S.-China Security Review

Commission, China is "in *direct competition* with us [the U.S.] for influence in Asia and beyond" (ibid., May 9).

As China continues to shove its weight around in Asia, the U.S. is finding itself "booed" out of the region by Japan and South Korea. Should Washington leave the Korean fiasco to the control of the nations of that region, the inevitable result would be direct competition between China and Japan to dominate the region.

◆ KOREA

U.S. rethinks troops

The United States is considering a major restructuring of its forces on the Korean peninsula. On April 8 and 9, U.S. and South Korean officials held their first in a series of talks over the possible move.

Both sides have agreed to move the U.S.'s Yongsan base out of downtown Seoul—a city becoming more heavily urbanized, creating obvious tactical disadvantages for the troops—and moving the base southward within the country.

But this move away from the most heavily guarded border in the world comes at an unusual time—when the North has been boasting of its nuclear weapons program.

What's more, if the world's only superpower decreases its military presence in Asia, the balance of power will inevitably be affected.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, the necessity of U.S. troops on the Korean Peninsula has been debated—especially as relations improve between North and South

Korea. The U.S. still sees advantages to having some troops in Korea. Their presence, from Washington's perspective, provides a deterrent for China and, more so, for an increasingly dangerous North.

However, since last summer, in the streets of Seoul, many emotionally charged public protests have demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

South Korea has made more headway on its own in dealing with its northern brethren than has the U.S. In fact, many Koreans see the U.S. presence as hindering improvement in North-South relations.

This is undoubtedly leading to a reduced military presence on the peninsula and will ultimately redefine the geopolitical landscape of East Asia—a structure that, since World War II, had the U.S., Japan and South Korea forming one alliance, and China, Russia and North Korea forming another.

The power void left in Asia would encourage Taiwan and Japan to further increase their military capabilities in the region. The U.S. and Japan are already considering the prospect of the drawdown of American troops on Okinawa. Any reduction of the U.S. presence in the Sea of Japan would open the door for Russia to spread its wings in that region. The prospect of a China-Russia-Japan alliance thus looms on the horizon.



ABOUT FACE The U.S. is considering moving troops from its base in Seoul.

THE IRAQ CAMPAIGN AND AMERICAN HYPOCRISY

BY CARL HILLIKER

REMOVING SADDAM HUSSEIN FROM power was the right thing to do. Anyone with decency and respect for other human beings ought to support such action.

The problem is, the United States and Britain, though perhaps reflecting the best of human motivations, from a godly perspective went about this task the wrong way. As a result, these nations are bringing even greater condemnation upon themselves—a curse from God Himself.

God's Point of View

Since September 11, 2001, President Bush has led the charge against terrorists at home and abroad, and rightfully so. Past political mistakes of the United States and a general disregard of the resultant dangers has led to the establishment of enemy cells of terror around the world. America now has many enemies and needs to protect itself.

Saddam Hussein was a ruthless tyrant for decades, committing many atrocities against his fellowman from the moment he assumed power. God condemns such evil.

Why then would forcefully removing him from power bring our own hypocrisy into focus before God? To answer that question, we must look at these events from God's point of view.

The true cause to every problem or evil is explained in the Bible. The way to peace and harmony among individuals or nations is also explained. The true source of all knowledge, understanding and wisdom is the God of Abraham, Moses and David. This same God still holds the power to either bless man beyond his expectations or to bring horrible curses, condemnation and destruction upon him. Wouldn't it make sense for individuals and nations to seek God's will before taking such drastic action as international war?

Beware of Hypocrisy

When Jesus Christ walked this Earth, He explained how God wanted people

to live. One thing He spoke very strongly against was hypocrisy. Notice how Christ defined this sin: "Ye hypocrites, well did [Isaiah] prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:7-9).

Certainly, Saddam Hussein is a hypocrite. He claimed to have complied with United Nations resolutions, but his heart was far from the desires of the international community.

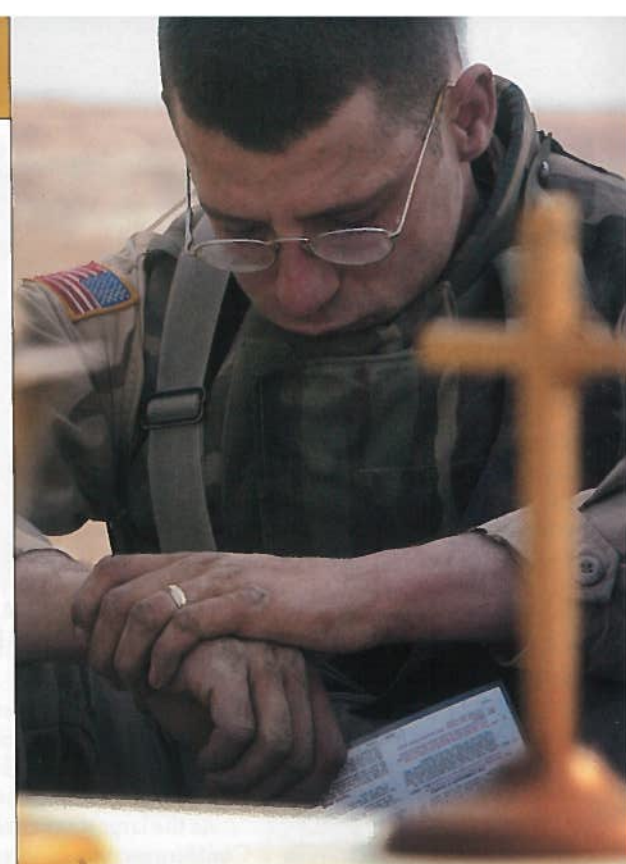
Jeremiah 17:9-10 explains God's perspective on human nature: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

The problem is, this scripture applies to everyone, not just to our enemies! We need to ask ourselves, when God searches the hearts of the people in the nations that are fighting against Saddam, what does He see?

We didn't win this campaign in Iraq because of our righteousness.

Whether that was his primary motive or not, Osama bin Laden justified the attack on the Twin Towers of New York City by pointing to the immorality prevalent in Western civilization—an immorality we are spreading throughout the world. The plain truth is, God sees the same immorality, the same sins, in our people that bin Laden saw. Yet any suggestion that America needed to REPENT of personal and national sins was met with overwhelming criticism from the majority of tv and talk-radio personalities, as well as most government officials.

These sins and many others are the



ARDOR A marine prays during quiet moments of the Iraq war.

reasons why God did not protect our nation from that terrorist attack. This is not a popular message, but believe it or not, the United States is a hypocritical nation (Isa. 10:6), and it really did reap a "fruit of its doings." Unless we repent, greater heartache lies ahead!

Look carefully at what Jesus taught: "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? ... Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matt. 7:3-5).

Because Saddam is so evil, the U.S. led the coalition forces to remove the "mote" from his eye. Truly, such action would be perfectly justified—except for one very serious problem. By failing to remove the "beam" from our own eye first, we show ourselves to be a hypocritical nation, and the whole world knows it! More importantly, God knows it!

We clearly see Saddam's sins, for they are many. The problem is, we have failed to see our own individual and national sins! We have such an urgent need to repent, yet we act very righteous as we proclaim freedom and democracy as the solution to all man's problems. Yet freedom and democracy have clearly not solved the problems that are extant in our own nation!

We Are Being Judged

Jesus Christ also gave this very serious warning: "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (vv. 1-2).

Herein lies the problem. What Saddam Hussein has been doing to the UN, the U.S. and Britain have been doing to God! How long have these nations refused to heed the warnings from God's ambassadors of curses and great tribulation to come unless they destroy their own weapons of mass *spiritual* destruction?

Time is running out. God will soon take military action at a time of His choosing. God is promising a regime change to all nations that fail to heed this last warning, this final call to repentance.

God is mercifully giving us time to see our sins and repent. The battle with Iraq can teach us all a valuable lesson. The judgment our coalition nations brought against Saddam is the same type of judgment God will soon bring against us, primarily the U.S., Britain and its dominions, and Israel, if we do not repent. Those who continue to resist God will eventually die without mercy, just as the soldiers of Iraq who continued to fight died without mercy.

From God's point of view, the United States is even more guilty than Saddam! Iraq does not profess to know the God revealed in the Holy Bible. The English-speaking nations, in particular the United States and Britain, claim to be God-fearing nations, but in reality they teach their own ideas ("the traditions of men") about God and His laws.

As the Pledge of Allegiance says, the United States was established to be one nation "under God." The British people sing their anthem "God Save the Queen." But rather than setting the right example for other nations of how to live under God, we have brought shame upon God's name, which we have taken in vain. Our national and individual sins will eventually bring great wrath against us, not only from other nations, but from God Himself.

A Quick Look at Our National Sins

The First Commandment says, "You shall have no other gods before me." In this day of political correctness, God

has been reduced to a mysterious mythical creature that seems to approve of everything man decides to think about Him or do in His name. Everyone seems to agree that He is a God of love, one that only knows how to show mercy to all mankind. It seems no one sees that God's supreme love also involves righteous judgment and wrath!

Where did people get this false concept of God? Definitely not from His Word, which clearly states: "... I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity [sins] of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me" (Exod. 20:5). God clearly promises to punish people for their sins, unless they repent. God goes on to explain that He shows mercy to those who "love me, and keep my commandments" (v. 6). Read Exodus 20:7-17 as God then enumerates eight more commandments: not taking God's name in vain, keeping the Sabbath Day holy, honoring our parents, not killing (or even hating one another—Matt. 5:21-22), and avoiding the sins of adultery, stealing, lying and coveting what others have. All these sins are commonplace among the Anglo-American peoples and beyond!

Shortly before the Iraq campaign began, it was reported that in Kurdish communities small crowds throng to Internet cafes to surf the Web. The majority of these people scrape together their meager funds to see pornography, and to visit sexually related chat-rooms originating from the U.S. and other Western nations. That seems to be one of the greatest influences our culture has had on even the most remote areas of the world. Is that the type of perverse "freedom" we are fighting to uphold? That is a national disgrace! Even international terrorists recognize that fact. Do we really think God will overlook such sins?

After 9/11, an effort to remove "under God" from the American Pledge of Allegiance became national

Our nation ought not be known primarily for its corporate greed and distribution of pornography and raunchy movies. In fact, not even should the spreading of freedom and democracy be our primary goal!

news. Public outcry stemmed that movement briefly, but the court battle continues. In addition, efforts to remove the Ten Commandments from public buildings continue.

Today, half the U.S. population regularly attends a religious service of some kind—a relatively high figure for a Western nation. The current U.S. president has been more vocal about his trust and faith in God than any of his modern predecessors. Yet, despite our Christianity, the American lifestyle is—by its own "Christian" standard—dangerously base and immoral. Violent crime, pornography and drug abuse destroy the moral bedrock upon which the country was built. And though Bible sales rose after 9/11, so did porn sales.

By our actions, we are proving more and more to be a nation that is NOT "under God."

Blessings or Curses?

Our nation ought not be known primarily for its corporate greed and distribution of pornography and raunchy movies. In fact, not even should the spreading of freedom and democracy be our primary goal! No, that is the road that will reap more curses against our nation. Read Deuteronomy 28:15-68 if you want to know what lies in store for people who continue to reject God and refuse to repent when their sins are revealed to them.

Our apparent success in Afghanistan and Iraq may make us more and more arrogant about our superior arms and weapons, but we fail to realize that we don't have God's support. Our leaders refuse to face even the simplest and most basic truths that God has revealed to man. As a result, even our victories will continue to turn into defeats. One battle simply leads to another and another. Soon our resources will be depleted. Political and moral divisions will sap our will to fight.

The Bible says that a "house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matt. 12:25). We will never achieve peace our way. To have true peace, we must learn to do it *God's way!*

Read also Deuteronomy 28:1-14. Discover the blessings that come to those who serve the one true God according to His desires. If we were a nation living by God's standard, we would not have a "beam" in our own eye interfering with our vision and judgment. If

we obeyed God rather than following our own traditions, men like Saddam Hussein would never become threats to us. When tyrants did begin to rise to power, we would know how to deal with them in a way that would be pleasing to God. We would make decisions that would lead to peace. God would fight our battles for us, and war as we know it would be averted.

Is our nation really fighting to preserve what is right and true in God's eyes, or are we fighting to uphold our own traditions?

Before going into battle, our troops greeted the prayers of a chaplain with rousing cheers of approval and thanksgiving. But about now that victory is achieved? Once they return home to their families and jobs, will they pray every day? Will they search the Scriptures for the answers to life's problems? Will they obey what the Bible says, or will they continue to live according to the "traditions of men"? Will they make America strong through their personal example by living a godly life on a daily basis? Isn't such "foxhole religion" just another proof of our hypocrisy?

A Call to Repentance

In March, the House of Representatives with an overwhelming vote of 346-49 passed a resolution calling for a national day of "humility, prayer and fasting." This resolution said Americans should use this day "to seek guidance from God to achieve a greater understanding of our own failings and to learn how we can do better in our everyday activities, and to gain resolve in meeting the challenges that confront our nation." This resolution did not make the headlines. It did not make the lead story on the nightly news. The president of the United States did not sign it into law, and very few Americans even knew about it.

Lip service! That is all this is. If our leadership and people were really sincere, if we were truly humble before God, we would begin to change our ways! The truth is, our people are hypocrites—by nature just as stiffnecked as Saddam! We may not be as openly evil, but we are certainly not yet willing to

rid ourselves of our weapons of mass spiritual destruction!

There are many in America who over-zealously interpret the First Amendment ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion ...") to strictly keep God out of government at all costs. Many think a national day of fasting and prayer is a clear violation of the "separation of church and state"—when, in fact, America was *founded* on biblical, Christian virtues, and has called for such days of humility twice before (in 1776 and 1863).

We must decide if we are going to be a nation "under God" or not. If we are, then we had better turn to God with our whole heart before it is too late!

Individually, we all face the same challenge. Ask yourself, *Am I going to live my life 'under God'?* If the answer is *yes*, then there must be some drastic changes made. Individually, we don't have to wait for our national leaders to proclaim a day of fasting and humiliation. We can do that anytime. But we must realize that true repentance is not done with the lips only. It is done through a change of heart that shows up in our actions. We must begin to live by every word of God (Prov. 30:5). That takes daily study and prayer. It takes meditation and fasting. It takes proper instruction from those who really know the truth of the Holy Bible.

We must not have the stiffnecked, fearful attitude that would cause us to reject these truths. We must have the humble, contrite attitude of a child seeking knowledge and acceptance from a loving parent. Then God will fight our battles for us.

Will we surrender to God and change our ways, or will we fight to the death to preserve a way of life that is badly flawed and on its way out? (Deut. 30:19-20). God will be forced to punish us severely if we don't wake up. The warning message is still going out, but soon we will have received the last resolution, the final warning, that God plans to give us. We can learn from Saddam's mistake. ♦

Request your free copy of our booklets **No Freedom Without Law** and **Repentance Toward God** for more.



WEAKNESS IN VICTORY

America seems unprecedentedly strong.

Is it possible that the nation is actually under a curse of weakness?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE IDEA OF BEING UNDER A CURSE may seem ancient and superstitious in this modern, scientific age. But if you believe the Bible, you know that curses are real—even today.

To the ancient nation of Israel, while God promised manifold blessings for obedience to His laws, He also warned about terrifying *curses* for disobedience (e.g. Lev. 26; Deut. 28). A discerning look at history proves that God CARRIED OUT those promises.

Why is this example recorded in the Bible? God says we must learn the lessons (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11). The United States and Britain are the modern inheritors of the birthright promises made to their progenitor Israel (as our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves).

Note this. These are prophecies for OUR TIME—as up to date as the headlines in today's newspapers!

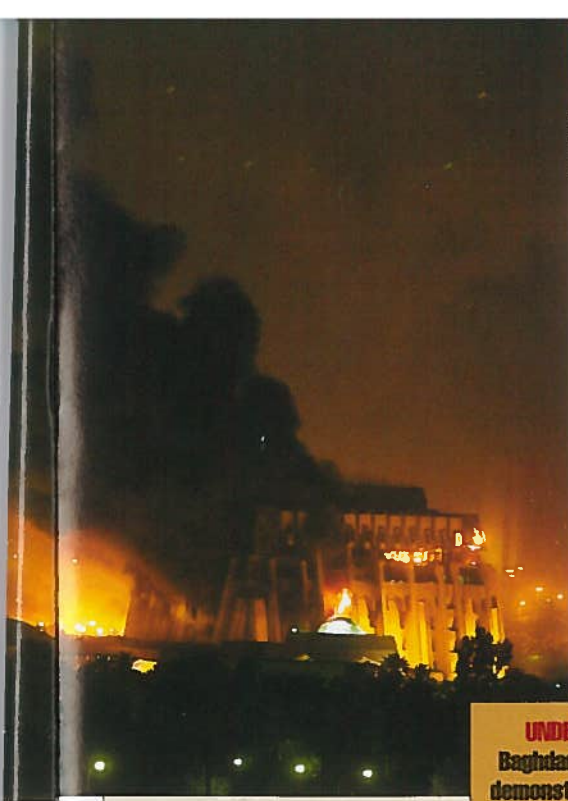
To rebellious Israel and its descendants, God warns, "I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER ... AND YOUR STRENGTH SHALL BE SPENT IN VAIN" (Lev. 26:19-20).

Consider the staggering implications of these verses.

This implies that these modern nations HAVE POWER, and PRIDE in that power—they have MILITARY STRENGTH. This fact is corroborated by other prophecies about the modern descendants of Israel (e.g. Gen. 24:60; 49:22-26;

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For more on America's founding fathers, see our booklet *Character in Crisis* under Literature.



REUTERS

UNDER FIRE
 Baghdad strikes
 demonstrated the
 unmatched might
 of the U.S. military.

Mic. 5:7-9). BUT—because of these nations’ disobedience, God would BREAK that pride, and thus—as a curse—all that power would be wasted, squandered!

Is America now under this curse? It may seem almost silly to presume so. The victory in Iraq was impressive—powerful, efficient. A regime tumbled, and a dictator disappeared, in three quick weeks. In some ways, America today seems unprecedentedly strong, most particularly because it has a decisive president who is willing to stake his reputation on unpopular decisions he believes to be right. But there are significant aspects of the Iraq campaign and its aftermath that actually show how the nation has an alarmingly faint heart.

THE UNITED STATES HAS MANY ENEMIES. President George W. Bush actually has a much clearer grasp of reality than the many people who would have left Saddam Hussein in power. He understands that those enemies, left to themselves, would quickly challenge America’s ability to protect itself against them.

However, measure the way the Iraq campaign was fought against the history of warfare. As commentator Daniel Pipes wrote in a *New York Post* article (April 16), “traditional features of warfare have been turned upside-down.”

Consider some examples.

Perhaps the overarching adjustment in wartime thinking is a redefinition of the nature of the enemy. Rather

than considering the whole of a foreign country the enemy, now “the authorities painstakingly distinguish between the government (the Taliban, Saddam Hussein’s regime, Arafat) and the people (Afghans, Iraqis, Palestinians). The former is the enemy; the latter, potentially friendly” (ibid.). Sounds reasonable. But it has towering ramifications.

For example, rather than trying to inflict as many casualties as possible, now “Western armies strive to keep down the other sides’ losses” (ibid.). Even with the entire Iraq campaign being driven by careful precision strikes on specific government targets, criticism still flew over any loss of Iraqi civilian life. This mindset resulted in problems like ambushes from foreign troops dressed as civilians—who, ironically, were clearly less concerned about casualties among their own people than the Americans were.

One enormous consequence of this approach is that now, instead of plundering the loser, “starting with the Marshall Plan after World War II, the U.S. government established the precedent of paying for the rehabilitation of its former enemies” (ibid.). Thus, rather than growing richer off the spoils of war, America risks going broke trying to rebuild those nations it defeats.

This transformation in thinking—that war is actually intended to HELP the enemy—has come to the point where, now, rather than measuring a war’s success in terms of increased homeland security or other national benefits, many Americans consider war a failure as long as there are continued problems afterward in the target country.

WHY THE CHANGE?

Much of the world is decrying America’s so-called cowboyism, its supposed unilateralism and lack of concern for the opinions and interests of other nations. This is the story being pitched by the world’s media, including much of the liberal American press.

This new style of warfare is largely intended to put these criticisms to rest. It is meant to be more humane, more altruistic. It is meant to make the world more comfortable with the benign supremacy of American superpower.

When you recognize the degree to which America is trying to wage war

in a way that, it believes, should place it above reproach in the eyes of other nations—the degree to which it is actually putting those nations’ opinions and interests ahead of its own—then the truth comes into better focus: Despite its firestorm of shock and awe, America has exposed an underbelly of fatal weakness.

Look at the headlines in your newspaper today. You will see that NONE of the effort to protect Iraqi civilians, NONE of the humanitarian aid, NONE of the care in ensuring that Iraq keep its own wealth, NONE of the endeavors to put government back into the hands of the Iraqi people—NOTHING that America has done to conduct the Iraq campaign from this “higher moral ground”—is earning the United States even one iota of respect among other nations.

America’s initial hesitancy to use force to restore law and order to Baghdad—in its efforts to appease the world community—ironically became the subject of much criticism. America continues to be blamed for the looting, the lack of order, the perceived slow restoration of basic services. At the same time, despite its insistence that it will get out as quickly as possible, it is accused of being imperialistic. Everyone is glad to see Saddam gone, yet ultimately, no postwar government that appears friendly to the U.S. will be accepted as legitimate by the vast majority of Middle-east inhabitants. It is a lose-lose affair.

The United States is targeting a small segment of its enemies. As it does so, the hatreds of many more of its enemies—who at this point are smart enough to challenge the U.S. only in ways that do not provoke it militarily—are being heated to the boiling point.

The Bible prophesies of those enemies (some even still being viewed by the U.S. as allies) bringing America down in the near future! You can read about this by requesting *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. No tweaking of American foreign policy could prevent that from happening—only turning in heartfelt repentance and looking to God for protection and deliverance.

The United States, powerful as it is, will be unable to protect itself for much longer. In Iraq, we are seeing on display the war policy of a country with no real *pride* in its power, a country that is spending its strength in vain. ♦

◆ ECONOMY

Will America's success in Iraq translate into economic stability? When looking at what props up the world economy, the answer is clear.

BY ANDREW LOCHER

"SHOCK AND AWE" WAS THE term bandied around to describe the pace of the Iraq campaign in America's declared war on terror. But has that stunning victory perpetuated a sense of overconfidence in dealing with other problems? Can we expect similar victories on other fronts—such as in rescuing the U.S. economy?

U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan predicted that a swift victory in Iraq would remove a degree of uncertainty surrounding the U.S. economy, thus stimulating growth in U.S. markets and even worldwide. The *Economist* reported, "A quick victory, no big oil-field fires and the absence of new terrorist attacks have allayed economists' worst fears. ... The doomsday scenario of a global recession triggered by a long and messy war can now be dismissed" (April 12).

Can it?

Even with the quick resolution to this campaign, there is still cause for concern, because generally, "Post-war markets and the economy fare worse," according to *Investor's Business Daily*. "Recessions followed World War II as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars. The first Gulf War stands as an exception; a weak expansion began shortly after that war's conclusion" (April 16).

After this Second Gulf War, stock markets rebounded cautiously throughout the world, but nothing extraordinary has truly set investors' minds at ease. Businesses are still somewhat shell-shocked after the financial collapse at the beginning of this present decade. It was hoped the dollar would strengthen after the war, but it hasn't. In fact, it has devalued, particularly against the euro. Foreign investors are still seeking alternative investment opportunities, which further weakens the dollar.

The world's attention has shifted from political conflict to economic concern. Nearly every nation on Earth is dealing with financial woe.

JOEL C. HILLIKER

The Burden of John Q. Consumer



Global Economy

The combination of the collapse of an overvalued stock market and the timing of al-Qaeda's terrorist attacks in 2001 jolted the global economy.

In Germany, unemployment currently accounts for 10.6 percent of its potential work force. Many fear Europe's economy is meandering back toward recession. The European Union's gross domestic product is projected to grow at a stale 1 percent for 2003. Economists list the short-term outlook as "bleak" for the eurozone.

Although the British economy still remains the most dynamic in the EU, the Bank of England lowered its growth forecast from 3.1 percent to 2.5 percent for 2003—a trend expected to persist through 2004 with further decline to 2 percent growth. The downward forecast is blamed on the sluggish eurozone and faltering consumer spending growth.

In the U.S., businesses and individuals have been hit with dramatic increases in insurance premiums for the past several years. Dips in the stock market and increased natural disasters and terrorist activity have drained capital from the insurance sector of the economy. Some claims have yet to be covered from 9/11, putting a tremendous strain on the reinsurance industry.

The American Consumer

The economy has come to the forefront of our attention. If unsuccessful in the next presidential elections, President Bush could become the first president in history to leave office with America having fewer jobs than when he took office. Over 2.6 million jobs have been lost in the past two years, with 20 percent of those laid off having been out of work for over six months now. A robust economy requires high employment. Without new jobs, it is unrealis-

tic to expect an increase in either consumer confidence or spending. And without increased spending, the economy will not generate new jobs. The vicious cycle perpetuates itself.

Politically, economic issues will most likely decide our next presidential election. Americans, and the world for that matter, are looking for a way out of our present economic quagmire.

It is not a matter of which political party is to blame for our financial troubles. These problems have existed for decades and have grown ever more complex—and the potential increasingly devastating. The truth is, *the average American* is responsible for much of the trouble we face today.

From the mid-1990s, the global economy has largely been driven by consumer credit in the United States. Since 1995, the U.S. has accounted for two thirds of the world's economic growth. The overwhelming majority of the U.S. economy is sustained by the average consumer, who shoulders nearly two thirds of the total economic activity for the nation, and provides what little forward momentum the economy now enjoys.

Nearly every nation is relying upon the continued global stimulus of the *American consumer*. But in these increasingly volatile times, consumer confidence is beginning to wane. High unemployment (6 percent in the U.S.) and declining confidence are eroding the consumer's ability to sustain such a massive economy. American consumers are increasingly defaulting on payment of their bills. The credit bub-

ble is about to burst! The global economy is teetering on the brink of disaster.

The Consumer-Friendly Decade

How did the world economy become propped up on as weak a foundation as the confidence of the American consumer?

It began in the 1990s when an unprecedented pool of credit and low interest rates became available. Creditors were eager to issue new loans or extend credit to individuals who previously might not have qualified. Consumers took advantage of low interest rates to buy houses, cars and other major purchases. That borrowing binge propped up the economy.

The average American consumer fell into the trap of spending more than he or she had to spend. By March this year, Americans held a collective credit card debt of \$721 billion.

On top of this, at the end of the '90s, personal savings plunged to an all-time low. "America's private sector was a net saver for 40 years until 1997: The total income of households and firms always exceeded their spending, with average net saving of 2.6 percent of

GDP. But the irrational exuberance of the late 1990s encouraged a massive boom in spending and borrowing, pushing the private sector into a deficit of 5.2 percent of GDP by 2000 ..." (*Economist*, March 15).

Many are not adjusting to economic reality and are still actively borrowing against the equity in their homes for purchases they can't afford. A crisis could rapidly develop if conditions changed. "If house prices were to wobble, the outlook would be far worse. An analysis in the *World Economic Outlook* points out that 40 percent of house-price booms are followed by busts, and that these busts cause twice as much economic damage as stock market collapses" (*Economist*, April 12).

Americans seem to have an insatiable appetite and tolerance for debt—greater than that of any other nation. But how long can the American consumer carry the economic activity of the world?

Time to Pay

The present, unprecedented state of economic affairs in the lives of individ-

uals and nations indicates that our day of reckoning is almost here.

"World economic growth this year will be modest at best and will be driven—yet again—by the engine of America. While helpful in the short term, this continued reliance on America is perhaps the biggest reason to fret. For it means that the American current-account deficit, already above 5 percent of GDP, will rise. A deficit of 7-8 percent of GDP within the next few years no longer looks outlandish.

"An external deficit on that scale is not sustainable. Yet no other economic area looks capable of taking over from America as an engine of global growth. Until that changes, ANY REDUCTION IN AMERICA'S DEFICIT WILL SPELL A WEAKER WORLD ECONOMY. Long after the war has ended, that threat will lurk in the background" (*Economist*, April 12). That is the unsolvable dilemma we have gotten ourselves into: Mounting debt simply cannot be sustained—yet if Americans begin behaving responsibly, the whole house of cards will tumble.

In December of last year, U.S. retail sales were flat (excluding automobile sales), below the forecasted growth of 0.3 percent, according to the U.S. Commerce Department. "Some economists think these are signs that consumers—whose spending fuels more than two thirds of the total economy—have finally had enough, that two years of a lousy stock market, job cuts and rising debts are finally taking their toll," wrote Mark Gongloff for *CNN/Money*.

Could it be that when consumer confidence dwindles, the entire economy will come crashing down? Since consumer spending accounts for more than two thirds of the total U.S. economy, one would certainly think so! We can keep burying our heads in the sand, but the bankruptcy of the world's once-wealthiest nation is coming. It is impossible to sustain indefinitely a situation where a nation's population carries a \$34,500 per capita debt.

Global economic conditions will remain volatile. With consumer spending outstripping income, the cycle can only run for a limited time. The glut of the 1990s pumped incredible growth into the world economy, but it is now time to pay the bill. Stand by for a global economic explosion of historic proportions when the credit bubble finally bursts! ♦

Over 2.6 million jobs have been lost in the past two years.



JOEL HILLNER

The Way of Rome—the Way of Get

America's total consumer debt is over \$5 trillion, about the same as the government-acknowledged "national" debt everyone keeps talking about. Seventy percent of credit card holders carry an average balance of \$4,400. Yet, with interest rates at their lowest levels in several decades, borrowing remains affordable for the vast majority of consumers—for the time being, at least.

Shortly before the Roman Empire fell, the typical freeborn Roman was heavily in debt—and on the brink of bankruptcy. The mania of the age was to live well beyond one's means, which often led to confiscation of property and an inflationary spiral.

Today we see the same thing in the Western world, led by the U.S.

Why?

The reason we are sinking in financial quicksand is that we have been living the way of *get!* We covet material goods we cannot afford, resulting in personal as well as national insolvency.

This trend is not limited to the U.S. In the UK, borrowers now owe an average of us\$5,514 on credit cards, loans and overdrafts—a 52 percent increase from five years ago. Unsecured lending rose by 12 percent just during 2002, according to the *Guardian* of December 13, 2002. In 2001, over 1.5 billion new credit cards were issued worldwide, increasing the global credit card charge volume by 15.2 percent, PR/Newswire reported. Despite the economic downturn and the increasing levels of unemployment, consumers' lust for credit seems to be unstoppable. In fact, our generation has become *addicted* to credit—the way of *get!*

Eliminate Debts

All lenders know that borrowing habits are formed in the earliest stages of adulthood. That is why, in their greed for profit on interest-bearing debt, they aggressively target college students and their peers. These young people soon become hooked on borrowing, and the companies gain an almost guaranteed life-long clientele. Banks and other financial institutions make borrowing money extremely attractive to these young adults, but fail in their ethical responsibility of educating them about the dangers of debt. Like any drug, borrowing invigorates

The Way of Debt

Living beyond your means is a form of slavery. Here's a guide to taking control and finding financial freedom.

BY WIK HEERMA

THE CAR DEALER PUSHES YOU FOR AN answer on how much you can really afford per month rather than telling you the total price of the vehicle. Another credit card deal finds its way to your mailbox, accompanied by a home-equity loan offer for which you've been pre-approved. Ironically, all of the above happens the same day a telemarketer interrupts your dinner to persuade you to sign up for a debt-consolidation plan, cutting your monthly payments by 40 percent, without even asking whether or not you have any outstanding debts, merely assuming so as a matter of fact.

Is it any wonder that personal bankruptcies are at an all-time high of about a million a year in the U.S. alone?

Easy credit is the norm and many enjoy the "freedom" of living beyond

their means—while it lasts. Few consider the fact they are totally enslaving themselves. Who remembers the old Proverb "the borrower is servant to the lender"? (Prov. 22:7).

According to *Business Week*, the amount that Americans owe on loans for houses, cars and other purchases, as well as on credit cards, adds up to nearly 100 percent of their annual income after taxes, up from 75 percent in 1992, after the last recession ended. In 1990, the typical U.S. household saved 7.8 percent of its income; in 1999 that same family spent 0.1 percent more than it earned. Of all bankruptcy filings in 2000, 97.2 percent were by consumers, not corporations.

People are quick to point their finger at corporate, state or federal governments as the news media report on debt soaring out of control. Few, however, question their own household accounts.

the desire for more and more.

The "good times" cannot continue perpetually. The laws of economics dictate that this situation cannot be sustained. Consumers have extended themselves beyond their limits. What will happen when the bills fall due? Most people will *not* be able to make ends meet.

But you don't have to be among this statistical majority. There are steps you can take to prepare yourself and your family for the tougher times to come. It is more important now than ever before to GET OUT OF DEBT—and quickly!

The only tried and true method of eliminating debt, outside of increasing your income, is to *lower your standard of living*. Basic financial laws tell us that only when you do not spend more than your income can you be in a sound financial position. Consider the *total cost* of a purchase, not just whether you can afford the payment from your next paycheck. It takes strength of character to wait until you have saved the cash, but remember that it is a lot easier to get *into* debt than to work your way *out* of it.

If you find yourself in debt, analyze your recent purchases and ask yourself whether you really needed them. Cut back on all unnecessary purchases. Start to reduce your outstanding debts by paying off extra principal, over and above the required minimum payment. The more you can afford to pay off, the sooner you'll be out of debt.

Establish a Savings

Even when you've eliminated your debts, would you be able to weather the waves of a financial crisis? Now is the time to establish a good cash reserve for difficult times ahead. Set aside a fixed amount to be saved (for example, 10 percent of take-home or net pay) and live off the remaining amount. Divide these savings into two groups: *operational savings* that cover expected, upcoming expenses, and *reserve savings* for the totally unexpected, unpredictable emergencies.

Your operational savings should cover the replacement of durable goods such as cars and appliances at the end of their expected lifetime, as well as funds to ensure your children's education, your retirement or the realization of other long-term goals.

Resist *impulse* buying—the inclination to buy whatever you *think* you need, but really don't—and bank anything that happens to be left over after covering basic periodic expenses. As a general rule, tell yourself that if you can't pay cash for it, you can't afford it. Low interest rates may discourage you from saving, but in times of crisis, those savings can see you through.

Your reserve savings should accumulate enough to cover between three and six months' worth of normal living expenses. This money is intended to carry you through situations such as medical emergencies, layoffs or even reductions in wages or salaries in lean times.

Breaking the Life-long Slavery

God Almighty has set in motion definite LAWS that regulate our personal economic condition. Knowledge of these laws teaches us to recognize the right value of money; it gives us joy and happiness by keeping us from life-long financial slavery.

How can you make your paycheck stretch? By prioritizing your largest debt first of all, *the one to your Creator!* He who owns everything hands over to you 90 percent of what you produce. Ten percent of our increase, or income, belongs to God for His purposes and His work (Lev. 27:30; Heb. 7:5). With this tithe, God disseminates a message that frees thousands from the prospect of life-long

slavery to the curses resulting from broken laws—laws that God set in motion that you might live a *blessed* life in obedience to them.

God promises profuse blessings to those who obey His financial laws (Mal. 3:10). These are promises you can absolutely count on (v. 11; Prov. 3:9-10). God

knows all your needs, including the financial ones, and will provide for each of them—if you *first* seek to obey Him (Matt. 6:30-33). Even when we are in debt, we should realize that

our largest and most overlooked debt is to God, and obey by giving what rightfully belongs to Him: His holy tithe.

Through the yearning for material goods, mankind has become spiritually bankrupt. No longer do we trust in God for our sustenance and needs; instead we look to a satanic substitute called credit. The cause for this—the breaking of the Tenth Commandment—was never before such a common occurrence as in our day today. God knew and warned that this underlying cause was the root of all evil (1 Tim. 6:10). Will you expose yourself to the curses this lust brings with it (v. 9)? Or, will you determine to seek the more blessed way of obedience to God's laws? They guarantee the abundant life! ♦

theTrumpet.com

For more on God's efficient economic system, see "A New World Economy" under Editor's Choice.

The Perils of Minimum Payments

- If you charged **\$1,000** on a credit card with an interest rate of **18 percent** (compounded monthly) the minimum payment would only be about **\$20 per month**.
- If you only made the minimum payment and did not charge anything else to the card, it would take **eight years and nine months** to pay off the balance. The total price you would end up paying for the \$1,000 purchase would be **\$2,088**.
- If you added **\$50** to the minimum payment every month, however, the card would be paid off in **one year and five months**. In this scenario, you would only end up paying a total **\$1,148**.

CITIBANK

Your Account Number

0000 0032 6313 3535

Payment Must Be Received By

MAR 10 2003

Your Total Balance

\$1000.00

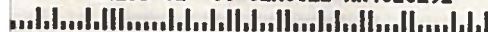
Minimum Payment Due

\$20.00

Please Enter Amount Of Payment Enclosed

20.00

5123S VI 00 01N0021 AR4010291



CITIBANK
P.O. BOX 6001

TERMINAL ILLNESS A Taiwan policeman walks through an empty terminal at the Chiang Kai-shek International Airport in April, when Taiwan announced it would close its borders to visitors from SARS-stricken China, Hong Kong, Canada and Vietnam to stop the virus's spread.

In just 20 days in April, 133,400 people left Hong Kong. Since mid-March to the end of April, this Special Administrative Region suffered a nearly 80 percent drop in tourist arrivals from mainland China. Restaurants closed; movie theaters were filled with empty seats. Airlines in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia had to slash their flights by half. Occupancy rates at Hong Kong's internationally renowned hotels have fallen below 30 percent—10 percent for some. In Singapore, they hovered around 20 percent.

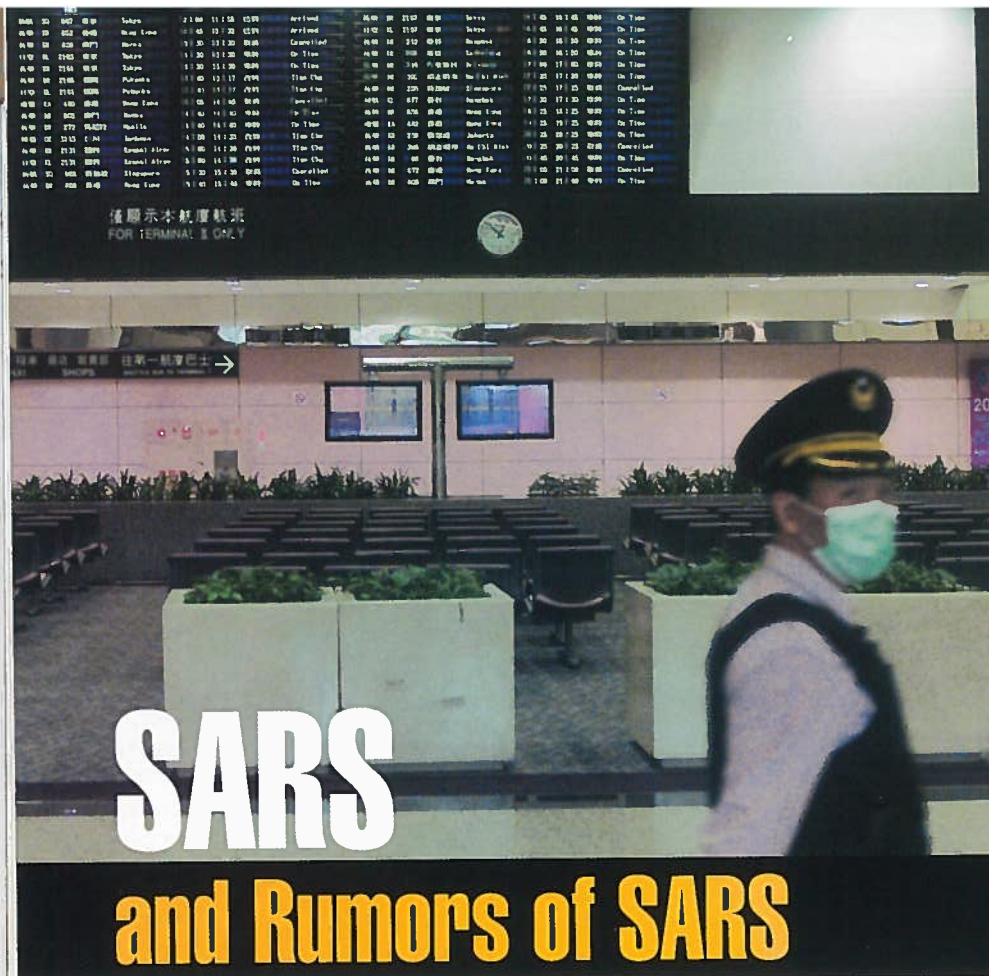
China, which has faced SARS in 26 of its 31 provinces and autonomous regions, closed its two stock exchanges, in Shanghai and Shenzhen, for the first week and a half of May, and it also shortened the seven-day-long May Day holiday to five days—a festival that usually injects billions of yuans into the Chinese economy. Experts predict that the virus will cut one to two percentage points from the miracle economy's growth for 2003.

The Political Impacts

Despite the economic aftermath left by the outbreak, the geopolitical impacts may be even more long-term and significant. SARS originated in southern China, one of the world's greatest incubators of new viruses. China kept SARS a secret for the first few months of the outbreak, finally reporting it to the World Health Organization (WHO) in February.

The Chinese government was condemned by the world for its cover-up of the outbreak. Just after its first-ever peaceful transition of power was formalized, this major flaw in China's political system was laid bare for the world to see. The government's motives for covering up the illness was to prevent unnecessary panic, which would damage the country's image as a safe haven for foreign investment, the key to China's powerful growth these past several years.

The initial denial of the outbreak,



The significance of the outbreak goes far beyond the media hype or the health implications: Its impacts will be economic, political—even prophetic.

BY RYAN MALONE

ONCE THE WAR IN IRAQ SUBSIDED, the world's top news story became something much less telegenic: a bug. But the lethality of the atypical pneumonia that spread throughout Asia and even touched the U.S. and Canada created quite a panic. The virus, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), has infected over 8,000 people to date in more than 30 countries—killing over 600.

By historical standards, the numbers associated with this outbreak are small—compared to, say, the 1918 Spanish flu, which killed 20 million, or the 1957-58 Asian flu and the 1968 Hong Kong flu. But in our increasingly interdependent society, SARS's effects may be greater than those influenzas of the past. Its effects ripple out beyond the individual lives lost—they have become economic, even geopolitical, in their true scope.

As the disease peaks and begins to be contained worldwide, these effects are worth watching in the time ahead.

Severe Acute Economic Crisis

"SARS may not kill everyone in Singapore. But it can kill the Singapore economy," said Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Leading Asian economists cut their growth predictions for Asian countries—shaving 0.6 percent off the predicted Gross Domestic Product growth for most of Asia (amounting to \$15 billion). Some called it the gravest crisis since the 1997 Asian financial meltdown. World economic growth was scaled down from 2.8 to 2.3 percent for 2003, according to the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

By some estimates, SARS could eventually cost Asian countries around \$30 billion—including casualties to the illness and the decline in tourism, consumer spending and investment.

however, has seriously undermined Beijing's credibility, showing how China is among countries "where censorship and official denial have always been the norm" (*Asia Times*, April 9). China tried to make up for the embarrassment by sacking its health minister and Beijing's mayor in mid-April. Chinese leaders have since insisted that China has learned its lesson.

The Chinese government has been forced to examine its political system, its capability to manage a crisis, and its weak health care system. It's facing similar issues with AIDS—actually a far worse problem in China than SARS.

Watch how China emerges from this latest crisis. Will China's enviable economic growth decelerate, or will the country exit relatively unscathed on the economic front—as it did during the 1997 financial meltdown, when it was congratulated by the world as the model of stability? Will its new government make the reforms it has been promising to make China a more open and civilized society? Will Beijing regain its credibility as the potential main power of Asia? Or will another nation, say Japan, emerge from this as the most responsible one? Will Japan appear as a safer, more reliable trade partner for other nations?

Asian Cooperation

Despite losing face among its neighbors, China has still made inroads concerning its ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—those countries, besides China, hit hardest by the outbreak. The organization called an emergency summit in Bangkok, Thailand, April 29, with China present and active in the proceedings. The Chinese offered to set up a special fund of US\$1.2 billion to pursue research on SARS and its spread through the region. ASEAN leaders welcomed both China's presence at the summit and its proposal.

What is even more significant about this summit among ASEAN leaders and China is the solidarity and unity of their efforts when facing a common foe. "Unlike past ASEAN meetings, yesterday's Bangkok summit was unprecedented for the speed with which the leaders agreed on a tough, collective response to the public health crisis they faced and the slew of concrete measures proposed" (*Straits Times*, April 30).

"Unlike past ASEAN meetings, yesterday's Bangkok summit was unprecedented for the speed with which the leaders agreed on a tough, collective response to the public health crisis they faced and the slew of concrete measures proposed"

• STRAITS TIMES, APRIL 30 •



UNITED FRONT Prime ministers from Thailand, China, Cambodia and Singapore talk after the ASEAN-China SARS meeting in Bangkok.

The May 8 *Far Eastern Economic Review* stated, "Remarkably, given the tendency for Asian summits to generate more rhetoric than action, there was agreement"

The WHO congratulated ASEAN's resolve concerning the crisis and heralded the summit's results as "unprecedented efforts."

Singapore's prime minister said, "It may be the start of a NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEADERS IN EAST ASIA."

The Prophetic Connection

This brings us to two major *prophetic* impacts of SARS. First is the way Asian leaders responded to the outbreak.

This is significant when you understand the future of the East as predicted in Bible prophecy. The *Trumpet* has been claiming for over 13 years that the Bible predicts Asia will UNITE in the end time as the largest military conglomeration in history. A 200-million man army from the Orient and Russia will respond to the threatening conquests of a Western power that the Bible calls a "beast"—forming in Europe now under the guise of the Euro-

pean Union but merely a revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

It may have once been difficult to explain how the fractious continent of Asia could possibly unite into one conglomeration. Knowing how ASEAN operates, as the experts say, not much more than rhetoric is accomplished at their summits. But *when faced with a common foe*, they show a peculiar cohesion and unity!

The threat posed by SARS has been miniscule compared to the threat that will come in the next few years from the rising Eurobeast to Asia's west—a threat so great that it will cause Asians to unite in the most massive alliance this Earth has ever seen!

The second prophetically significant point about SARS is that it shows the effect disease can have on an increasingly globalized, interconnected world. The Bible predicts that pestilence and disease will increase as this evil age reaches its final years. Though only plaguing a few thousand people and killing a few hundred, the SARS virus caused far-reaching damage because of the *fear* surrounding it—a characteristic that will likely apply to future outbreaks. SARS had so much mystery surrounding it—what it was, how it was spread—that it fueled the fear and panic.

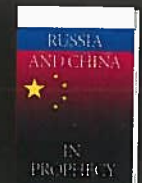
The damaging nature of diseases of this magnitude also lies in their UNPREDICTABILITY. One hotel spokeswoman said, "We anticipated war; we didn't anticipate this." How many more outbreaks of this relatively lean size could the ailing and vulnerable world economy handle?

Despite the hype and headlines, SARS most likely will be contained and sent on its way to the history books. Nonetheless, its spread has caused global shifts—economically and politically. The road is being paved for Bible prophecy to be fulfilled for all to see. ♦

theTrumpet.com

For more on disease in prophecy, see *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* under Literature.

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



Australia the Blessed . . . Australia the Cursed



WASTELAND An empty pond NW of Sydney where there hasn't been decent rain for two years.

BY RUSSELL WILLIAMS QUEENSLAND

AUSTRALIANS AND AMERICANS WERE brothers in arms long before the recent combat in Iraq. They have fought together in two world wars, Korea, Vietnam and many other conflicts. They share the same heritage as the British peoples around the world, being descended from the patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob (Israel). (To prove this, request a free copy of *The United States and Britain In Prophecy* by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

The island-continent of Australia is about the same size as the U.S. It is rich in sheep, cattle, cotton, sugar, minerals, ores, oil and wine, and is the envy of Asia. Much of the interior is desert, but the coastal areas are very fertile. Australia's great need is water and rain in due season.

Receiving God's Blessings

The Bible refers to Australia as "the land of Sinim," in Isaiah 49:12. The Vulgate renders it "Australi." Australia is one nation of the "company of nations," the commonwealth, referred to in Genesis 35:11.

God promised special blessings of national wealth and power to Israel because of Abraham's obedience. These blessings were to be withheld for 2,520 years from their captivity by the ancient Assyrians in 721-718 B.C., so modern Israel's wealth started to flourish from about A.D. 1800 onward. God kept His unconditional promise to Abraham through the line of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. No one could dispute that the American and British peoples have been blessed beyond any

other countries in history.

However, Joseph's descendants' retention of these blessings was conditional upon *obedience*. "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you *rain in due season*, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit" (Lev. 26:3-4).

But because of the people's sin, God is progressively replacing these blessings with curses—as experienced in the recent extreme drought and bushfires in Australia.

"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 [cattle], and the flocks of thy sheep" (Deut. 28:15-18).

Australia has been experiencing the worst droughts and bushfires on record. Unfortunately, these are a foretaste of greater disasters to come, if the nation does not repent.

Cursed by Drought

The drought appears to have subsided for many farmers, as some areas have had recent rain relief. Meteorologists now predict the waning of El Niño, identified as a cause of this extreme weather condition. But 99 percent of New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, is still affected, and thousands of farmers are receiving

government financial assistance. For much of the country it is very risky sowing crops because of lack of moisture in the subsoil.

The *Courier Mail* on February 19 reported that Australia's winter grain production is estimated at 15.4 million metric tons, down by 61 percent from the record 39.6 million metric ton crop last season. Wheat production is expected to fall 62 percent to 9.4 million tons, barley by 61 percent to 3.3 million tons.

Subsequent to drought came the spate of massive bushfires which ravaged every state and territory in Australia in January.

I visited Canberra, the capital, where the fires reached the city suburbs and destroyed over 400 homes and took people's lives. It looked like pictures of Hiroshima in 1945: The extreme heat melted reinforcing steel to where one brick was not left on another.

To add to the drought and bushfires around Australia, wheat farmers are concerned with the outbreak of an exotic wheat virus.

This was reported in the *Advertiser*, April 24: "Wheat streak mosaic virus, said to be a potential AU\$300 million [US\$192 million] threat to Australia's wheat crop—or 3 percent of an estimated 10 million [metric] ton national harvest this year—was found and destroyed at Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization laboratories in Canberra this month.

"Had the virus, which in severe cases can kill an entire crop of wheat, spread to the farming community, the disease would have been almost impossible to eradicate—leaving us with an environmental disaster, say scientists. The threat was even worse for South Australia because of wheat's status as the state's most valuable grain crop—worth [US\$830 billion] this year—closely followed by barley, worth [US\$391 million], which is believed to also be susceptible to the virus."

Rural Australians are very sensitive to drought, pests and bushfires because their income, debt and lifestyle are hit first when these plagues strike. By comparison, many city dwellers hope they won't be affected too much, although they may pay more for their food.

But the reality is that these curses do flow on to impact the cities. Eventually everyone is affected. The wealth of all nations comes out of the ground,

in one form or another. If the ground doesn't yield, then the people feel the pain. Whether food, wine, oil or minerals, they all come out of the ground and affect the whole nation.

Australia has been blessed with enormous natural wealth, exporting much of the world's sheep meat, wool and wheat. But things are changing. This once-richly blessed nation is becoming accursed. "And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord. And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city ..." (Amos 4:6-7). Australia can expect more extremes in weather, crop failures, disease, bushfires, terrorism and war.

A Hopeful Future

However, in the longer term, an even brighter future than the very best experienced in Australia's short 200-year history as a civilized nation awaits. Bible prophecy tells us of a good ending for Australia and the rest of modern Israel after their finally repenting of sin: "For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee" (Isa. 54:7).

When Christ returns to Earth and teaches all peoples how to live right, "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose" (Isa. 35:1).

Then, in this coming Millennium, "When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water" (Isa. 41:17-20).

Australia's prime minister, John Howard, said we can't drought-proof Australia. He is right. But *God* can if we let Him—and eventually He will. It will take a change in our attitudes first. God will make this vast country arable and productive, with crops so abundant that the ploughman will overtake the reaper (Amos 9:13). But only Christ's return will bring this about, when He re-establishes God's government on Earth. ◆

would like nothing more than to extend its influence over the majority Shiite population in Iraq, and assume control over its massive oil wealth.

Inroads

Shortly after Baghdad was taken by coalition forces, it quickly became clear how much the Iranian Shiites had made inroads into Iraq, even under Saddam Hussein's dictatorship.

Stratfor wrote this in its War Diary of April 23: "The Shiite population is creating a serious administrative problem for the United States. This was partly expected, partly a surprise. The surprise is not to the extent of anti-Americanism but the extent of the organization. The Shiites are much better organized than U.S. intelligence believed. It is clear that their long-term goal is to govern Iraq. ...

"The United States cannot really crack down on the Shiites, and the Shiites know it. U.S. troops in riot control mode is not the image Washington wants. ... In the end, the solution to this problem is likely in Tehran. The Iraqi Shiite community, to the extent to which it is organized, owes that organization to Iran. Iran's goal is simple: Get the United States out of Iraq. Officials in Tehran do not expect this to happen immediately, but they do expect it to happen."

One indication of the depth of the problem is coming in the form of an Iraqi Shiite cleric named Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. During Hussein's rule, Al-Hakim was exiled for 23 years. He used that time to establish a large militia in Iran called the Badr Brigade, complete with heavy artillery and tanks. Since Baghdad fell, al-Hakim has returned home to Iraq, as have huge numbers of his brigade, to the cheers of thousands of Iraqi Shiites. He is demanding that American forces leave the country.

"Washington fears [al-Hakim] is an Iranian puppet who wants to impose a theocracy on Iraq, and some observers have compared his return from exile with that of former Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to Tehran in 1979" (*National Post*, Canada, May 13).

In addition, according to United Press International, Al-Dawa (a fundamentalist group affiliated with Iran-backed Hezbollah) opened 27 offices

around Iraq during the week of May 10. This is yet another indication of the ties between Iran and great portions of the Iraqi populace—people who cannot be ignored if the U.S. really wants to establish democratic self-rule in Iraq.

The Shiites are holding bigger and bigger demonstrations demanding that the U.S. leave. Some of them are holding posters of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Religious Clash

When the king of the south clashes with the king of the north, the European king will be victorious. Then, the king of the north will unite with the rest of the Arab world not allied with Iran to destroy America, Britain and Judah (called "Israel" today)—unless we repent.

The clash of these two kings would be hastened greatly if Iraqi oil were to fall into the hands of Iran. But even a close alliance between the two countries could achieve the same goal. Germany and Europe GET OVER A THIRD OF THEIR OIL FROM THE MIDDLE EAST.

Daniel 11:40 through Daniel 12:13 happen during the "time of the end." Oil and money give the king of the south power to "push" and trigger a world catastrophe! The king of the north (the European Union) has shocked the world with its meteoric rise to power. We are now seeing the king of the south rise in a similar fashion.

All of these events are tied together. They are horrifying to contemplate! The Bible says we are about to see a religious clash that will stagger this world!

Bible prophecy is being fulfilled as you read this article. These prophecies are exploding on the world scene right now at a dizzying pace. THIS WORLD IS ABOUT TO BE PLUNGED INTO ITS GREATEST SUFFERING EVER—trouble far worse than the concentration camps and the millions of people butchered in World War II! It will all begin in the Middle East.

This issue concerns *all* of us. Events in the Middle East and Europe are MAJOR SIGNS of the soon-coming Great Tribulation. The king of the north and the king of the south WILL SPARK THE GREATEST TIME OF SUFFERING EVER KNOWN TO MAN! It will be far worse than Hiroshima or Nagasaki—or anything that happened in World Wars I and II combined. We must awaken to the unparalleled nuclear holocaust just ahead of us! ◆

With reporting by JOEL HILLIKER

disorder, they are driven to force their will upon the perceived chaos, forcefully imposing their own national perception of order on the scene. It is the chaotic, confusing current geopolitical situation that the end of the Cold War has produced, consummating as it has in unpredictable terror warfare, that is already sparking a change in the seeming “democratic” and “peace-loving” post-World War II German nation. The Germans see the prospect of chaos looming large in the Middle East. In particular, they feel very uncomfortable about U.S. dominance in Iraq, a prime source of their energy supply. Ultimately, for Europe, the question of the future of Iraq is a question that hangs over the future of *their* oil supply, not America’s! This will agitate them into doing something about it sooner or later. It is a crisis they simply must contend with.

The Germans delight in facing or creating a crisis out of which they can develop a unity of order—it’s simply the *German way!*

Out of the present chaos and confusion in the European Union (about to be greatly exacerbated by the addition of up to 13 more member nations, 10 of which are scheduled to join next year), the Germans are about to provide what that motley admixture of ethnic, cultural, economic and political iron and clay lacks—the WILL expressed through a *dominant and powerful leadership*—manifesting itself as an increasingly *anti-American, anti-British* and, yes, once again, virulently *anti-Jew* imperial power!

“Old Europe” will retain an impression of disunity and confusion among the swelling ranks of its member nations until the crusading spirit of Charlemagne’s old empire is revived!

The Anglo-American war in Iraq has done *much* to awaken that spirit!

And *that* is perhaps the most profound of unseen consequences of this recent war in Iraq. ◆

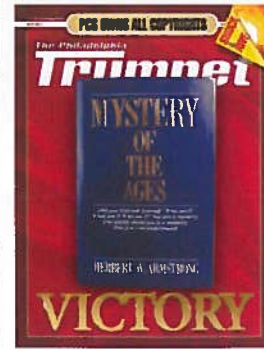
CORRECTION

On pages 20-21 of the March/April 2003 *Trumpet*, it was incorrectly stated that François Mitterand came to power following Charles de Gaulle’s death. It was in fact *Georges Pompidou* who followed De Gaulle’s *resignation*, and who had the close friendship with Edward Heath.

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“I’m thankful to God for the victory in court. Thank God it is all over. But I know that Satan is not finished in trying to destroy God’s Word. That is why I pray for God’s people, to give you the strength you need to finish the work.”

Philadelphia, Pa.



I AM VERY HAPPY TO LEARN THAT THE PCG has gained the copyrights for 19 of Mr. Armstrong’s books and other literature. It is appropriate that Mr. Tkach and his men in Pasadena were exposed for the hypocritical position they took in their vain attempt to win the court case. It is now clearly obvious to everyone what was really going on. The plain truth is that the WCG had a deceitful agenda.

Fletchers Lake, N.S.

THANK YOU FOR INTRODUCING ME TO THE literature of Mr. Armstrong. I always believed that God exists; now I have proof. Thanks for opening my eyes.

Moravia, N.Y.

I WAS BLESSED TO READ THAT YOU ARE NOW able to send out *Mystery of the Ages*. I gave my copy several years ago to a friend and it changed his life so much that I could not take it back. Thank you for the valuable books you generously give.

Athens, Ala.

I WAS SO GLAD TO SEE YOUR MAY ISSUE with *Mystery of the Ages* on the cover. I, like many others who subscribed to the *Plain Truth* while Mr. Armstrong was editor in chief, knew the words written therein spoke God’s truth. When Mr. Armstrong passed on, no one had to tell me that something was terribly wrong with the revamped magazine; the lies just flew off the pages. I was distraught and sickened by what I was reading, and I cancelled my subscription. All that is behind us now. To all who have had a hand in bringing back Mr. Armstrong’s writings: You are a tremendous inspiration to me, and I have learned a valuable lesson from your unwavering faith.

London, Ont.

Frightening

WE FIND YOUR MAGAZINE TO BE THE MOST

well-detailed magazine we have read to date. It’s amazing how your researchers, led by God’s Holy Spirit and the late Herbert Armstrong, have produced such a tremendous tool for learning the Bible and understanding the upcoming events that even now are gripping our nation in a stranglehold of fear.

Bismarck, N. Dak.

WE RECEIVE THE *TRUMPET* AND FIND IT interesting, somewhat frightening and difficult to put down. We fear for our country.

Graham, Wash.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE U.S., BRITAIN AND Australia will win the war in Iraq but lose the peace? Your magazine says that we’re under a curse from God. Perhaps America will come under such severe judgments become too preoccupied trying to fix its own house that it will no longer be able to pay attention to what happens in the rest of the world? This neglect could lead to the EU, the king of the south and the kings of the east scampering to fill the power void.

Brooklyn, N.Y.

I HAVE BEEN READING YOUR MAGAZINE for over three years now and am seeing other preachers now advocating what you have been saying for a long time: We truly are in the last days!

Lebanon, Ohio

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RYAN MALONE

The Hope of the Iraqi People

Regime change is the answer. But not as most may think!

THERE HAVE BEEN FEW MOMENTS IN TELEVISED HISTORY LIKE it. After the months of weapons inspections, diplomatic spats, anti-war protests and the inevitable military campaign, finally the ceaseless press coverage climaxed with historic footage—scenes of a toppled dictatorship. Not only were Iraqis defacing icons of the previous regime, they were cheering for the American-led coalition. Iraqis young and old waved crude drawings of American flags, pictures of President Bush and signs of gratitude at coalition troops.

At last, it seemed, Iraqis had the hope of freedom and democracy.

But is that hope rooted in stable ground?

Winston Churchill called democracy the worst form of government, except all the others that have been tried. Granted, anything would be better than the terrifying tyranny of Saddam and his cohorts, but what's next? Is there now hope for Iraq?

Is the democratization of a country the sign of ultimate progress? Countries in the Middle East with a form of democracy, like Turkey, don't necessarily use that democracy to further relations with the U.S. or the West. The Muslim majorities have used democracy to bring in leaders who represent the growing right wing of the Islamic world, something many suspect will happen in Iraq.

How will Iraq use its political freedom? How will it use its liberation? The pro-U.S. celebrations quickly gave way to severe looting and, soon after, ANTI-American protests—some even ending bloodily. The euphoria was replaced with the stark reality of a tough road ahead to restore order to this troubled nation.

No one doubted the outcome of the U.S.'s military campaign—but the post-victory plan remains hopelessly vague. The power vacuum—with the American military and Iraqi civilian authority awkwardly fidgeting over the balance of American influence and Iraqi leadership—has created division and chaos. New political parties are trying to fill the void. The Kurds in the north are complicating issues as they strive to create their own state, while the majority Shiites are making their religious resurgence—warning Iraqis against collapsing morally before “the Great Satan.”

The U.S.'s responsibility is to establish a democratic government that represents the current hodge-podge of groups currently competing for power. Iraq may be better off than under Saddam, but how much better? Will Iraqis ever experience real prosperity and peace? Can they afford real hope?

As rich with biblical history as Iraq is—being the birthplace of Abraham and the center of the world-ruling empire of Babylon—its land will also showcase the fulfillment of some of the most dramatic biblical prophecy ever. When Jesus Christ returns, He will face severe opposition from

world rulers (Rev. 11:15, 18). The “nations [will be] angry.” Armies will gather at Armageddon to meet Christ and His spiritual hosts. Revelation 16:12 says a supernatural plague will dry up Iraq's Euphrates River to make way for an Asian conglomerate to meet at Armageddon.

Project your mind ahead to this time. When Christ returns, He will end, once and for all, six excruciating millennia of man ruling over man—which will have culminated in humanity's worst time of suffering ever. The world will have just been ravaged by nuclear world war, brought to the brink of self-annihilation (Matt. 24:21-22) and trampled by a massive geopolitical beast (Rev. 13 and 17) led by a tyrannical madman who will make Adolf Hitler and Saddam Hussein look like spoiled children.

Christ's return will be the real “Operation Iraqi Freedom”—to rid the world of all dictators, set up a perfect government based on His law of love, and show the entire world what true freedom and liberation really are. Isaiah 11:4 depicts this: “But with righteousness shall he

judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.”

He won't set up a democracy. He won't install Iraq's former political outcasts into the top positions. He won't set up the nuts and bolts of the new regime and then leave it to men to maintain it.

After the initial anger and rebellion from the world's rulers at His return—which will be quickly squelched by the ultimate “shock and awe” of the supreme power of God (Rev. 19:11-16)—the people will REJOICE at His return! The images we saw of Iraqis cheering for Bush and waving American flags were only a hint of the real joy that will begin to permeate the lives of those who live under Christ's perfect, LOVING reign. As Proverbs 29:2 states, “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

When Christ returns, He will bring *true* liberation and freedom to the entire world! He will come with His government already in place—a government being prepared right now within His true Church. His ousting of man's pathetic regimes will leave *no power vacuum*—no room for looting or protests.

Man will finally learn, under GOD's righteous rule, what true peace, liberty, freedom and happiness are.

What hope we can have in this great vision! This is the real hope of the Iraqi people—and the **ONLY HOPE FOR ALL MANKIND!**

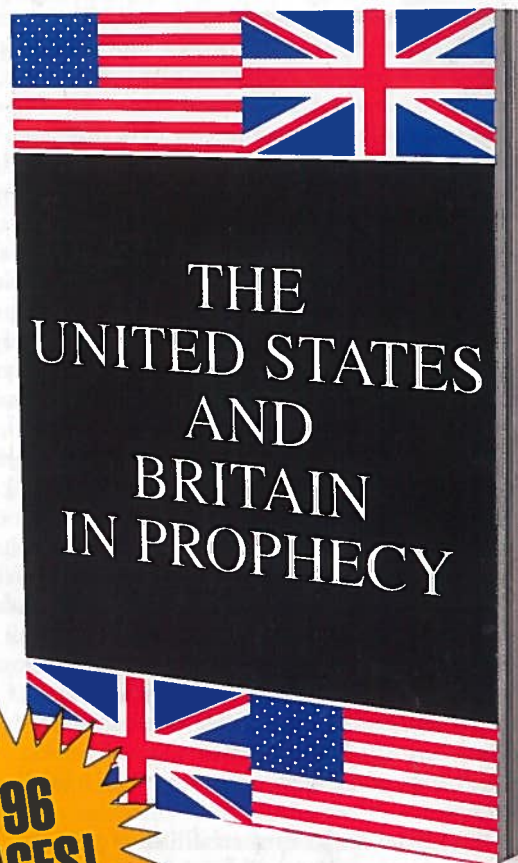


GRATEFUL An Iraqi girl welcomes U.S. Marines.

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Herbert W. Armstrong mailed over 5 million free copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, and now we own the copyright to that profound book.

Until we settled our recent court battle, we were only able to mail the older, 59-page version of the work. So if you don't have a copy of the far better, 196-page book, I strongly urge you to write for your free copy. It will have a much greater impact on your mind and life than the small booklet.

This is one of the most important books on this Earth! I personally know of many lives that were radically turned for the better because of this book.

It discusses a staggering turn of world events due to erupt in the next few years. It will involve the U.S. and British peoples, Western Europe, the Middle East and other nations.

World leaders feverishly travel the globe in search of peace. But they continue in the way of war. They don't know the *cause* of war or peace! Many forces, plans and conspiracies are at work that are about to cause our world to explode in violence.

This could all be avoided if we understood the lost master key which opens Bible prophecy—one third of the Bible—to our minds. If heeded, worldwide disaster could be averted.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, "The great world powers of our time have been, and are, the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, Germany, France and other Western European nations. The missing vital **KEY** is simply the *identity* of these great world powers in biblical prophecy! The staggering and cataclysmic world-shaking events soon to erupt upon a shocked, stunned, bewildered world relate directly and specifically to the United States, Britain, Germany, Western Europe and Russia. ...

"But the all-important master key has been found!

"That key is knowledge of the astonishing identity of the American and British peoples—as well as the German—in biblical prophecies. This very eye-opening, astounding identity is the strongest proof of the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible! It is, at the same time, the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!" (pp. 2-3).

The stark question of human annihilation keeps the world in fear. There are no solutions in sight. But God says there ARE solutions! I don't live in fear of human annihilation. Why? Because God promises to protect nations or individuals who heed His warning.

The United States and Britain in Prophecy makes all of this very clear. You need this book! I hope that you will write for your free copy of this 196-page book. You may say it was the wisest decision you ever made!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gerald Flurry'.

Gerald Flurry
Editor in Chief, *Philadelphia Trumpet*

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD
Post Office Box 3700
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA 73083 U.S.