

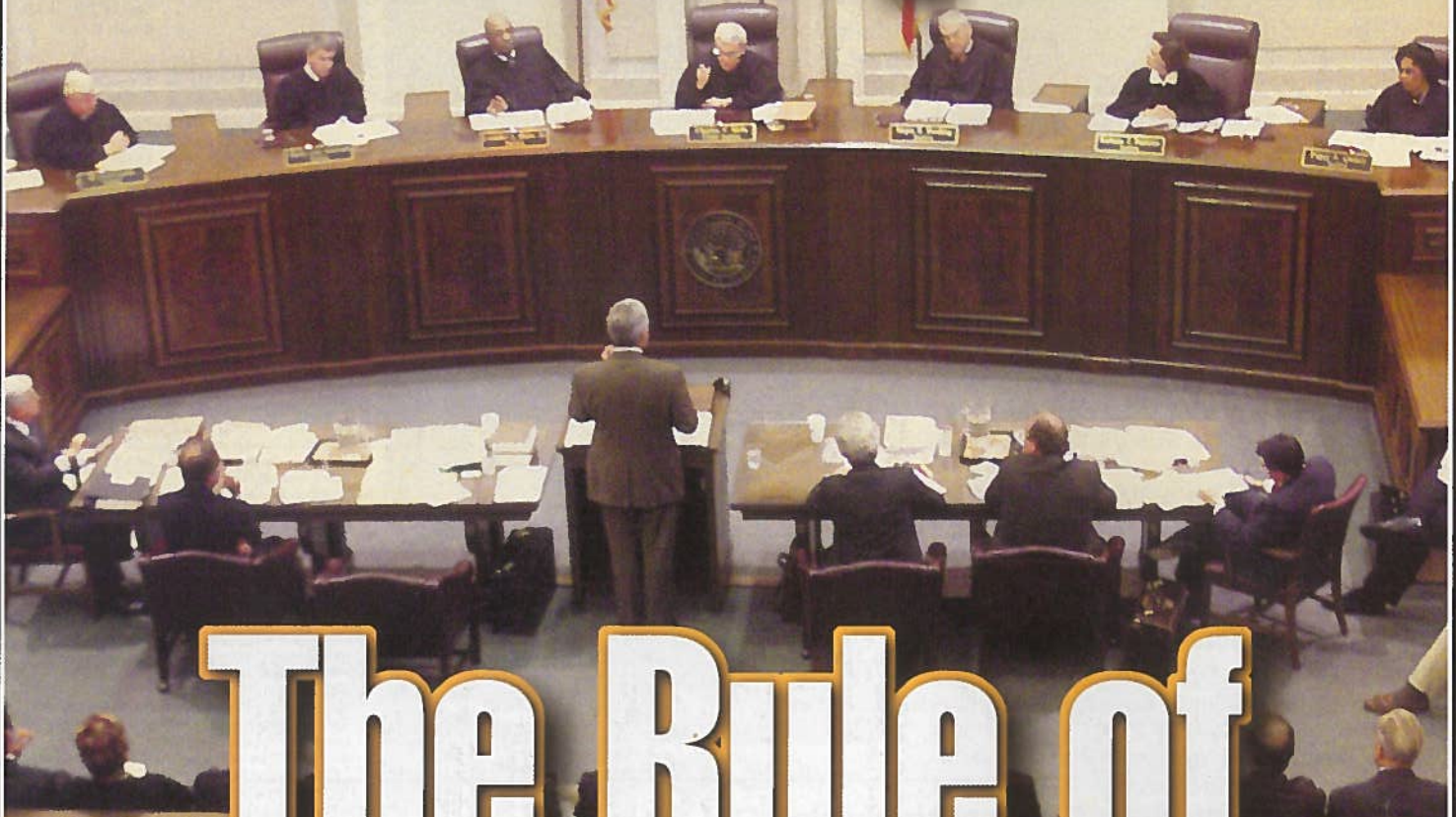
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EUROPE COURTS YUGOSLAVIA

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*The Philadelphia*

# Trumpet



# The Rule of LAWYERS

How it has replaced the rule of law

◆ COVER STORY

- 2 **The Rule of Lawyers**  
How it has replaced the rule of law
- 6 **Does Choosing a Leader Have to Be So Complicated?**  
What God thinks of American democracy
- 7 **What Does God Care?**
- 8 **How Does God Choose His Leaders?**
- 10 **Nobel Prize Winner Warned America**  
Alexander Solzhenitsyn received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1970. He is one of the world's most famous writers. In 1978 he delivered the most condemning public speech ever given on American soil. America scorned his warning message of hope. That negative reaction is proving to be a major disaster!



ON THE COVER: A lawyer representing Florida's attorney general's office is questioned before Florida's Supreme Court, Nov. 20 (AP/Wideworld)

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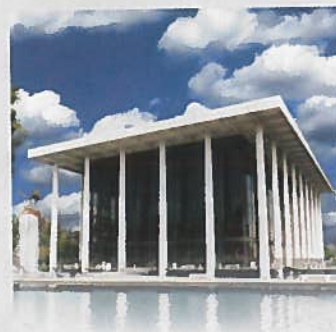
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◆ ARTICLES

- 16 **The Drugging of America**  
Why the world's greatest superpower is also the world's biggest drug addict
- 18 **Yugoslavia Comes in From the Cold**  
The European Union is losing no time in drawing what is left of Yugoslavia into its net.
- 22 **Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely**  
Continuing from last month's feature, "Our Christian Duty," we now investigate where there has been a real abuse of power.



16



22

◆ DEPARTMENTS

- 1 **Personal: The Real Election Crisis**
- 14 **World News Watch:**  
Meltdown Ahead? — The Italy of Asia — War Not Far From Us Now — Taken Over by Surprise — Of Plagues and Floods
- 28 **Letters**
- 29 **Commentary: Duty, Honor, Country**



29

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# The Real Election Crisis

The U.S. election ended so close that there was a recount in Florida. But it didn't end there. True to President Clinton's legacy, the vice president sent in a small army of lawyers, who worked to get a hand recount in selected Democratic counties. At least this is where their attack began.

Today THE MAIN PURPOSE OF FAR TOO MANY LAWYERS REVOLVES AROUND VIOLATING THE LAW OR THE CONSTITUTION! They often don't even remember their purpose, or they don't care. That is a towering crisis in itself. Their greatest passion should be to uphold the law and the Constitution. The law of God was a foundational part of the Constitution. But few today understand this fact.

Lawyers can conduct themselves in that way because our laws are so lax. And why is that so? Because most of our leaders have a childish understanding about law. This leadership crisis exists throughout our society.

When America's forefathers established the Constitution, they told us it would work *only* if we were a law-abiding people. The Constitution was created *only* for lawful citizens! Our own forefathers prophesied that our democracy would fail if we didn't heed their warning!

Our leaders, like children, don't see the need for strong laws—or at least laws that are strictly enforced. They can't see beyond the *present*. If they had vision, they would see the need for law (Prov. 29:18). Without spiritual vision, we perish.

A child naturally doesn't like law. He tries to reason around law. A wise parent doesn't allow that to happen.

Today, most lawyers try to reason around law. Like children, they don't see that this philosophy leads to national disaster!

As one commentator said in response to the vote-counting tumult, "The country was divided [before the election]. Now it is polarized." There is deep bitterness between the two parties, and it is growing worse by the day. We are becoming dangerously divided. The Senate and the House of Representatives are almost evenly split and very partisan. No leader can lead such a deeply divided people in a democracy.

Still, our people don't see the grave danger, because they have almost no vision. The people and our leaders reason like little children.

Another commentator said that the Democrats "outmaneuvered" the Republicans. Outmaneuvered? That means the presidential election can be stolen by lawyers who can find favorable judges. It's not a matter of law or the Constitution. It all depends on getting lawyers who can maneuver around such obstacles!

We have been so poisoned by our corrupt political process that we don't even see the danger of such reasoning. Too many of our people exalt leaders who *maneuver* around the law, instead of those who passionately keep it. This is another sign of our rotting morality.

The deadly turn in the election occurred when a judge allowed a subjective hand recount—it was the third count. The hand count never should have been allowed. It concerned mistakes that have been routinely and rightfully omitted from the count in past elections. Then the lawyers took over. This has opened a Pandora's box that will never be closed! Unscrupulous lawyers will see to that.

Senator Phil Gramm, Republican of Texas, said, "*The vice president has stepped over a line here that no candidate has ever stepped over.*" Other Republicans agreed.

We do not take political sides. This is not about politics. It's about law. It is a strong step toward destroying the Constitution. That makes it a far more dangerous issue.

This was a watershed event. It probably could have been prevented or stopped by a law-upholding press. Instead, most of them encouraged this corrupting process.

THE FLORIDA VOTE SCANDAL WILL POISON OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM MORE THAN ANY SCANDAL OF THE PAST EIGHT YEARS! It eclipses all of those scandals. The corrosive process is so deeply entrenched, it will continue from one election to the next. It is tearing our political system apart.

Biased and partisan lawyers and judges are trying to decide who wins the presidency! It is building a WARRING SPIRIT between the two parties. No democratic nation can be led in the midst of such bitter division.

We don't have a constitutional crisis just because the election is presenting new challenges. We have a crisis because some leaders don't love the Constitution more than themselves!

DOES ANYBODY REALLY BELIEVE THESE MEN LOVE THE CONSTITUTION?  
*continued on page 28*



Recounting ballots in Florida

The Florida vote scandal will poison our political system more than any scandal of the past eight years!

# The Rule of LAWYERS

How it has  
replaced  
the rule  
of law

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

**J**ESUS CHRIST'S MESSAGE GENERALLY led audiences to respond in one of two ways: He astonished the general public; He angered the educated elite. We read of both reactions in Matthew 22:33-34. After seeing how the multitudes were moved by Jesus's words, the Pharisees and Sadducees gathered themselves together to plot against Christ.

"Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked [Christ] a question, tempting him..." (v. 35). Put to silence by Christ's message, the leading Jews conferred among themselves and then sent forward *their lawyer*. He wasn't interested in truth. He wanted to "tempt" Christ—to trick Him into doing or saying something "unlawful." But Christ would not be tricked. He

knew how to expose the chicanery of so-called experts in Mosaic law.

In verse 46, it says "no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions." Yet this was toward the end of His ministry. As we will see, Jesus Christ had several confrontations with lawyers prior to this. And in every case, they persistently dogged Him, trying to expose any flaw they could find, even after Christ put them to shame.

It was quite some time before Christ was finally able to silence the lawyers. His situation is not unlike the one we face today.

## The Litigation Explosion

Concerning today's presidential election controversy, some have suggested that it has given every American

a wonderful lesson in civics, showing how our government works. While that may be true, the political dispute has also revealed a near-fatal flaw in American society. What used to be a nation ruled by law is now ruled by lawyers.

Gavin Esler, writing for the *Independent* in London, noted America's propensity for being over-lawyered: "In the Stephen Sondheim song, when something bad happens in the circus, they send in the clowns. In America's political circus, they send in the lawyers.

"The broad expanse of K Street in the heart of Washington D.C. is known as 'Gucci Gulch,' inhabited by the best-paid lawyers in the world. Gucci Gulch's \$475-an-hour legal gun-slingers are now descending upon Florida to help aggrieved citizens seek redress for their inability to punch the

**ARGUE THE CAUSE**  
David Boies, representing Al Gore, speaks before the Florida Supreme Court

correct holes in ballot papers, and other crimes against humanity....

"A few years ago, those voters in Palm Beach County who claim they were disenfranchised by a confusing ballot paper would probably have been too embarrassed to admit they punched the wrong hole in the polling booths. But now, like millions of litigants all over the United States, stupidity, ignorance or misfortune is a passport to Victimhood.

"The Victim Voters were victims of a system that they couldn't understand, and victims, we will undoubtedly hear, of a conspiracy to steal the election. Florida's Victim Voters fall exactly into the dismal new American tradition exemplified by lawsuits of the 1990s, including the woman who sued McDonald's because she scalded herself with the cup of coffee she placed between her legs while driving.

"Once upon a time, America was a self-reliant John Wayne society where a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do. Now, America has become an over-lawyered society where nobody takes responsibility for mistakes because it is more profitable to claim victimhood and reach for a lawyer. The new motto is: A man's gotta sue what a man's gotta sue—in this case, sue the electoral authorities in Florida" (Nov. 13).

Overwhelmingly, the facts verify Mr. Esler's argument. Paul Johnson, in his book *A History of the American People*, drew attention to the remarkable increase in American litigation in recent years. He said that from 1960 to 1985, the U.S. population increased by 30 percent. During that same time, lawyers multiplied by more than 130 percent.

The raw figures are just as staggering. America had around 250,000 lawyers in the late 1970s. Today, there are nearly 1 million—an average of one lawyer for every 300 people. It was Dan Quayle who remarked several years ago that America made up 5 percent of the world's population, but provided 70 percent of its lawyers.

### Influence on Leadership

In Washington D.C., the rise in litigation is even more sharp. In 1950, the nation's capital had 1000 lawyers; in 1975, 11,000. By the mid-1990s, the number had ballooned to approximately 65,000. As Gavin Esler noted, "There are fewer than 600,000 residents of the U.S. capital, and you may well ask what kind of a society you get

when 10 percent of the capital's population are registered lawyers."

The kind of society we get, to answer his question, is one ruled by lawyers. Paul Johnson estimates that during the mid-1990s, lawyers made up 42 percent of the House of Representatives and 61 percent of the Senate. And of course, the White House itself housed two well-known lawyers for the better part of a decade—the president and his wife.

All of these figures might well be encouraging if lawyers, in general, fought to uphold the rule of law. Most lawyers today, however, are like the ones who badgered Christ, desperately trying *anything* to get around the real meaning and intent of the law.

### Christ's Condemnation

Jesus Christ, contrary to popular misconceptions, was not a soft-spoken, effeminate wimp. He boldly attacked hypocrisy and lawlessness with plain speech and hard-hitting condemnation. On one occasion, He said, "Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them" (Luke 11:43-44).

In the next verse, we find evidence of the fact that many lawyers had ascended to leading positions in society, much like today. Otherwise they wouldn't have been offended by Christ's harsh criticism of the Pharisees. "One of the lawyers answered him, 'Teacher, in saying this *you reproach us also*'" (v. 45; Revised Standard Version). Christ was unsympathetic. "And he said, Woe unto YOU ALSO, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers" (v. 46). These legal scholars actually *added* to society's burden. In fact, the only burden they were interested in removing was their own!

"Woe unto you! for ye build the sepulchres of the prophets, and your fathers killed them" (v. 47). They were unscrupulous in their "legal" profession. They didn't flinch at wrongfully accusing a defendant if it was in their best interest.

"Woe unto you, lawyers!" Jesus continued in verse 52, "for ye have TAKEN AWAY the *key* of KNOWLEDGE: ye

entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." Jesus said these lawyers took away the key to knowledge and *prevented* the masses from using it.

Yet these condemning words had little effect on the high-ranking officials of Christ's day. It only made them angrier. "And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him" (vv. 53-54).

### Modern-Day Counterpart

Isaiah prophesied that this same type of legal wrangling and disputation



## Gucci Gulch

### IN WASHINGTON D.C....

In 1950, there were 1,000 lawyers; in 1975, 11,000; mid-'90s, 65,000—fully 10 percent of D.C.'s populace.

In mid-'90s, lawyers made up 42 percent of House of Reps and 61 percent of Senate. The president and his wife were also lawyers.

would pervade in this end time. And he attributes the result of an unjust, unlawful society TO SIN. Notice Isaiah 59:1-2: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your *iniquities have separated between you and your God*, and YOUR SINS have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Remember, God recorded the book of Isaiah in writing for the "time to come," or the latter days—see Isaiah 30:8.)

Notice the consequences of a sin-laden society: "For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for *justice*, nor any pleadeth for *truth*: they trust in *vanity*, and speak *lies*; they conceive *mischief*, and bring forth iniquity" (Isa. 59:3-4). Isaiah is saying that we have become so steeped in sin that we can no longer understand the rule of law. The land is full of lies and perverseness. Instead of truth, or the rule of law, intellectual vanity reigns supreme.

Isaiah continues, "Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness" (v. 9). Wouldn't you think, with 70 percent of the world's lawyers, that America would be overcome by justice and crystal-clear understanding of law?

Yet it's just the opposite. And the *cause* is sin, which the Bible defines as "transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

"For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them" (Isa. 59:12). Our sins have removed good judgment from our midst. Isaiah 3 says God has taken away just judges and wise counselors from our midst. Again, He has done this because of our many sins.

Over and over, Isaiah keeps making the connection between sinful living and a perverted understanding of law. "In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter" (Isa. 59:13-14). The more we sin, the Bible says, the more we will try to circumvent the law. That is why, even in the midst of a lawyer boom in America, we are becoming increasingly lawless.

## Fearing God

Thankfully, the same God who foresaw the present state of lawlessness and perverted judgment in our society has also revealed the only solution.

But why should we listen to God? Why should we care about what He

says concerning law? Because He created all things, including man. He alone is able to save and destroy, as it says in James 4:12. Who are we to judge one another? Who are we to interpret law to mean what *we* think it should?

Additionally, John 5:22 says that God has committed all judiciary power unto His Son, Jesus Christ. Should we not then look to God and Christ for the right answers on how to re-establish the rule of law?

Proverbs 1:7 says, "The FEAR OF THE LORD is the *beginning* of knowledge...." The key to establishing a so-

**"None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity."**

## Isaiah 59:4

ciety on the rule of law actually begins with fearing God. Not so long ago, America's greatest thinkers, yes, even lawyers, understood that vital truth. Fearing God is the "principle part" of acquiring the right knowledge (see King James margin for that proverb).

Remember in Luke 11:52 where Jesus said the lawyers of His day had taken away the key of knowledge? Well, Proverbs 1:7 reveals one of their fundamental flaws—vanity. They had absorbed so much of man's education that they rejected God and His authority. Yet, because they appeared to be so brilliant, the masses looked to them for understanding. The public relied upon them to interpret the law. That's why society became so perverse! And that's why Christ condemned the lawyers in the strongest of terms. *More than anyone*, LAWYERS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE ONES UPHOLDING THE LAW. Yet they were OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE and HIDING THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE.

Upholding the rule of law begins with *fearing* the supreme Lawgiver. It begins by FEARING TO DISOBEY GOD. But it does not end there. Notice Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: FEAR GOD, and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: for this is the whole duty of man." God's commandments are the foundation of every law-abiding society.

## Doing the Law

Look at how David describes God. "The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure" (Ps. 111:7). God's work is built upon truth and justice. Who wouldn't

want to emulate that? "They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness" (v. 8). God's fair and just judgments are eternal. He doesn't change laws for His own benefit or to hurt someone else. Neither does He misinterpret His laws or try to get around them. *He lives by those laws!*

David wrote elsewhere in the psalms, "The law of the Lord is PERFECT, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are RIGHT, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is PURE, enlightening the eyes"

(Ps. 19:7-8). Paul wrote in Romans 7:12, "Wherefore the law is *holy*, and the commandment *holy*, and *just*, and *good*."

An honest study of Scripture reveals that, from beginning to end, *God continually*

*exalts and praises His law.*

Back to Psalm 111: "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. The fear of the Lord is the *beginning* of wisdom: a GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all they that DO his commandments: his praise endureth for ever" (vv. 9-10). Here again, the key to knowledge of God's law begins with fear, but the REAL DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING COMES FROM OBEDIENCE.

This is not just Old Testament religion. In the New Testament, Jesus actually magnified God's perfect law (Isa. 42:21; Matt. 5:17-18). The Apostle Paul also exalted God's law. After describing the virtues of God in Philippians 4:8, notice what Paul said in verse 9: "Those things, which ye have both *learned*, and *received*, and *heard*, and *seen* in me, DO: and the God of peace shall be with you."

I understand that what you have just read is most likely NOT what you have been taught at church. You've been led to believe that God's law is too harsh, that it's impossible to obey. You've been taught that His law is only for Jews or the Old Testament—that Jesus nailed it to the cross. Yes, that is what men say.

BUT WHAT DOES GOD SAY? What did Jesus Christ say?

In Luke 10, we read of another important confrontation Christ had with a lawyer. "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit *eternal life*?" (v. 25). Of course, this lawyer wasn't looking for an answer to that question—he was again trying to trick Jesus. Notice Christ's response:

“What is written in the law? how readest thou?” (v. 26). How difficult it must be to explain this passage if you are one who rejects God’s law. Jesus, when asked how one obtains eternal life, pointed this man to the law!

The lawyer, well familiar with what was written in the law, put forth this response: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself” (v. 27). He recited the two great laws mentioned in Leviticus 19:18 and Deuteronomy 6:5. “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matt. 22:40). These two commands are what sum up the Ten Commandments (compare Luke 10 with Matthew 19:16-22).

Now notice how Christ unequivocally responded to this lawyer: “Thou hast answered *right*: this DO, and thou shalt live” (Luke 10:28). The lawyer gave the right answer, but he refused to abide by this law in his own life. That’s why Christ went on to condemn his religion. The lawyer certainly knew what the law said, but didn’t apply it to himself. Again in verse 37, Christ admonished this law “expert” to go and *do* the law—to live by God’s rules of conduct.

All through the Bible, God, Christ and all of their faithful servants are found to be the law’s foremost proponents and defenders. Consistently, they all upheld the rule of law.

When men come along and shove it aside, or pick and choose the laws they wish to obey, it leads to lawlessness and eventually anarchy.

### Lawyer Lincoln

I find it ironic that though the legal profession has produced many of our most corrupt leaders today, it has also produced America’s finest president. Abraham Lincoln worked as a lawyer in Illinois for 23 years before becoming America’s 16th president.

Lacking any formal education, Lincoln taught himself how to be a lawyer. His primary legal textbooks were the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Blackstone’s Commentaries and the Holy Bible. These “courses” taught Lincoln how to try his cases on principle rather than precedent—on what was right according to the law, not necessarily on how someone before him had interpreted the law.

Here is how Lincoln viewed the rule of law as a young lawyer: “Let me not be



**REMEMBER THE LAW** Lincoln judged by the law according to principle, not precedent.

understood as saying there are no bad laws, or that grievances may not arise for the redress of which no legal provisions have been made. I mean to say no such thing. But I do mean to say that although bad laws, if they exist, should be repealed as soon as possible; still, while they continue in force, for the sake of the example, they should be RELIGIOUSLY OBSERVED.” To Lincoln, obedience was more important than the law itself! He knew the Constitution wasn’t perfect. But it had to be religiously observed if unity and peace were to last.

Where do we see that kind of reverence for law and obedience today? Who is there among us that would uphold the rule of law the way that 27-year-old lawyer did then? Certainly, not all lawyers are corrupt in this day and age. But far too many of them are.

Years later, when Lincoln was sworn in as president, seven states had seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America. The survival of the nation was at stake. Before Congress, in the summer of 1861, Lincoln said the issue of secession “embraces more than the fate of the United States. It presents to the whole family of man the question whether a constitutional government of the people, by the same people, can or cannot maintain its integrity against its own domestic foes.... Must a government of necessity be too strong for the liberties of its people or too weak to maintain its own existence?”

To Lincoln, secession was wholly unconstitutional. It was treason. And he was willing to do whatever neces-

sary to eliminate it.

Of course, as we all know, secession was not the only hot political topic at that time. Slavery was even more divisive. Lincoln hated slavery with every fiber of his being. Yet, curiously, he never mentioned it in that summer speech before Congress. This infuriated abolitionists who were expecting him to emancipate the slaves soon after becoming president.

Do you know *why* Lincoln avoided the subject altogether before Congress? *Because slavery was lawful.* The Founding Fathers had accepted the evil as unavoidable and actually inscribed it into the nation’s supreme law—the Constitution. How

would you have tackled this dilemma?

Here’s what Lincoln did. He immediately declared war on treason, eventually overwhelming the South with strong force. In so doing, he saved the Union, preserved the Constitution and *then* LAWFULLY amended it to do away with slavery.

That is what *one leader*, who upheld the *rule of law*, did to preserve unity and a law-abiding society.

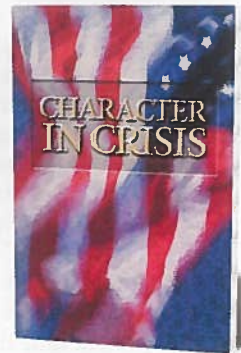
I don’t think Lincoln could have accomplished that without his many years of training in *practicing law*.

But look at how things have changed in little more than a century. What we are witnessing today is what thousands of leaders, who uphold the *rule of lawyers*, can do to turn society upside down by promoting victimhood, irresponsibility, disobedience and division.

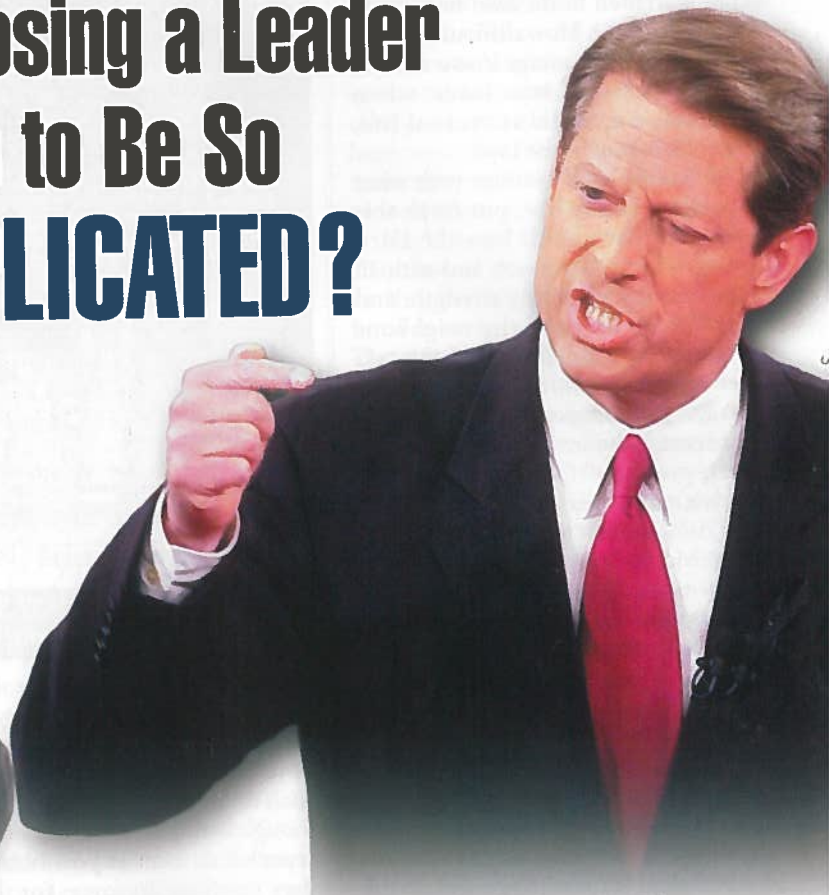
Were it not for Jesus Christ’s return, our present course would eventually lead to anarchy and our ultimate ruin. ♦

### RECOMMENDED READING

Our booklet *Character in Crisis* is available to you free. Visit [www.pcog.org](http://www.pcog.org) to order online, or see the inside cover of this magazine for information on how to order by phone or mail.



# Does Choosing a Leader Have to Be So COMPLICATED?



IT HAS BEEN A MESSY YEAR FOR AMERICAN democracy. The general election on November 7 revealed a nation split, bitterly, precisely down the middle, over who should be president. So precisely, in fact, that it stripped decisive victory away from either candidate. A profusion of fingerpointing and accusation erupted over supposed voting irregularities—and as the leaderless country ranted and argued, it seemed the only thing certain was that whoever ended up winning would have exactly one half of the country angry at him, questioning the very legitimacy of his holding office.

In the midst of all the discussion, protest and argument, an important question went unanswered: *What does God think of all this?*

## Power of the People

This is a valid question. What does God think of American democracy? Do you know? Most people would not even presume to guess.

Does God believe in “power of the people”? Does He influence the outcomes of elections? Does He even care who assumes big governmental offices?

Before we answer these questions, let’s step back and first acknowledge

## What God thinks of American democracy

BY JOEL HILLIKER

some important facts, with proper gratitude. If we look around at the various systems of government that have been tried through history, we must appreciate the benefits of American democracy.

Given many of the alternatives, an election day in the United States is a great day. It is a day of absolutes—a day of truth.

However inaccurate or slanted pre-election opinion polls may have been, they are now drowned in the cold reality of election results. The cacophony of political predictions abruptly ends. Promises that have mounted on the campaign trail reach their summit.

On election day, the people—the real source of power in American democracy—speak out. Not even the slickest of politicians can hide from his liability to the electorate. There is no allowance for a dictator to frighten people into submission. No office is guaranteed anyone through birthright or pedigree. The ballot is the ruling authority. It makes or breaks a political career.

Simply think of the “democracy” where vote tampering and fraud are rampant, where privacy is violated, where lives are threatened over how ballots are cast—consider the country run by a dictator for decades, where opposition is illegal and disloyalty is punished—think of the nation plagued by violent coups and political instability, and Americans can better appreciate their fair, peaceable, stable democratic system where, generally speaking, every vote is counted and every voice is heard. An election highlights the fact that they enjoy greater freedom than any people in the world.

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, “If there be a country in the world where the doctrine of the sovereignty of the people can be fairly appreciated...and where its dangers and its advantages may be judged, that country is assuredly America.”

Of course, because human nature is inherently weak and corruptible, no human government is perfect. Yet it is on this count that America’s government exhibits its greatest strength. Unlike so many other forms of government, our democracy *accepts* the corruptibility of human leaders rather than ignoring it. Safety valves are built into



the system at every level: Jurisdiction is diluted across three branches of government, each answerable to one another via checks and balances, to prevent anyone with power-lust from becoming too authoritarian; term limits thwart dynastic administration; and, most notably, the power of the vote ensures communication and accountability between the government and the governed.

It is this fundamental respect of human nature, leading to wise constraints placed upon it, that makes democracy one of the most successful forms of government ever tried. Government of the people, by the people, for the people has produced a nation full of energy and confidence—and propelled the United States to unparalleled prominence among nations.

With all that said, however, we must realize that it is not the complete story. While American democracy may avoid many of the problems that arise in other systems of government, it also comes with a heavy price tag, introducing several problems of its own, as the November election illustrated. As Tocqueville said, American democracy has its dangers too—even beyond the national divisions it exposes and exacerbates. Nationwide campaigns for the November election cost a combined *one billion* dollars, and left some of the population feeling disenfranchised. Exit polls showed that fully four in ten of those who voted said they left the ballot box uncertain whether the candidates they had picked were right for the job. In the presidential race, one third said neither major candidate even shared their view of government.

These facts raise another crop of significant questions. As good as American democracy may be, is this really the best we can do? Does choosing a leader have to be so complicated?

Surveying America's gloomy landscape of political rancor and bitterness today, can't we agree that *there must be a better way?*

Is it possible to have a system of government that circumnavigates all of these problems—and puts into power, 100 percent of

the time and without fail, the right individuals—people who will truly and consistently act in the people's best interest and not their own?

You will be surprised at the answer!

### Who Really Chooses Leaders?

Let's return to our all-important first question. Given the problems vexing America over choosing a leader, what does God think of what is happening in the U.S. right now? What does He think of American democracy?

Having established some of the benefits of a nation ruled by the power of the people, we must recognize an important truth—something the average independently minded voter would be loath to accept.

Who really chooses world leaders? Is the ballot truly the ultimate authority in American democracy? The answer is an astounding *NO!*

The ultimate authority over all governments, worldwide, is God!

Every election, every appointment, every coronation, every revolution, coup and political mutiny—in every country and throughout history—God has allowed, or influenced, or *orchestrated to the detail!* That is a fact, whether or not mankind wants to believe it!

The Prophet Daniel explained as much, codified as part of inspired Scripture, in this statement he made to the most powerful of world leaders in his day, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon: "...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and GIVETH IT TO WHOMSOEVER HE WILL, and

*setteth up over it the basest of men"* (Dan. 4:17).

The Apostle Paul supported the same doctrine in the New Testament, in a letter to church members in Rome—the epicenter of the mighty Roman Empire, even the world, at the time: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For *there is no power but of God: THE POWERS THAT BE ARE ORDAINED OF GOD*" (Rom. 13:1).

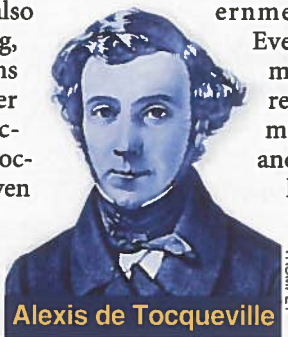
There is no world leader that doesn't owe deference to God as the source of his power!

How many heads of nations, not to mention the masses who elect them or otherwise pay them homage, understand this point of truth?

### God Is Supreme

Read yourself what the Prophet Isaiah quotes this great God Himself as saying: "To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.... I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me" (Isa. 40:25; 46:9).

Presidents, prime ministers and kings may contrive great plans, frame elaborate policies, convinced of their own preeminence. Here is how the supreme Creator God describes their schemes: "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a *vain thing?* The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord..." (Ps. 2:1-2). And how does God then respond? "He that sitteth in the heavens shall LAUGH: the Lord shall have them in derision.... [God] shalt break them with a rod of iron; [He] shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.



Alexis de Tocqueville

TRUMPET

## What Does God CARE?

**H**ERE'S ANOTHER IMPORTANT question: If God thinks so little of the governments of man, why does He involve Himself so much in world politics?

It's because He prophesied in detail, in His Bible, thousands of years ago, the outcome of world affairs on a massive scale. He alone has the power, the authority, to now make certain that those prophecies come to pass just as He said they would.

God challenges any other "god" to do as much: "Let them bring them forth, and show us what shall happen: let them show the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and *know the latter end of them;* or declare us *things for to come...* that we may know that ye are gods.... Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you" (Isa. 41:22-24).

Only God is capable of "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, AND I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE" (Isa. 46:10).

Soon God will reveal His glory and purpose to all people (Isa. 40:5). Ultimately, His having guided the course of global events will serve to convict mankind of His omnipotence and His superiority to every other type of government.

“BE WISE NOW THEREFORE, O YE KINGS: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling” (vv. 4, 9-11).

What does God think of American democracy? The best answer is that He looks down upon *any* government or leader who refuses to acknowledge His supremacy! God would shower favor and blessings upon a democracy or other nation that truly recognized their indebtedness to Him and set their hearts to obey Him. But when they don't, His judgment is rightfully severe.

“Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing... All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing,

and vanity” (Isa. 40:15, 17).

God “bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity... [He] shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble” (vv. 23-24). The authorities of this world would be well advised to

“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.”

Psalm 2:10-11

heed the warnings of this mighty Being, who claims indisputable superiority OVER the greatest of superpowers!

Do you believe these scriptures?

What does this mean for the kingdoms of this world? Will God one day fulfill these threats against them? Or is this a bunch of bluster?

The True Gospel

You probably don't realize it, but the gospel message of Jesus Christ was, at its heart, about this very subject. Christ announced the soon-coming destruction of all human, imperfect, ill-devised governments, to be superseded by one world-ruling kingdom under God the Father!

“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:14-15).

The leaders of Christ's day didn't pass His declaration off as bluster: They took it very seriously. In fact, they perceived it as a threat against them—a direct challenge to their cherished positions of authority—and they killed Christ for it!

How Does GOD Choose His Leaders?

THE BIBLE CONTAINS biographies of several great men and women, many of them powerful leaders—kings, pharaohs, judges, priests, prophets, apostles.

What follows then is simply a matter of history: Within His chosen nation, Israel, and chosen people, the New Testament church, what system did GOD use to place an individual into a position of authority?

And then—just as important—how did those leaders perform in their offices?

Studying this history provides some instructive contrasts to the system currently employed by superpower America.

Looking on the Heart

The example of David, the renowned king of Israel for 40 years, is well known, and found in 1 Samuel 16.

Israel was languishing under the despotic rule of Saul, whose reign was coming to an end. God sent the

Prophet Samuel to a man named Jesse, explaining simply, “I have provided me a king among his sons” (1 Sam. 16:1).

There was no election, no conclave of officials—there wasn't even, at this time, a known family dynasty being perpetuated. Neither was there any campaigning, stumping or intriguing—no debate, no arguing or legal tussling. God Himself just looked down and single-handedly chose and appointed Saul's replacement to lead the nation.

Not only that, but notice the method by which God made the choice.

When Samuel arrived and explained his intent, the proud Jesse presented before the prophet his eldest, and apparently most impressive, son. Here is what happened: “But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for

man looketh on the outward appearance, but THE LORD LOOKETH ON THE HEART” (v. 7). Discerning the heart of this striking young man, God refused him.

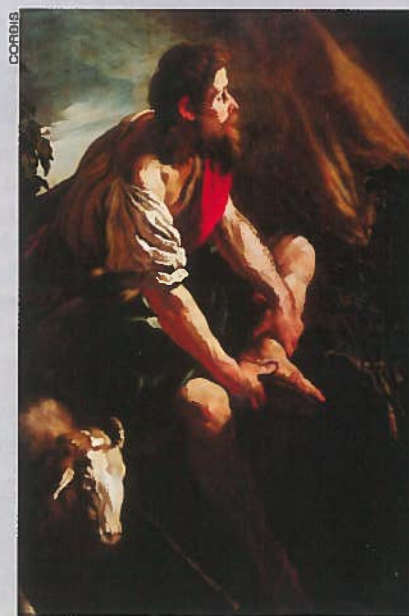
In fact, not only him; God likewise refused each of several sons Jesse presented (vv. 8-10). Other scriptures verify God's omniscience, and His ability to discern a person's thoughts (i.e. Job 34:21; Heb. 4:13; 1 John 3:20). God perceived supernaturally that not one of these fine young men would be fit for the rigors and responsibilities of the kingship. Finally, Jesse had to call from the fields the youngest of his sons, David—whom no one had even thought worthy of *consideration* by Samuel.

Clearly, God chooses His leaders on an entirely different set of criteria than men do.

Other Biblical Examples

Looking elsewhere in the Bible, we can see this same

pattern. Moses was 80 years old, tending sheep in the desert, when an angel of God appeared to him in a burning bush to give him the commission of leading



GOD'S VOTE Moses removes his shoes before the burning bush

the Israelites out of Egypt (Exod. 3). Elisha was plowing in a field behind 12 oxen when the Prophet Elijah walked up and cast his mantle upon him, indicating that the young man would be his successor (1 Kings

Yes, very soon God will strip all power away from the kingdoms of this world. "And in the days of these kings shall THE GOD OF HEAVEN SET UP A KINGDOM, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and IT SHALL STAND FOR EVER" (Dan. 2:44). "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, *The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord*, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

The Kingdom of God will rule the Earth—the very territory now controlled by a teeming multitude of assorted governments. This divinely ruled kingdom will have all the characteristics of kingdoms today: leaders, administrative bodies, judges, citizens, laws.

So, what sort of system of government will God establish?

Will God govern through "power of the people"? Positively not!

*God alone* will decide who fulfills the offices in His kingdom. He will choose those individuals for their obedience to His perfect law, which will be the absolute standard of conduct taught throughout the kingdom and expected of everyone (Isa. 2:2-3). He will ensure that they are deeply humble people, so He can trust that even with great authority they will always serve the citizens before themselves (Matt. 20:25-27). He will choose people skilled in administering judgment with mercy. They will have rock-solid character and a proven readiness to handle power graciously.

These fundamental, premier qualities of leadership cannot be categorically determined by any of the meth-

ods of choosing leaders currently employed. Only God can evaluate with perfect discernment based on perfect criteria (see sidebar, below).

Thus the myriad of problems we see rampant today will be eliminated. The dangers of democracy will be gone. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

THERE IS A PERFECT GOVERNMENT—THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

If you want to know more about this coming government—and your potential part in it—write for our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. Understand and set your heart on the *true hope* of the gospel—the gospel of the Kingdom of God! ♦

19:15-21); notice too from this passage that God told Elijah the men He had chosen as kings of both Syria and Israel, giving Elijah instructions to anoint them.

In the New Testament, the apostles selected other ministers by casting lots, putting the matter into God's hands: "And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two THOU HAST CHOSEN, That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship..." (Acts 1:24-25).

Another famous New Testament example: that of the religious zealot Saul, who was struck down by God Himself on his way to Damascus (Acts 9). Saul soon realized he had been persecuting the very people of God; he converted to their religion, and later became the Apostle Paul. Understandably, His initial presence in the church caused much chagrin among the people he had persecuted. But God's explanation was simple: "Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my

name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15).

One may reason that these were all spiritual leaders—priests, ministers—and perhaps God wouldn't choose a civil head of government in the same way. But in addition to the examples above of God choosing the kings of Israel and Syria, who administered the civil laws in those nations, there is the example of King Saul, who was specifically chosen to replace the reign of the Prophet Samuel with a secular-type king. Here was an instance where THE PEOPLE rose up to *demand* a change in government; God heard and allowed them to have the leader they wanted. A victory for democracy? No. Even in this special case, it was again God Himself who did the choosing (1 Sam. 9:15-17), to teach the people a vital lesson; and though Israel was pleased at first (1 Sam. 10:23-24), in the end Saul's failure reinforced the lesson that THE PEOPLE'S judgment is hopelessly flawed.

Again, in God's system of government historically, there are no political cam-

paigns, no elections. IT IS NOT A DEMOCRACY, but a theocracy. Rulership isn't administered or ordered from the bottom up, but decidedly from the top down.

The only "election campaign" waged by God's leaders is simply to become as righteous as possible—to develop character through obedience to God's law. There is no need for them to convince anyone else of their plans, their competencies and capabilities. God

God's own heart (Acts 13:22). Moses, despite having tremendous and binding authority, is described as being the meekest man on Earth (Num. 12:3)—a godly trait most unusual, and beneficial, for someone in a powerful position. Elisha and Paul were among the most effective men God ever used.

The fact is, zealous, morally upright leaders who are humble and submissive to God bring great blessings

**"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."**

*Proverbs 29:2*

places them in office and the people are obliged to follow.

**How Did They Do?**

But now, a vital question: How did these leaders perform?

The simple answer is, exceedingly well—AS LONG AS THEY FOLLOWED GOD!

After his death, though he made serious mistakes in his life, David was praised for having been Israel's greatest king, a man after

upon those they shepherd. AS A LEADER FOLLOWS GOD, HE LEADS HIS FOLLOWERS TO GOD. That is how a nation can truly have the peace and prosperity that all people seek. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Prov. 29:2).

Who better to choose those leaders than the one and only Source of all righteousness?

Like a Biblical Prophet...

# Nobel Prize Winner WARNED AMERICA

Alexander Solzhenitsyn received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1970. He is one of the world's most famous writers. In 1978, he delivered the Harvard commencement address. I believe it was the most condemning public speech ever given on American soil. America and the West scorned his warning message of hope. That negative reaction is proving to be a major disaster! BY GERALD FLURRY

**T**HE COMMUNIST SYSTEM OF THE SOVIET UNION COLLAPSED IN 1991. The world was stunned. Many people believe that Alexander Solzhenitsyn did more to bring down that system than any other Russian.

Few people are aware of the flood of horror and bloodshed that started after the 1917 Russian Revolution and continued until Stalin's death in 1953.

The Communist regime caused the deaths of about 66 million people from 1917 to 1953—a period of 36 years! (That figure does not include the 31 million who died in World War II—about one fifth of their population.) The Soviet Union was slaughtering its own people.

One prisoner by the name of Shostakovich gave this testimony: "I was remembering my friends, and all I saw was corpses, mountains of corpses. I'm not exaggerating, I mean mountains.... I'm grieving all the time."

The revolution began with inspiring hope. That hope was drowned in a sea of suffering and bloodshed. RUSSIA BECAME A MASSIVE GRAVEYARD.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn was a victim of the brutal Communist regime. He was in the Russian prison system, the Gulag Archipelago, for eight years. After that, he was exiled in his own country for another three years—a total of 11 years in prison.

He saw that prison authorities did not have serious communist or socialist

ideals. They were gangsters and thugs who had gained control of the revolution. Stalin was the chief gangster.

### Speaking Out

Solzhenitsyn began to think about the Russian Revolution while in the Gulag. Before and after he was released, he knew that somebody had to report the truth. Who would it be? He decided it would have to be himself. It was his life that would have to be risked by writing about a prison system that reflected A REVOLUTION GONE MAD.

In his autobiography, *The Oak and the Calf*, he said (emphasis mine throughout), "At last I was beginning to see revealed the higher and hidden meaning of that suffering for which I had been unable to find a justification, that sharp reminder from the Supreme Reason which no mere mortal can at first understand. This was why my murderous misfortunes had been sent to me—to deny me all possibility, snatch from me any chance of lying low and keeping quiet, TO MAKE ME DESPERATE ENOUGH TO SPEAK AND ACT."

Solzhenitsyn believes God had a hand in his suffering and in his speak-

ing out. Certainly he revealed the evils of Russian Communism more than anybody else ever did.

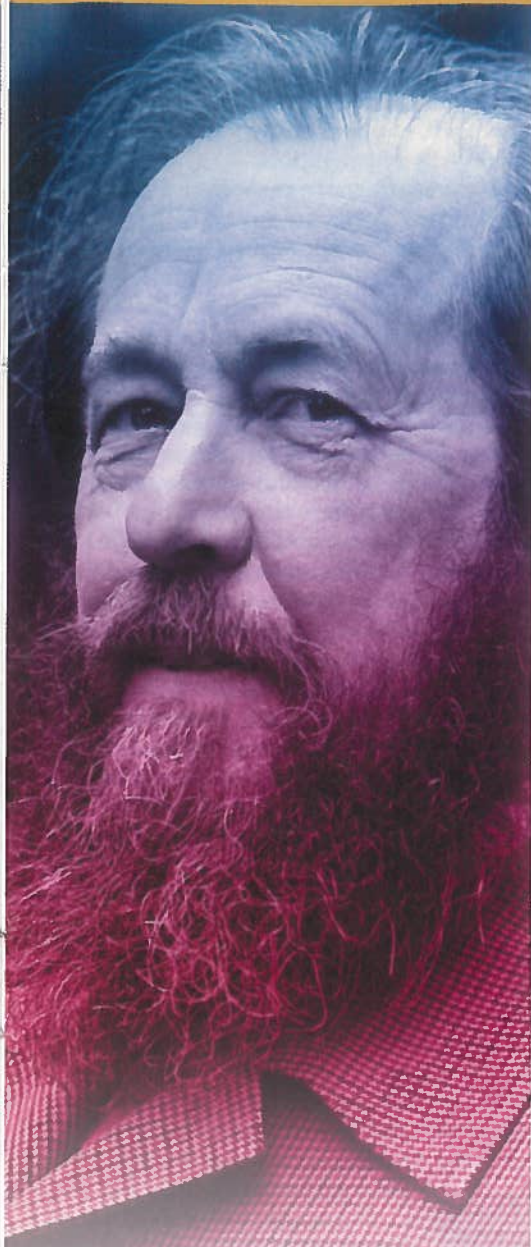
His experiences made him desperate enough to speak out against what some have called the greatest tyranny ever. In the midst of that suffering, he developed character and values he would not compromise, even if death were the result.

One man of incredible character CHANGED HISTORY. Behind this character was a strong religious morality.

"Once again, my vision and my calculations are probably faulty," he wrote. "There are many things which I cannot see even at close quarters, many things in which the Hand of the Highest will correct me. But this casts no cloud over my feelings. It makes me happier, more secure, to think that I do not have to plan and manage everything for myself, that I am only a sword made sharp to smite the unclean forces, an enchanted sword to cleave and disperse them.

"Grant, O Lord, that I may not break as I strike! Let me not fall from Thy hand!" (ibid.).

His life was seriously threatened several times. But he continued to write books and speak out against Communist rulers. Here is what George Steiner wrote in the *New York Times Book Review*, March 1, 1998: "To use a Shakespearian image: during the late 1960s and throughout the '70s, Alexander Solzhenitsyn bestrode the world like a colossus. The winning of the Nobel Prize in Literature in October 1970, his expulsion from Russia in February 1974, the publication in the West of *The Gulag Archipelago* the same year, made him not only the world's most famous writer, but a spiritual guide, a prophet, an exemplar un-



ARTVILLE/CONRIS-BETTMAN

## STERN CORRECTION Solzhenitsyn at Harvard in 1978.

In February 1974, Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union. In 1976, he made his home in Vermont.

Then in June of 1978, Harvard, America's most prestigious educational institution, invited him to give its commencement address.

Never has such a massively murderous government as the Soviet Union been so deeply exposed by one man. And the West agreed with his conclusions. But it didn't end there. Solzhenitsyn also exposed America and Britain! And we have rejected almost 100 percent of his severe criticism. That

### **His Harvard speech sent shock waves throughout the West. Most politicians, educational institutions and the media turned bitterly against him!**

Solzhenitsyn was so accurate in exposing communist flaws should have made us do some serious thinking about his correction for the West. But it didn't!

Today, Solzhenitsyn's name is rarely even mentioned in the press!

*His Harvard speech sent shock waves throughout the West. Most politicians, educational institutions and the media turned bitterly against him!*

This is a chapter in our history that we desperately need to understand.

#### **Moral Poverty**

Alexander Solzhenitsyn has a strong belief in God. In the Harvard speech, "A World Split Apart," he showed that we are condemned by our own history. "The humanistic way of thinking, which had proclaimed itself our guide, did not admit the existence of INTRINSIC EVIL IN MAN, nor did it see any task higher than the attainment of happiness on Earth. It started modern Western civilization on the dangerous trend of WORSHIPING MAN AND HIS MATERIAL NEEDS...."

"Thus gaps were left open for evil, and its drafts blow freely today. Mere freedom *per se* does not in the least solve all the problems of human life and even adds a number of new ones.

"And yet in early democracies, as in American democracy at the time of its birth, all individual human rights were granted on the ground that MAN IS GOD'S CREATURE. That is, freedom was given to the individual conditionally, IN THE ASSUMPTION OF HIS CONSTANT RELIGIOUS RESPONSIBILITY.... Two hundred or even 50 years ago, it would have seemed quite impossible, in America,

that an individual be granted boundless freedom with no purpose, simply for the satisfaction of his whims...."

"The West has finally achieved the rights of man, and even excess, BUT MAN'S SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD AND SOCIETY HAS GROWN DIMMER AND DIMMER.... All the celebrated technological achievements of progress, including the conquest of outer space, do not redeem the 20th century's MORAL POVERTY, which no one could have imagined even as late as the 19th century."

What happens when we make a foundational change in our belief about the evil in man? As we put more and more trust in man, we push our responsibility to God aside. THIS IS A

#### **FATAL FLAW IN OUR THINKING WHICH DESTROYS NATIONS!**

"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord" (Jer. 17:5). Because we have placed our trust in man, we are under a dreadful curse. The evidence is all around us!

As many child-rearing authorities condemn any spanking of our children, we have seen a series of murders of teens against teens in our schools. There is evil in those youthful killers, in most cases, that was not dealt with properly in love and discipline—God's way.

Our families are upside down. "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isa. 3:12). This is an end-time book of prophecy (Isa. 30:8).

God warns against following our leaders who cause us to err!

Women rule our families. Our boys lack strong, masculine role models. Our society is becoming more effeminate and female-dominated.

Young boys become frustrated and sometimes violent without proper family guidance, especially from their fathers. Our forefathers had a much more God-oriented family life; their faith in God was much stronger.

How much more do we have to be cursed before we learn the ugly truth about our families?

Our people care little about the morals of our leaders today. That was not the case even a few years ago. We

rivalled since Voltaire or Tolstoy. His every movement, his most occasional pronouncements, were the object of frenetic attention in the news media. Crowds blocked the airports at which Solzhenitsyn arrived. In the 'free world,' *Cancer Ward* and *The First Circle* sold by the million; in Russia and Eastern Europe, clandestine copies passed from hand to hand, keeping fiercely alive 'hope against hope.'"

Communist leaders intensified their persecution. How did Solzhenitsyn survive all this evil? Here is what Michael Scammel wrote in his book *Solzhenitsyn*: "Solzhenitsyn's moral purity, his absolute refusal to compromise on fundamental issues, was his greatest asset, which gave meaning to his life and work."

don't understand or even care that bad morals destroy families. It is through the family most of all that strong, godly morals should be taught!

## Deceived About Human Nature

"The defense of *individual rights* has reached such extremes as to make society as a whole defenseless against certain individuals," Solzhenitsyn continued.

"This TILT OF FREEDOM TOWARD EVIL has come about gradually, but it evidently stems from a humanistic and benevolent concept according to which

## Today we are lost in the present—rejecting the past and blind to the future!

man—the master of the world—DOES NOT BEAR ANY EVIL WITHIN HIMSELF, and all the defects of life are caused by misguided social systems, which must therefore be corrected....

"Voluntary self-restraint is almost unheard of: everybody strives toward further expansion to the extreme limit of the legal frames."

As he says, we blame the social systems rather than our own evil human nature. (Write for our booklet *Human Nature—What Is It?*)

We are talking about THINKING THAT MAKES OR DESTROYS INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS!

Here is why: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). This is the evil in man that Solzhenitsyn discussed. The human mind "is deceitful above ALL things and DESPERATELY wicked." And yet, in America and Britain, we usually reason that human nature is good. THAT DIABOLICAL PHILOSOPHY IS DESTROYING OUR NATIONS!

Imagine what our evil minds would do with no obligations and no laws in society. As it is, there is usually no teaching of character to control our thinking. We live in a world of fantasy and illusion. As a result, our society is being fragmented. The mind of man—human nature—is "DESPERATELY WICKED." We should be building God's character by *overcoming* this carnal mind—not trusting and relying on it! No nation can long endure on such a vile foundation.

CAN THIS NOBEL PRIZE WINNER TEACH US ABOUT OUR OWN HISTORY?

Harvard began as a religious institution. Its number-one goal was to teach *character*. Today character is hardly even an issue in education, politics or the press. Harvard is certainly not a religious institution today. Even if it were, most religions have succumbed to this fatal and false reasoning about human nature also.

America has made radical, far-reaching changes from what our forefathers believed. They repeatedly said

that our Constitution could work ONLY if our people had character and kept the Ten Commandments.

TODAY WE ARE LOST IN THE PRESENT—REJECTING THE PAST AND BLIND TO THE FUTURE! We have lost the big overview. Our nations are like the Titanic, speeding into the darkness, as we ignore the WARNINGS FROM HISTORY AND PROPHECY. Unless we heed that message, unparalleled catastrophe is certain!

Solzhenitsyn said in his speech, "It is imperative to reappraise the scale of the usual human values; its present incorrectness is astounding. It is not possible that ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE REDUCED TO THE QUESTION OF HOW MUCH MONEY ONE MAKES...." What a staggering prophecy of today's news! And remember, this speech was given over 20 years ago! Most people don't care if

our leaders have depraved moral problems as long as the economy is good. Polls have demonstrated that again and again. But we fail to understand this deadly degeneration.

How much more meaningful Solzhenitsyn's words are today! Still, we have not heeded the warning.

## The Press

Who has the power to lead us today? Where does the real authority lie? Solzhenitsyn had some strong views on that subject in his speech. "Hastiness and superficiality—these are the psychic diseases of the 20th century, and more than anywhere else this is manifested in the press. In-depth analysis of a problem is anathema to the press; it is contrary to its nature. THE PRESS MERELY PICKS OUT SENSATIONAL FORMULAS.

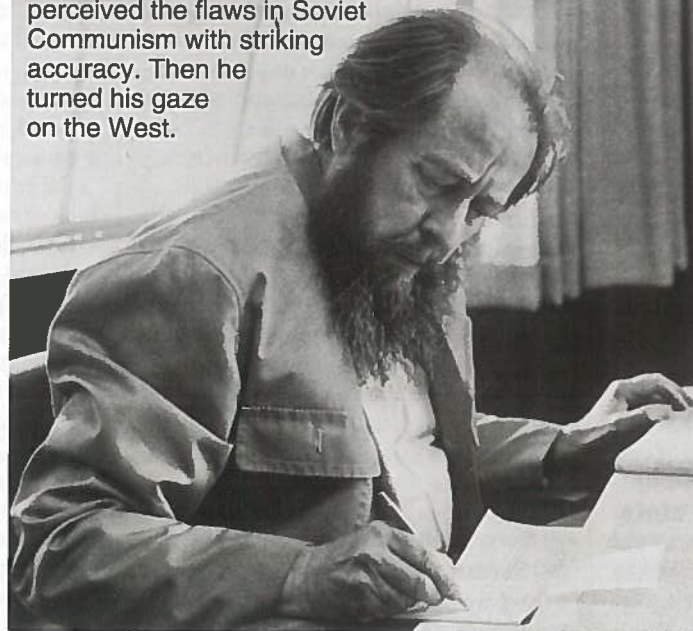
"Such as it is, however, THE PRESS HAS BECOME THE GREATEST POWER WITHIN WESTERN COUNTRIES, EXCEEDING THAT OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE EXECUTIVE AND THE JUDICIARY. Yet one would like to ask: According to what law has it been elected, and to whom is it responsible? In the Communist East, a journalist is frankly appointed as a state official. But who has voted Western journalists into their positions of power, for how long a time, and with what prerogatives?"

If we understood that we are the nations of Israel today, this problem could be better understood. Whereas the Gentiles are prone to be led by a dictator, we naturally degenerate to little or no government.

We are not truly ruled by those people we vote into office. The *press* has the greatest power! But this is a symptom of a far deeper problem.

Ancient Israel—our forefathers—came to this same condition just before they collapsed and were conquered by an enemy. "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Jud. 21:25). The press had the most power then too—not the elected officials. And soon, every person did what "was right in his own eyes." There was no real leadership. And there is almost none today. It is a terrifying reality!

**CRITICAL STUDY** Solzhenitsyn perceived the flaws in Soviet Communism with striking accuracy. Then he turned his gaze on the West.



What is happening today in America and Britain is what happened routinely to our forefathers! We are making the same mistakes they made.

The book of Judges is a part of *the former prophets*. That means this is prophecy for us today! But we pay little attention to history and even less to Bible prophecy—until it is too late.

Why were our people so offended by Alexander Solzhenitsyn? CAN WE AFFORD TO SO RUDELY PUSH ASIDE THE WARNING OF A NOBEL PRIZE WINNER—A MAN OF SUCH DESERVED STATURE? A man who was forced to face the ugly reality of his own land?

### What Is Freedom?

Here is something else Solzhenitsyn said in that speech at Harvard: “The defense of individual rights has reached such extremes as to make society as a whole defenseless against certain individuals. It is time, in the West, to DEFEND NOT SO MUCH HUMAN RIGHTS AS HUMAN OBLIGATIONS.

“On the other hand, destructive and irresponsible freedom has been granted boundless space. Society has turned out to have scarce defense against the abyss of human decadence, for example against the misuse of liberty for moral violence against young people, such as MOTION PICTURES FULL OF PORNOGRAPHY, CRIME AND HORROR. THIS IS ALL CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF FREEDOM.”

Solzhenitsyn says we have lost our balance. We vigorously defend human rights, but neglect human obligations, responsibility and character.

Are we *free* if we are in *bondage* to pornography? Or drugs? Or alcohol? Or sleazy, violent, mind-bending television and movies?

Are young people free if they have virtually no restrictions? Is it freedom to drive our cars without any stop signs or signals?

Is it freedom to desert the little children we bring into this world? If we do so, are they not destined to be in BONDAGE to the evils of this world without parental guidance?

These are questions that are not being answered. Our “free” societies are descending into chaos and anarchy—individually and collectively.

THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT LAW! But whose law? Men have adopted many foolish and dangerous laws. We need a perfect law. And that is exactly what God gave us.

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness

and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man

### Most religions are in bondage because they reject God's law and call it freedom.

shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:21-25). God gave us ten perfect commandments to make us responsible. We must let the Ten Commandments show us where we are in bondage.

MOST RELIGIONS ARE IN BONDAGE BECAUSE THEY REJECT GOD'S LAW AND CALL IT FREEDOM! Men almost routinely think bondage is freedom—intellectually and spiritually!

“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage” (II Pet. 2:19). There are always deceived leaders who want to give us “freedom,” but actually bring us into their corruption and bondage. They want us to accept their anti-God ideas and rebellion.

Only the truth will set us free (John 8:32). And God's word is truth (John 17:17).

### A Model Nation

Here is another statement made to the Harvard audience: “After the suffering of decades of violence and oppression, the human soul longs for things higher, warmer and purer than those offered by today's mass living habits, introduced as by a calling card by the revolting invasion of commercial advertising, by TV STUPOR, AND BY INTOLERABLE MUSIC.

“ALL THIS IS VISIBLE TO NUMEROUS OBSERVERS FROM ALL THE WORLDS OF OUR PLANET. The Western way of life is less and less likely to become THE LEADING MODEL.” That is a remarkable statement. So few people realize that ancient Israel—the nation of our heritage—was *chosen* by God to be a *model nation* for the rest of the world! Israel was not a favorite people; they were chosen to be an example nation to show how wonder-

fully God would bless an obedient nation. But Israel always rebelled against the greatest calling any nation ever had.

Our failure today is far more horrendous. Solzhenitsyn and many others around the world abhor our example! And they should. It seems that everybody but our own people sees our deadly degenerations!

IS IT ANY WONDER THAT SOLZHENITSYN WOULD BE LOOKING AROUND FOR A MODEL NATION AFTER NEARLY 100 MILLION OF HIS OWN PEOPLE DIED IN 36 YEARS?

Mankind should have learned, from

such murderous examples, that we are incapable of ruling ourselves!

Now, with our nuclear weapons, we are about to face the worst disaster in man's history—World War III *with nuclear weapons*. This is the pinnacle of mankind's achievement!

When that happens, man will finally begin to learn that only God can rule over him.

Solzhenitsyn continued, “THERE ARE TELLTALE SYMPTOMS BY WHICH HISTORY GIVES WARNING TO A THREATENED OR PERISHING SOCIETY. Such are, for instance, a decline of the arts or a lack of great statesmen [Isa. 3:1-4]. Indeed, sometimes the warnings are quite explicit and concrete. The center of your democracy and of your culture is left without electric power for a few hours only, and all of a sudden crowds of American citizens start looting and creating havoc. The smooth surface film must be very thin, then, THE SOCIAL SYSTEM QUITE UNSTABLE AND UNHEALTHY.”

This is all done under the guise of freedom. It is a deadly deception and we should know better. Unrestrained “freedom” is the most grotesque kind of bondage. Is a heroin addict free? Most of those leaders promising liberty are spiritually corrupt.

Are we a “perishing society”? The answer is a thunderous *yes!*

Mr. Solzhenitsyn knows that “HISTORY GIVES WARNING.” But today we are so shallow that we almost ignore the subject. More and more of our universities fail to effectively teach this vital subject.

That is why we don't see and heed the thunder-roaring lessons of history! Great leaders of the past like Winston Churchill and Edward R. Murrow believed that history was our most important subject.

*continued on page 26*



**CLEARING THE ROAD** in the Philippines after a blockade protesting high fuel costs.

◆ ASIA

## Meltdown ahead?

Asia has yet to show any real signs of recovery from the great economic meltdown of 1997. Besides economic reforms being handicapped by high oil prices, the ability to meaningfully reform Asian economies seems beyond the grasp of its several governments.

Superficial post-crisis reforms have barely scratched the surface of the region's deep financial problems. The basic means of exchange in Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia hover at rock bottom values, forcing Singapore, one of the brighter Asian stars, to devalue its currency to remain competitive.

Under these pressures the Asian nations are feeling forced into cooperating via regional, multi-national economic bodies to consider such schemes as an Asian Monetary Fund. The problem is, the capital required for this type of scheme is not there.

Added to the region's woes are the uncertainties posed by China seeking greater control of South Asian shipping lanes, and the prospect of changes in relations between North and South Korea. Japan's seeking a greater role in Asian security must also be considered by the various na-

tions of Southeast Asia, which suffered so terribly under Japanese militarism half a century ago.

Asia presents a worrying picture of a vast region, with teeming millions of multi-ethnic peoples living at Second and Third World status, increasingly forced "to employ ever more desperate, ineffective and ultimately counterproductive delaying strategies" ([www.stratfor.com](http://www.stratfor.com), Oct.

10). This is a recipe for disaster on a major scale, particularly as Asia will not be able to continue to subsidize high-priced fuel from its already fractured economies. Ironically, it may well be another Asian economic downturn which slows demand for fuel to the point where oil prices again become depressed.

Watch for a secondary Asian financial meltdown in the coming year.

◆ JAPAN

## The Italy of Asia

Japan seems at risk of becoming the Italy of Asia in the political sense. Over the past decade, eight prime ministers have come and gone in Japan, and its present leader, Yoshiro Mori, barely survived a no-confidence vote in parliament last month.

The long-term stability this country enjoyed for 45 years following its defeat by the Allies in World War II seems to have eluded Japan during the past ten years. With its economy still in the doldrums, although tentative signs of recovery are periodically reported, Japan's series of governments over the past decade have refused to face the hard decision of economic restructuring. Big public spending programs in Japan have given the country the

highest public debt in the developed world. Government after government in Japan has been hit by numerous scandals, many of which have forced the resignation of the incumbent leader at the time.

Having survived the no-confidence motion, Prime Minister Mori will not be resting on his laurels, as he is aware that his leadership enjoys only a 20 percent support from the Japanese public. Agitating in the wings, Koichi Kato, a fellow member of Prime Minister Mori's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is calling for strong medicine to correct Japan's present political and economic malaise.

Of greater concern are those militants who—spurred on by China's growth and North Korea's aggressive rhetoric, and chafing at Japanese subservience to U.S. foreign policy—call for a more militant and nationalist approach to reviving Japan's fortunes. Japan's sensitivity to perceived threats from its neighbors across the China Sea motivated the present government to consider upgrading its surveillance of the Chinese and Southeast Asian coasts by seeking to purchase two sophisticated long-range reconnaissance aircraft for its coast guard.

Earlier this year the government announced a formal review of the pacifist constitution imposed on Japan following World War II. The formal recognition last year of the imperial flag and anthem (links with pre-war Japan) were additional signs that this nation is preparing to move out of its pacifist role of the past half-century. Japan is preparing to shoulder a defense burden that will enable it to not only defend its home islands but also its vital interests abroad.

As the New York bureau

chief of a Japanese news agency recently stated, "Japan enjoys watching confusion as long as it does not affect Japan." Like Germany, Japan craves order. The instability of the past decade is building a tension in Japan which may seek its release in the revival of a defense industry as a means of reviving its economy.

Watch for another change of government in Japan and for a more aggressive approach by future administrations forced not only to consider hard decisions for economic restructuring, but also to face up to building a security and defense capability commensurate with the size

of the world's second-largest national economy.



Kato

◆ CHINA

## War not far from us now

Relations between the U.S. and China have seemed pretty good lately. Negotiations over China's entry into the World Trade Organization have progressed steadily, and the U.S. granted it permanent Most Favored Nation trading status in October, so that China now benefits from Permanent Normal Trade Relations legislation.

America has even softened the tone of its disapproval of China's human rights abuses and has offered surprisingly little condemnation over recently documented evidence of Chinese spying out of U.S. nuclear secrets.

It has also appeased the Chinese temper by ensuring its support of Beijing's "one China" policy with regards to the thorny issue of Taiwan. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright recently assured her Chinese counterpart of U.S. support for Bei-



jing over Taiwan, insisting only that any eventual reunification with the democratic island be peaceful.

Meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin for 30 minutes at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Brunei on November 16, President Clinton expressed his administration's view of the U.S.-China relationship: "I believe we have made some real progress in developing a mature, honest and working relationship that is basically quite positive" (*ChinaOnline*, Nov. 16).

Sounds promising. But why, then, do we continue to read reports of Chinese activity that is dangerously hostile to the U.S.?

The *International Herald Tribune* recently reported on a growing change in China's



**U.S. AND CHINESE** leaders meet in Brunei on November 16.

perception of the U.S. "In government pronouncements, articles in the state-run press, books and interviews, the United States is routinely portrayed as Enemy No. 1," it reported.

"Strategists writing in the pages of China Military Science, the military's preeminent open-source publication, grapple publicly with the possibility that the United States and China could go to war, specifically over Taiwan. 'A new arms race has started to develop,' wrote Liu Jiangjia, an officer in the People's Liberation Army, in a piece in the magazine. 'War is not far from us now'" (Nov. 16).

The United States is in-

creasingly viewed, and openly portrayed in the Chinese state-run media, as an obstacle to China's two primary goals—unification with Taiwan, and gaining control over the strategic shipping lanes in the South China Sea. These rumblings of growing Chinese hostility toward the U.S. become more serious in light of reports of tangible action being taken to prepare for the expected conflict.

Stratfor Systems reported on November 8 that, recognizing that it could not hope to challenge the U.S. militarily in war, "China in recent years has begun to focus—in procurement and training—on waging smart wars against computer networks."

They are focusing on information warfare—computer network attacks (CNA). Stratfor continued, "U.S. vulnerability to CNAs is tremendous. The risk of exposure to an attack in the U.S. grows at a similar rate as system networks."

Add to this the fact that the U.S. is ill-prepared to deal with this unconventional warfare. Stratfor continues, "Awareness of infrastructure vulnerability at the national level is extremely low in the

United States.... While the U.S. economy drives the expansion of network interoperability, China is accelerating its CNA capabilities."

We are reminded that the computer industry has been working in recent months with the government to ease export controls on high-performance computers, making it easier for nations that are not friendly toward the U.S. to buy them.

There is a potential disaster in the making here. One would hope that the conflict between great powers that is being prepared for now by China will find its way on to the agenda for the next U.S.-China meeting.

## ◆ BUSINESS

### Taken over by surprise

Two years after the formation of DaimlerChrysler AG through a trans-Atlantic "merger of equals," grim U.S. profit statistics and a major reshuffling of top management in favor of German executives has left American employees angry and demoralized and has exposed a secretly planned takeover by the German auto company.

When Chrysler merged with Daimler-Benz on November 17, 1998, to create the world's fifth-largest automaker, the companies took pains to show they regarded each other as equals. But cultural clashes soon erupted in the drive to integrate Chrysler with Daimler-Benz, prompting the steady defection of a number of high-ranking U.S. executives. The past two years have twice seen the American Chrysler Group chief forced out of office by a German-dominated board, with the position most recently being filled by a German executive. There have been significant cuts made in the number of Americans on the company's management board, leaving Chrysler's top management to be dominated by German executives who take orders from Stuttgart.

Chrysler also reported a loss of \$512 million in the quarter that ended in September, its first loss since 1991.

The demoralized American subsidiary now sees not only that its takeover has been completed, but that its "equal partner" had secretly planned this all along! In late October, Daimler chairman Juergen Schrempp said in an interview with the *Financial Times* that he always intended Chrysler to become a North American unit of Daimler-Benz. He said, "Me being a

chess player, I don't normally talk about the second or third move. If I had gone and said Chrysler would be a division, everybody on their side would have said: 'There's no way we'll do a deal.' But it's precisely what I wanted to do" (*Reuter*, Nov. 14).



Schrempp

## ◆ AUSTRALIA

### Of plagues and floods

First the locusts, now the floods. Australia, a land used to the extremes of weather, has this year suffered a double whammy in its eastern farm belt. Hard on the heels of a record-breaking locust plague, much of its grain crop in New South Wales, the country's prime breadbasket, has been wiped out by devastating, record-breaking floods that converted over 30 percent of this state into a disaster area in November.

For many farmers, this is their third season in a row suffering crop losses due to rain. Already in decline through loss of markets and the drain of rural youth to the cities, this will be yet another blow to Australia's rural industry, which has seen hundreds of farms close over the past two decades.

Now, with chemically ravaged soils compounding Australia's endemic soil erosion problem, lack of proper crop rotation, and monoculture practiced on a grand scale, the effects of global warming and resultant climate change are wreaking havoc on this country's farm economy. Australia is experiencing the curses that come from breaking the natural laws of environmental care, farming and animal husbandry (Lev. 26:19-21).

# The Drugging of America

Why the world's greatest superpower is also the world's biggest drug addict

BY GARETH FRASER

**P**EERING OUT OF A DARKENED WINDOW, he waves to his family below as they pull out of the prison parking lot. As he despondently sits on his bunk, his cellmates offer a word of encouragement. This 19-year-old teenager has become a statistic, another pawned victim of the drugging of America. Like so many others, this young man followed a flight path through the world's drug capital—Colombia. He faces 40 years behind bars for trafficking five pounds of cocaine.

This tragic story is becoming increasingly common for young Americans. Captured in the grip of instant cash, world travel and the excitement of breaking the law, they embark on a journey of narcotic Russian roulette.

Something shocking has happened to America. The morally ailing superpower is the world's leading drug addict.

As the problem spirals out of control, governmental finger-pointing rests on Colombia, the bastion of global narcotics. America has now positioned itself as the chief counselor and foreign contributor to the Colombian war on drugs, blindly believing that stopping supply will eliminate U.S. demand.

What is the status of the U.S. war on drugs? Where is it leading, and what is the future for America if it fails to win this crucial battle?

## U.S. "Drug War"

U.S. involvement in Colombia has been steadily growing. Colombia now

ranks second behind Israel in receiving American security assistance. Last year the U.S. provided Colombia with \$289 million (three times 1998 levels). In addition, 300 U.S. men and women from the military, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and CIA rotate throughout Colombia in support of the U.S. assistance program for the Colombian armed forces, police and other security and justice departments. U.S. military pilots fly frequent intelligence-gathering missions over Colombia, and civilian American pilots working as contractors for U.S. government agencies provide direct airlift support to Colombian army units.

After gifting the Panama Canal and its strategic military bases to Panamanian authorities, the U.S. military relocated its southern command to Ecuador.

## DRUG BUSTING IN COLOMBIA

- Colombia produces 80 percent of the world's cocaine, 90 percent of which reaches the U.S.
- Eighty-five percent of heroin seized in northeast U.S. originates in Colombia.
- This year, Colombian authorities have reportedly seized over 70 tons of cocaine.

Today, U.S. flights originating from Manta cover the rugged Colombian coca-producing jungles, spraying chemical defoliants to eradicate over 321,000 acres of drug farms. Last year 123,000 acres were sprayed. Already, mutated animals are being born in affected areas, peasant farmers are falling sick, and water supplies are contaminated. U.S. pressure on Colombia to use the powerful chemical Tebuthiuron has met with opposition in Bogotá.

The conflict has increasingly spread to the neighboring countries of Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Bolivia.

Most cocaine shipments are hidden in compartments of ocean-going vessels or concealed within bulk cargo. Cocaine and particularly heroin are smuggled by human couriers boarding international flights.

Much of Colombia's drug money is laundered in the United States. Drugs are sold in the U.S. in exchange for dollars, which are then sold to a black-market peso broker's agent. The agent then deposits the agreed amount of pesos into the cartel's Colombian bank account, thus successfully laundering the money.

The 1999 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report cited Colombia as producing 80 percent of the world's cocaine, 90 percent of which reaches the shores of the U.S. In 1999, Colombia's cocaine production jumped 20 percent. Despite efforts by the Colombian authorities and a sea of U.S. financial assistance, cultivation has dramatically expanded due to increased drug consumption. Since 1995, coca production has grown by over 100 percent. In addition, Colombia's annual production of eight metric tons of heroin is produced exclusively for delivery to the U.S.

The report also claimed that 85 percent of the heroin seized by federal authorities in the northeastern U.S. originates in Colombia. This year alone, Colombian authorities have reportedly seized over 70 tons of cocaine.

Forty percent of Colombia (an area roughly the size of California) is presently under the control of the country's Marxist terrorist faction, FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). Since the 1960s, FARC and other guerrilla groups have waged a

bloody civil war against the Colombian government. However, these groups lack the military strength and popular support to overthrow the Bogotá government. Over 1.5 million Colombians have been displaced by the conflict, fleeing to neighboring countries.

Recent peace talks have yielded little fruit, with both parties accusing each other of cease-fire violations and human-rights abuses. With much of FARC's income generated by the narcotics trade, the conflict has reached a fever pitch.

On top of everything else, Colombia is on its hands and knees trying to climb out of its worst economic crisis since the 1930s.

### Plan Colombia

At the urging of the U.S. State Department Under-Secretary Thomas Pickering, Colombia's President Andrés Pastrana recently proposed "Plan Colombia," a \$7.5 billion gamble. Colombia has pledged \$4 billion, asking the U.S. and European Union for the remainder. Europe remains hesitant, as it sees the military aspect of the plan as jeopardizing the region's security. The United Nations has warned that the effects of Plan Colombia could inject over 30,000 Colombian refugees into surrounding countries.

On July 13, President Clinton signed into law a bill that will provide \$1.32 billion for counter-drug activities in South America. In October the money started flowing; 65 percent of it goes to Colombia, 81 percent of which

is slated for law enforcement (military, police, judicial). Plan Colombia is framed around "Push Into Southern Colombia," a Colombian Army operation in which three newly created, U.S.-trained battalions are to create secure conditions for police anti-drug activities in the guerrilla-dominated southern sectors of the country. The deal also includes the donation of 60 U.S.-built combat helicopters, 18 Blackhawks, 30 Super Hueys and 12 standard Hueys. Congress has stipulated a limit of no more than 500 troops and 300 contractors present in Colombia at one time. However, if U.S. troops are involved in hostilities, the troop cap may be exceeded.

Fears still remain in certain corridors on Capitol Hill over this Colombian gamble becoming another Vietnam-style engagement. Some saw the "potential 'slippery slope' in Colombia and argued that greater resources should be directed toward domestic efforts to reduce demand and consumption of illegal narcotics" (*Current History*, February 2000).

Once again, today's baby boomer policy makers have ignored the lessons of history. Pushing for change abroad, they fail to see the malignant cancer at home. The latest initiative of training, supplying and support for Colombia and other Latin countries highlights past U.S. failures in the Andean theater, and positions the U.S. for another costly and disappointing international excursion.

As Colombian President-elect César Gaviria said in July 1990, "The demand for drugs is the engine of the trafficking problem. If the United States and the industrial countries don't get a way to reduce consumption, we will not solve the problem. It doesn't matter how much we work against the trafficking of drugs, how many lives we lose. It doesn't matter how great our effort, the problem will be there. The United States and industrialized countries need a way to reduce the consumption of drugs" (*Cocaine Politics*, p. 192; emphasis mine).

### DRUG USE IN THE U.S.

- Over 77 million Americans have used illegal drugs.
- Twenty-two million Americans identify themselves as regular drug users.
- 10.9 percent of youth age 12 to 17 are regular drug users.

### Cause and Effect

As an unofficial ambassador for world peace, the late Herbert W. Armstrong would often say, "There is a CAUSE for every effect." There is a CAUSE for the state of the world today.

The causes of the huge U.S. drug problem are deeply connected to moral decline. *America's craving for drugs is what causes demand.* Eliminate demand and the market dies. Eliminate the cause and you'll eliminate the effect.

The American way of life has simply produced a huge vacuum in many of its people's lives which they foolishly seek to fill by the quick thrill of illegal drugs.

However, today the United States is in denial. The U.S. market receives the majority of its cocaine and heroin from foreign countries. The U.S. creates the demand, while the foreign countries are the supply. America refuses to face the root cause of a national epidemic spiraling out of control. Leading the world in its demand for chemical escapism, over 77 million citizens have sniffed, smoked, swallowed or injected themselves with drugs. Twenty-two million identify themselves as regular users. Since 1988 there have been over 15 million arrests for drug-related offenses. At the same time there have been increases in seizures of tons of heroin, cocaine and marijuana.

The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, in its 1999 household survey, claimed that 10.9 percent of youth age 12 to 17 are regular drug users. Drugs appear on suburban streets, school playgrounds, college campuses, night clubs, malls, office complexes and in the homes of both the rich and poor. The nation's teenagers talk of drug cocktails, hell dust, nose drops, smack and thunder. Over 35 U.S. cities are identified as major drug centers. Porous borders with Canada and Mexico have provided easy access for traffickers. In April 1999, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (headed by drug czar General Barry McCaffrey) reported, "In federal correctional facilities, drug offenders accounted for 60 percent of the population...."



The glitz and glamour of the entertainment industry sparkle with a sea of "stars" whose reliance on drugs encourages their fans to snort, smoke and stab themselves along the rocky road to "success." But this is not true success. It is abject FAILURE!

In his book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, Herbert Armstrong addressed the problem. "All physical sensations used lustfully or in a manner of self-indulgence do not prove as physically and devastatingly destructive as certain hard drugs. But in the end they prove JUST AS FATAL!

"God GAVE us humans five senses. He intended them to be ENJOYED—to give us wholesome and healthy PLEASURES! But they also may be put to WRONG USES! God gave us MIND-power for sensual discernment. He holds us responsible for our conduct in utilization of that mind-power in our human behavior. The way BEST FOR US is the way of 'GIVE'—outflowing LOVE to God and LOVE to fellowman.

"The very PURPOSE OF OUR BEING is the development of righteous, perfect, spiritual CHARACTER until finally we may become GOD BEINGS, immortal as sons of GOD in the very supreme GOD FAMILY!"

#### Nation in Denial

America's new president, painstakingly elected by a divided country, now faces the enormous task of addressing this national scourge. The outgoing two-term U.S. administration has treated the effect but not the root cause of the national drug addiction. Massive amounts of tax dollars have been frittered away in token projects masterminded by the morally corrupt, seeking to point the finger of blame at the foreign countries which supply the unceasing U.S. demand. These huge financial contributions to the so-called war on drugs seem to have done nothing to curb skyrocketing supply and demand for hard drugs.

America's foreign-policy decisions over the past eight years have illustrated that the leadership of the nation is in denial. Failed campaigns in Haiti,

Somalia, the Mideast and Europe have ridden high on the agenda, while leaving the Achilles-heel addiction to be dealt with on the sly.

Neither money nor military intervention will solve the U.S. drug problem. Its root cause is found in the very character of its people.

In June 1998, the *Trumpet* pinpointed the cause of the drugging of America: "The most vital battle with the war on drugs is being played out,

not in some jungle, but on *American streets* and in *American homes*. The battle is a brutal one. If we are going to win the war on drugs, we must face the problem here on *our own turf*."

AMERICA IS ROTTING FROM WITHIN! Casting aside the Bible-based morals upon which the nation was founded, America has found a "better" way—a cheap fix, a way which leads to off-the-scale violence, racial hatred, rape, murder, divorce, pornography, greed, mental illness, sickness and disease—THE WAY OF DEATH!

Drugs provide the escape from reality. The effects of cocaine and heroin include a warm flushing of the skin, a dry mouth and heavy extremities. Mental functioning becomes clouded and drowsiness sets in. But the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy also states, "Chronic users may develop collapsed veins, infection of the heart... various types of pneumonia.... Overdose may cause slow and shallow breathing, convulsions, coma and possibly death." Those physical symptoms aptly describe the current moral condition of America.

America's fathers are failing to lead their families, while mothers and children are failing to submit—the structure of the American family is collapsing (Isa. 3:1-5, 12). As divorce, homosexuality, abortion and sexual promiscuity increase, Americans become enslaved to their fleshly lusts (Gal. 5:16-21).

America has rejected God's law, lost its way in the greedy pursuit of wealth, luxury and material pleasures. People no longer factor God into their thinking (Rom. 1:28). God says America is

"full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (Rom. 1:29-32).

Until the character of America's leaders and citizens is restored, there will be no resolution to the cataclysmic drug addiction, which, if left unchecked, will destroy this once-great superpower.

America must make a choice. Either live God's way and reap the abundant, joyous *blessings*, or live man's way of continuous pain, suffering and misery (Deut. 28:1-2, 15). As America turns its back on God and revels in rampant sin, He turns its blessings to curses.

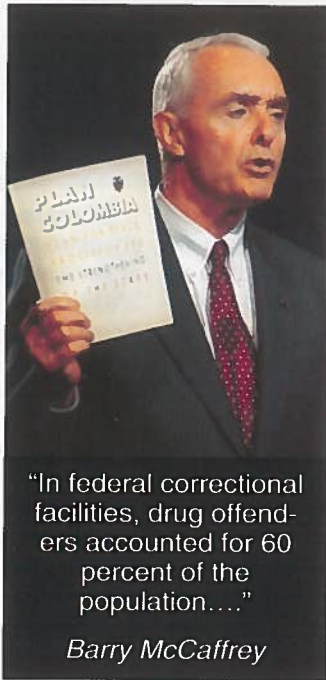
It is time to hear the trumpet warning of this magazine and recapture true values, receive true education and grasp the royal vision of our incredible human potential as part of a coming family government that will usher in the soon-coming World Tomorrow.

#### The Way to Happiness

Summing the subject up, Herbert Armstrong wrote in his *Plain Truth Personal*, March 1970, "Occasionally someone becomes angry, resentful, bitter, despising THIS RIGHT WAY! A hippie says, 'Cancel my free subscription to your magazine. I thought you were hip—I didn't know you were SQUARE!' Yes, you bet we are SQUARE! We are square shooters—square dealers with others. Show us a way that is BETTER, more PRACTICAL, FOR OUR GOOD, and we will adopt it. But to go the way of the unkempt, dirty, filthy and eyesore, the way of hopelessness, discouragement and frustration, drowning our sorrows in drugs, drunkenness and sex debauchery—NO, THANK YOU!

"We've found THE WAY to happiness, ambition, fitness, vigor, clear minds, right thinking, anticipation for a wonderful future, and we ENJOY this way too much to turn back onto the way of despondency and frustration."

Mr. Armstrong is right! There is a way to solve the addiction of this morally sick superpower, a way to stop the drugging of America. Did you know that way is open to you? YES! God is calling on you to change. Stop walking in the way that causes sorrow, pain and suffering and start walking anew in the way that brings joy, peace and happiness. ◆



"In federal correctional facilities, drug offenders accounted for 60 percent of the population...."

Barry McCaffrey

# Yugoslavia Comes in From the Cold

The European Union lost no time in drawing what is left of Yugoslavia into its net. The “newly democratized” states of Serbia and Montenegro formally became members of the EU’s Balkan Stability Pact in October.

BY RON FRASER

**O**N THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, A BRIEF ceremony took place in Bucharest, the capital of Romania. It symbolized the opening of the final chapter of the Balkan saga which began with the deliberate destabilization of this region by Germany, in concert with the Vatican, ten years ago.

“This is a historic day. I formally invite the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to become a participant in the stability pact.” With these words, Bodo Hombach, the Balkan Stability Pact’s coordinator, handed a ceremonial key to Goran Svilanovic, the special envoy of the newly elected Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica, to symbolize Yugoslavia’s entry into the European family. Hombach declared that “the stability pact...is Yugoslavia’s key to Europe.”

A German initiative, drafted by Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer even while NATO bombs were raining down on Belgrade during the Kosovo war, the Balkan Stability Pact is designed to accelerate the eastward hegemony of the German-dominated European Union by investing controlling capital in southeastern European infrastructure. With Yugoslavia now drawn into the pact, the EU will spend 200 million euros (us\$166.3 million) over the next nine months financing major construction projects in Serbia. Clearing war-damaged infrastructure and reconstructing vital road, rail and canal routes, which make this crucial crossroads of Europe so essential to the EU’s plan for eastward hegemony, figure highly on the EU’s priority list for the revitalization of Serbia.

It is most significant that it was the European Union’s institution for reconstructing the Balkans, the Balkan Stability Pact, which was the very first international body that Yugoslavia joined since the downfall of ex-presi-

dent Milosevic. Why? Because it demonstrates with clarity that *there has been a specific agenda behind the whole of the Balkan situation since its initial destabilization, following the unification of Germany in 1990 and the subsequent collapse of the whole Soviet Russian system.*

## Hidden Agenda

Given the history of Germany, it ought to be a terrifying thought to contemplate that the very first policy initiative of that nation, following unification, was to spark the incredibly destructive division of the Balkans. As geopolitical analyst Joseph de Courcy recently opined to some of our staff, “There’s something about the German character that’s proven to be problematic to their neighbors.” Problematic indeed! Consider the history.

For 40 years under the balance of power imposed by the cold war between the U.S. and their allies and the USSR, Germany seemingly presented no problem to Europe. Then what happened as soon as Germany united? The Balkan powder keg blew—*sparked by Germany’s very first foreign-policy action as a united nation!* It was the deliberate action of Germany, endorsed by the Vatican, recognizing Croatia and Slovenia as separate nation-states (despite major opposition from most other countries) that lit the fuse which triggered the explosion that split the Balkan nations apart.

To understand the reasons why Germany under Vatican approval created such a destructive initiative, one has to go back to the Allied victory over Germany in World War I and the resultant Treaty of Versailles. Germany simply never accepted the conditions of that



**WELCOME TO THE FAMILY** Yugoslav representative Goran Svilanovic holds the “key to Europe” he received from the EU’s Bodo Hombach, center.

treaty and their concomitant loss of territory. Then, following World War II, the Allies imposed much more stringent territorial reductions on Germany, even dividing the country between East and West under separate Soviet and Allied administrations. But even as they divided Germany *geopolitically*, the Allies, via the U.S. Marshall Plan, immediately set about reviving the very *corporate empires* that had built Germany’s war effort! To the world it appeared the humanitarian thing to do—quell the nation’s aggression by dividing and conquering geographically and politically, then refinance their economy with an understanding that the enemy would rebuild itself based upon democratic institutions. Fifty years later, Germany appeared to the world as a very model of Western democracy—until it was geopolitically reunited. Now, just ten years later, the Balkans have exploded!

Through the twin processes of blackmailing their Eastern European nations into supporting the initiative and exploiting an inept, naïve U.S. administration to do their dirty work, largely at U.S. expense, Germany succeeded in gaining the backing of NATO and the UN to enforce its will on the dividing of the Balkan Peninsula—wit-

ness Croatia, witness Bosnia-Herzegovina, witness Kosovo.

The blackmailing of neighboring Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic into backing the German-inspired putsch in each of the Balkan countries took the form of simply directing them to fall in line or have their access to the Euromarket cut off. The reward for acquiescing to the forceful division of the Balkans has been massive influxes of investment capital from Germany to buy up real estate, local corporations and whole industries in central and Eastern Europe. This surely gives a boost to the economies of Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania et al. But the downside is that, *increasingly, control of these national economies is*

behind the agenda of both as they join in an effort to extend their reach ever eastward, if the pope has his way, up to the very foothills of the Urals, the mountain range which divides western Russia from the great frozen wastes of Siberia.

Unless and until the Balkan Peninsula was under EU control, the Union remained frustrated in its efforts for eastwards expansion. The EU simply needed access to the Adriatic coastline's warm-water ports, which open the gate to the Mediterranean and thence to the resource-rich continent of Africa and the strategically crucial Middle East. The key to that control was seen by both the Vatican and Germany, the prime spiritual and economic-political influences within the EU, to

## Germany and the Vatican are up to their necks in the Balkan intrigue. This is common knowledge at the highest levels of international intelligence and foreign affairs analysts.

*going to a German-led European Union.* The United States has simply been an unwitting partner in Germany's push for eastward hegemony.

Much has been said about the prospect of the eastwards expansion of the European Union. It has been claimed that the EU may ultimately comprise up to 30 member nations. The president of the Commission of European Communities, Romano Prodi, has stated that six nations will be ready for accession to EU membership in 2003. The six that appear most readily qualified for and favored for early membership are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus. Now Yugoslavia appears to be thrust into the fast lane for early membership despite an economy and political structure seemingly in tatters. Why? It's simple. The gnomes of Brussels who oversee the agenda for EU expansion know that *there can be no effective eastward expansion of the Union unless and until the Balkan Peninsula is secured.*

### Extending Eastward

Pope John Paul II once declared that "Europe needs both her eastern and western lungs to breathe!" The Vatican and the EU have long been involved in an effort to revive history—the history of the Holy Roman Empire, which once saw both German geopolitical and Vatican spiritual dominance of the European continent yield them unprecedented power. Believe it or not, *that is what's*

be a fracturing of the Yugoslav republic as it existed at the end of the cold war, to soften it up for EU economic, political and military dominance. Without a secure and stable Balkan Peninsula, the eastern leg of the EU would swing on an unstable hinge.

Make no bones about it. Germany and the Vatican are up to their necks in this whole Balkan intrigue. What we are telling you is common knowledge at the highest levels of the international intelligence networks and is known to the most astute foreign affairs analysts. We are now seeing the end-game pan out in the Balkans. Securing Serbia within the Balkan Stability Pact is crucial to the continuing strategy of that end game.

### New Strategy

Germany tried twice in the 20th century to become the dominant power in this world. It failed. It failed militarily, beaten by the victorious Allies under British and American leadership. Germany has learned its lesson. Its strategy for gaining and imposing power changed in the waning years of World War II. At the *primary* level, this involved salting away multiple billions in cash, bullion and works of art to finance an underground effort for Germany's comeback to power as a global force to be reckoned with. It also involved spiriting many thousands of Nazis and fascists away from Europe to New World countries, the Middle East and Spain. Thus domiciled away from

the immediate search for war criminals, thus financed, they penetrated, became part of, or even launched themselves as kingpins in, a global spy network, ultimately having its centers in Berlin, Vienna and Spain. In the meantime, exhibiting the most cooperative side of their mutable characters, the German industrialists got to work reviving their corporate empires, largely at U.S. taxpayers' expense via the Marshall Plan. This all continued with great success until 1989.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and Germany's subsequent unification the following year, Germany's strategy for the resurrection of its empire moved into its *secondary* phase—the *Balkan initiative*. Ten years

### YUGOSLAVIA—THE BALKAN NEXUS Key to securing Eastern Europe



later, with the dust settling in Belgrade and in Kosovo, Germany is finally able to say, "For us, World War I has ended." The "injustices" of Versailles have been vindicated, and the West, via a German-led enterprise, the EU Balkan Stability Pact, is set to yield to the German-led EU total control of the Balkans, thus paving the way for further eastwards expansion of the European empire.

Ultimately, this Euroempire will stand on both eastern and western "legs" (Dan. 2:33, 40). But its western leg could not be joined to the east without first gaining possession of the Balkan nexus.

The German-inspired strategy for the eastward expansion of the European Union is now well advanced in its

tertiary stage. This involves the takeover of the industrial, financial, political and media sectors of the nations which are drawn in under the umbrella of the EU's Balkan Stability Pact. It is done initially by economic means. First offer financial aid to the country recovering from 50 years of Soviet dominance. Then offer inward capital investment to the nation's ailing industries and corporate enterprises. Better still, buy up a controlling interest in them. Then tempt the nation by offers to buy up, redevelop and manage its major infrastructure—its power grid, gas distribution systems, water distribution systems, port and other transport facilities. Offer the media a buyout package they can't refuse and take over the print and broadcasting enterprises. Then, lo and behold, what was once a sovereign nation finds itself at the feet of its economic deliverer wondering at the speed of economic blitzkrieg!

As we have been reporting during the past year, the German economic blitzkrieg is at an *advanced stage*. The war for the takeover of national industries and corporations in Eastern Europe is *well advanced*. Now comes the *pièce de résistance*—the reconstruction of Serbia, driven by German enterprise and funded by deutschmarks. This wins the humanitarian and economic vote of the West, and will succeed in the EU winning Yugoslavia from U.S. and Russian influence. *This scenario is very real and very current!* Yes, it is very, very real. Take a look at the facts.

#### In the Fast Lane

In a meeting of the Balkan Stability Pact at Tirana, the capital of Montenegro, on October 26, President Kostunica declared that Yugoslavia now acknowledges the UN charter, the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Helsinki final declaration on human rights. On October 30, at the summit of Balkan nations held in Macedonia, the Balkan nations called for an end to a decade of war among the republics and peoples of Yugoslavia. The dangling carrot for this sud-

den desire for peace is the \$4.5 billion that the EU has promised the Balkan nations for reconstruction, providing they behave.

Less than two weeks after Kostunica's recognition of the OSCE, the federal republic was admitted to membership at a special meeting called in Vienna on November 10. On the same day, Yugoslavia applied for a membership of the 41-nation European Council. This is normally a long, drawn-out process. However, after a special two-day meeting of the European Council's political committee held in Strasbourg, it decided to place Yugoslavia in the fast lane and grant membership by June next year!

What is worth noting is that European Council membership, as the BBC related at the time, "is the touchstone to EU membership." The BBC report further noted, "Yugoslavia may gain special guest status with *unprecedented quickness*; probably by the end of the year."

Watch for Yugoslavia to be pushed now, by events controlled from Brussels, into the fast lane to *EU membership*.

Yugoslavia is hardly in a prime bargaining position to resist EU aggres-

### YUGOSLAVIA IN THE FAST LANE

#### October 26

Yugoslavia officially acknowledges the UN charter, the principles for OSCE, and the Helsinki final declaration on human rights.

#### October 30

Balkan nations call for end to a decade of war—for \$4.5 billion from the EU.

#### November 10

Yugoslavia granted membership in OSCE; European Council promises membership by June 2001.

#### Watch for...

Yugoslavia to be placed in fast lane for EU membership.

sion. Both Yugoslavia and the EU know this. The total debt owed to the world's financial bodies by Yugoslavia is \$10 billion, and the nation is 65 percent in arrears on repayment of this debt to the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and European Investment Bank. Put simply, Yugoslavia needs the EU to bail it out and will dance to the tune of the EU piper.

The problem of internecine turmoil seethes below the surface in the Balkans. Albanians want an independent Kosovo. Many of the Serbs still would prefer a dismembered Bosnia. Many in the Balkans want Milosevic indicted as a war criminal in The Hague. Kostunica refuses to hand him over. But to dampen the enthusiasm of any of the Balkan nations for conflict against each

other, their new masters will soon have their own military force at their disposal to settle Balkan feuds—the new European Rapid Reaction Force.

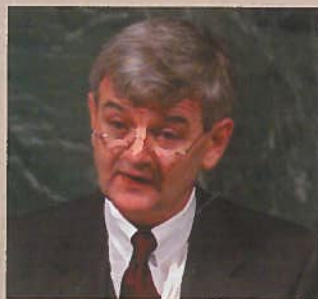
It just so happens that this 230,000-man force is due to be brought into play in 2003, the same year slated for the first wave of appli-

*continued on page 25*

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

## Fischer Warns: Yugoslavs Must Acquire Democratic Culture to Relate to Germany

BERLIN (AP), Oct. 11—German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, addressing Parliament on Wednesday, expressed his opinion that Germany should not only provide material help to Yugoslavia but that the Bundeswehr and non-military organizations should establish a permanent presence there. He declared that this was a unique chance to create a democracy in the con-

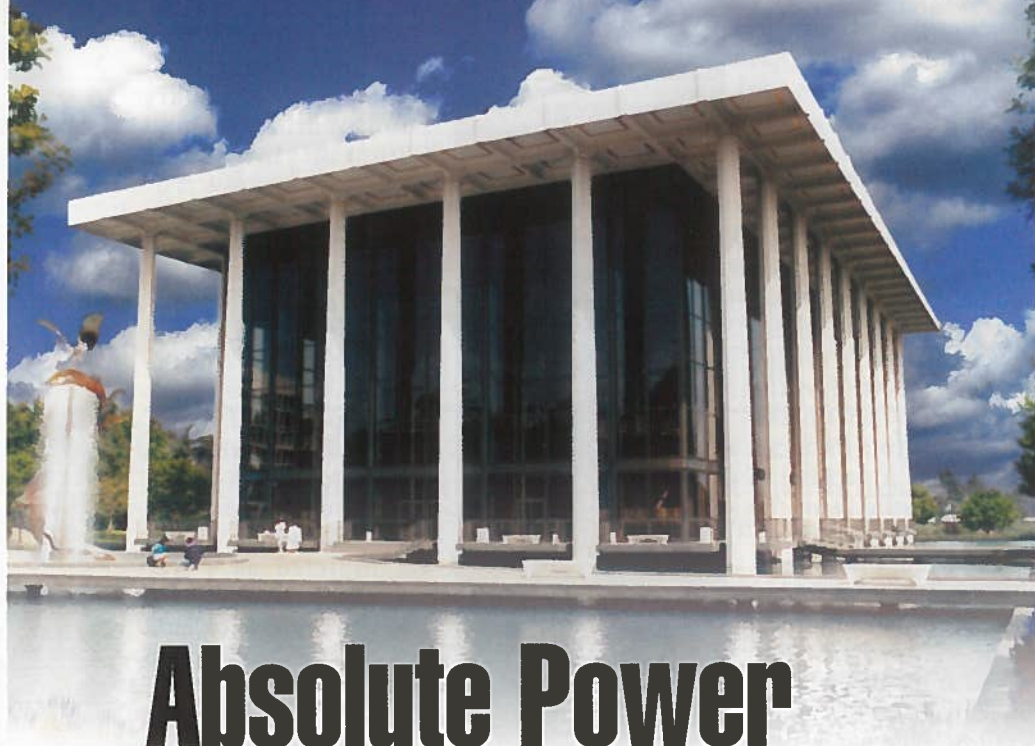


Joschka Fischer

text of further European unification.

Reunited Germany has a special responsibility for stabilizing democracy in Serbia. Democracy, said Mr. Fischer, is the basis for a lasting peace in the Balkans. But the priority is for the moment that the democratic changes be carried out peacefully and that justice prevail. The Western Balkans is a part of the European comprehensive responsibility.

**HEADQUARTERS** The auditorium at Worldwide Church of God headquarters in Pasadena



DIGITALLY ALTERED TRUMPET PHOTO

# Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely

Continuing from last month's feature, "Our Christian Duty," we now investigate where there has been a real abuse of power. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

**I**F YOU READ LAST MONTH'S *TRUMPET* feature, then you are well familiar with the term "cognitive dissonance." (To review, as Joseph Tkach Jr. defines it in his book *Transformed by Truth*, cognitive dissonance "permits us to believe two contradictory ideas at the same time.") As our court struggle over *Mystery of the Ages* enters its final stage, cognitive dissonance abounds in the Worldwide Church of God (WCG)—the church that repudiated all of the teachings of its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong—even going so far as to ban his written works.

The appellate court in California denied our petition to reconsider the case concerning our right to print and freely distribute *Mystery of the Ages*. We are now in the process of appealing to the Supreme Court for final judgment on this matter.

Meanwhile, the Worldwide Church of God continues disseminating its propaganda. A member and legal adviser for the WCG, Ralph Helge, was interviewed by the *Journal* newspaper in its September 30 issue. Mr. Helge accused the Philadelphia Church of God of stealing and condemned our governmental structure. "Apparently Gerald Flurry considers himself above the law. But without law society becomes anarchy. Mr. Flurry teaches that in the ranking system there is God, Christ, then him, and he acts accordingly. He seems to feel he can take what he wants. Where would this stop? If he can steal what is protected by a copyright, does this now mean he can take your car?"

Of course, as we have pointed out before, it is the Worldwide Church of God leadership that is stealing and abusing its power. Even worse, they *know* it.

They *know* they've lied to people. They *know* they've misled their members. They *know* they've booted out thousands of converts for merely adhering to what they were taught by Mr. Armstrong. They *know* they have no intention of ever printing *Mystery of the Ages* again, even though their lawyers give the court the impression they still "might."

They know that it is *they* who have abused power.

## Hierarchical Government

The government structure within our church is an exact replica of what it was in Mr. Armstrong's day—hierarchical. Mr. Armstrong left little doubt about how the WCG was organized when he spoke before leading ministers of the church on February 25, 1981. A transcript of his message was reprinted in the church newspaper, the *Worldwide News*, on March 6, 1981.

"The church is a spiritual organism," Mr. Armstrong said, "but it is organized on God's spiritual pattern as explained primarily in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 and other New Testament scriptures. Of course, God the Father is the Head over all. But Jesus Christ is the living Head of the church. He's in heaven on God's throne. Under Him on Earth are apostles. Apostles were given the oversight of the church and its organized work."

Later, he said, "The basic organization pattern is *the same* today as it was then." He then described that hierarchical structure, pointing to an organizational diagram while he spoke: "God is the Supreme Head over all. In heaven is God, and Christ under Him as Head of the church but under God the Father. Below we come to the earthly area. First, under Christ is His chosen apostle. Jesus said by their fruits you shall know them."

As everyone in the church believed, Mr. Armstrong was the one who served underneath Christ as His chosen apostle. "So now we are incorporated *under myself*," Mr. Armstrong said with customary plainness. Yet, as all members understood, Mr. Armstrong relied on regular input from advisers and counselors. He continued, "I am appointing an Advisory Council of Elders, not a board of directors. This type of corporation doesn't require a board of directors. I want an advisory council...because Solomon says in the multitude of counsel there is safety."

That's the way Mr. Armstrong orga-



nized the government in the Worldwide Church of God—from the top down. He made no apology for that—and neither do we. Of course, Mr. Armstrong forced NO ONE to submit to his leadership. All members voluntarily subjected themselves to his authority, much like an employee would submit to the owner of a company. If members did not like it, they were free to leave. Indeed, some did over the years.

### “Theological Despot”

Predictably, in *Transformed By Truth*, Joseph Tkach Jr. is quite critical of Mr. Armstrong’s governmental structure. “It is said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” he wrote. “Mr. Armstrong may have never wielded absolute power in our church, but by the same token, there weren’t many who would challenge him on an issue. No doubt that is one reason why he earned a reputation ‘on the outside’ as a theological despot” (p. 184).

Later, he wrote that Mr. Armstrong “was most definitely and absolutely in charge of our church.... Since he didn’t become a captain of industry in advertising, he ended up becoming a captain of religion.... He was the founder, and he came on the scene as this transcendental figure whom most of our members saw as having all authority and power, a man to whom members felt God spoke directly” (p. 185).

In truth, we do believe God revealed truth directly to Mr. Armstrong—that’s the main reason we printed *Mystery of the Ages*. We do believe Mr. Armstrong had final say and authority in the church, under Christ of course.

But where we strenuously disagree with Mr. Tkach’s evaluation is *how* Mr. Armstrong used that authority. He most certainly was *not* a despot. He led the church like a loving father—perhaps more like a grandfather, since he was so much older than most of the members.

Some “on the outside” may have considered him a theological despot, but those of us “on the inside” saw his dedication to God’s work. He worked tirelessly, well into his 90s, until the day he died. This, no one can deny. He loved God’s work. And he loved his fellow-laborers.

### Employed by Christ

Worldwide Church of God lawyers deposed my father on September 2, 1998. I’ll draw your attention to one line of questioning in particular as yet

another example of their penchant for cognitive dissonance. The WCG’s lead attorney, Allan Browne, initiated the exchange:

BROWNE: *Do you have an employment agreement with the Philadelphia Church of God?*

FLURRY: *No.*

BROWNE: *Are you employed by the Philadelphia Church of God?*

FLURRY: *No.*

BROWNE: *Do you work full time for the Philadelphia Church of God?*

FLURRY: *I do not. No, I do not.*

BROWNE: *You do not. Do you work part time for the Philadelphia Church of God?*

FLURRY: *No.*

BROWNE: *For whom do you work?*

FLURRY: *Of course, if you look at it spiritually, I’d say I work for Jesus Christ.*

Not giving up, Mr. Browne kept trying to corner my dad. After asking if he received a paycheck from the church, Browne then asked for the name of the payer on the check. To which, my dad responded, “There is the name Philadelphia Church of God, but it’s signed by me.”

“So you sign your own check?” Mr. Browne asked.

“Yes,” came the reply.

It might seem like a meaningless exchange. But think about this for a moment—the WCG has harshly criticized the “absolute power” Mr. Armstrong wielded. They have criticized us for the same thing. So doesn’t it seem odd that they would try to coerce my dad into admitting he was employed by the church? Shouldn’t they, of all people, know that the Philadelphia Church of God did not “hire” Gerald Flurry? Don’t they know that Gerald Flurry is the one who raised up the Philadelphia Church of God? Didn’t Ralph Helge say Gerald Flurry could basically do “whatever he wanted” to do as head of the PCG?

The answer to all of these questions is YES. The question, then, is why did they want my dad to admit he was employed by the church?

### “Work for Hire”

Mr. Browne had hoped my dad would say he worked for the church because it would lend credence to his case. You see, from the beginning, they have tried to convince the court that Mr. Armstrong was employed by the church and that *Mystery of the Ages* was produced on a “work for hire” basis. In other words, the church “hired” Mr.

Armstrong to produce the work and, now that he is dead, “the church” can do what it wants to do with the book—which is to discard it and keep anyone else from ever printing it again.

Here’s how the WCG tried to explain it in their motion for summary adjudication, filed on February 8, 1999 (emphasis added): “Herbert W. Armstrong served in various capacities with the WCG, including as pastor general, president, chairman of its board, and as an employee. He considered himself an employee and, at one point, had a written employee agreement”—the brief then references Ralph Helge’s deposition as its source. Later, the WCG argues, “As a work for hire, the copyright is registered in the WCG’s name.”

This is yet another example of how the WCG speaks out of both sides of its mouth. To the general public, they say, *Mr. Armstrong was a tyrant—a dictator—a theological despot. He ruled with a rod of iron. No one dared question him. He had absolute authority.*

To the judicial system, however, the WCG argues that *the church* CONTROLLED MR. ARMSTRONG! *The board had final say, they insist. The church hired him to produce Mystery of the Ages—that’s why the copyright in the book says “Worldwide Church of God” and not “Herbert W. Armstrong.”*

To cover their tracks, the WCG has demanded that all of their depositions be kept in strict confidence. They do not want the general public to see how Ralph Helge insists that Mr. Armstrong was controlled and supervised by a board, that the board even had the power to remove Mr. Armstrong from office.

They want this argument kept confidential because they know it’s pure nonsense. You cannot have it both ways. Mr. Armstrong either controlled the “board,” or the board controlled him.

Perhaps after this legal struggle is over, we will be able to publish some of the information in the WCG’s depositions. But for now there is plenty of public information available to expose their duplicitous deceit.

### The Last Domino

*Transformed by Truth*, as we covered last month, chronicles the many doctrinal changes that have transformed the Worldwide Church of God over the past 14 years. On page 98, Mr. Tkach acknowledges that the church is now working to change the way its government operates. “We do not believe

that one form of church government is more biblical than another," Mr. Tkach wrote, "and are taking steps to decentralize our ecclesiastical structure."

One wonders what "steps" they are taking and how much progress they have made since that was written in 1997. But more than that, I wonder about the *timing* of such a change in government structure.

Notice this revealing quote from Mr. Tkach's book, on page 186: "There is no question that [Mr. Armstrong's] administrative and organizational structures allowed unbiblical teaching to be believed and perpetuated." What he is saying is that Mr. Armstrong's unquestioned authority forced unbiblical teachings on the membership. He continues, "In His mercy God has *changed our doctrines first*, and we are NOW working to change our governmental structure and polity" (emphasis mine).

Did you catch that? In other words, Tkach Jr.'s unquestioned authority has FORCED all these changes upon the membership! And now that the transformation is virtually complete, he's looking into restructuring its government. How convenient.

Now let's look at the facts to see who *really* has abused his power.

### Passing the Baton

Here is a snapshot of the Worldwide Church of God at or around the time of Herbert Armstrong's death: It had an approximate membership of 100,000. Another 100,000 were considered co-workers (non-members who regularly contributed to the church financially). Its *annual* income exceeded \$200 million, the bulk of which paid for *World Tomorrow* television time, print and distribution costs, salaried personnel and Ambassador College operations.

In 1985 alone, *The World Tomorrow* was beaming around the world on more than 400 stations. That year, the church distributed 85.7 million publications. *The Plain Truth* carried a monthly circulation of 8.4 million, the *Good News* 828,000 and *Youth* magazine 224,000. The church received 6.7 million pieces of mail over those 12 months, answered

1.1 million phone calls and added 2.1 million new names to its database. *Mystery of the Ages* was its most popular piece of literature, requested by more than 750,000 people the last half of 1985.

This is what Mr. Armstrong bequeathed to the Tkach administration. With it, he also handed over "absolute power" to care for the church's best interests by administering God's law of love.

### Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely

One of Mr. Tkach Sr.'s first administrative decisions was to reopen the Big Sandy campus of Ambassador College. Five weeks before he died, Mr. Armstrong announced plans to close the campus so that the church could focus its energies and resources on the headquarters campus in Pasadena. After receiving criticism for reversing Mr. Armstrong's ruling, Mr. Tkach told members that Mr. Armstrong never said he wanted to close Big Sandy.

Barely six months into his administration, Mr. Tkach Sr. started de-emphasizing Mr. Armstrong's office and exalting his own. He omitted several references to Mr. Armstrong's office in the serialization of *Mystery of the Ages* that appeared in the *Plain Truth's* July 1986 issue. By January 1987, after just one year at the helm, Tkach Sr. referred to himself as an apostle,

the highest human rank mentioned in scripture. Mr. Armstrong, we should note, *did not* anoint Mr. Tkach as apostle when he handed over the reigns of government in 1986. He appointed him pastor general.

Mr. Tkach used every bit of his self-appointed power in initiating change. In 1987, he changed the church's longstanding position on healing and shortened the church's most popular book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, chopping 70 percent of Mr. Armstrong's original material.

In 1988, he discarded *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* altogether, along with Mr. Armstrong's best work, *Mystery of the Ages*. He also began pursuit of accreditation for Ambassador College, saying the school

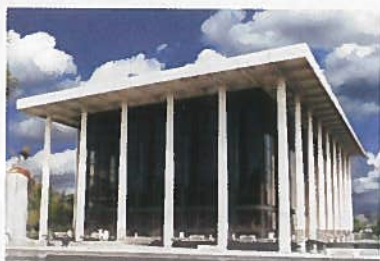
would be forced to close down unless it conformed to the accreditation board's strictures. That, of course, was not true. After more criticism, Mr. Tkach tried to convince members that Mr. Armstrong had always wanted the school to be accredited anyway—also untrue. The following year, Mr. Tkach closed the Pasadena campus and expanded activities at Big Sandy, completely reversing, in just three years, Mr. Armstrong's final instructions for the college's future.

In 1989, Mr. Tkach quietly discontinued *The Plain Truth About Christmas* and *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, the latter without any explanation offered whatsoever. That year, he also told members not to assign scriptures to personalities, calling those who did "spiritually presumptuous." Mr. Armstrong, of course, did that routinely. After some members brought this to Mr. Tkach's attention, he said Mr. Armstrong never assigned scriptures to personalities.

Concerning *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Tkach first attributed its removal to cost. He also said it had a few minor errors that needed updating. As late as 1990, he insisted that no doctrines in the book had been changed or altered, even though his son admitted privately the year before that the book was "rid-dled with error."

In 1991, the church reversed its unique position on the "born again" doctrine. After a flood of negative response to the change, remarkably, Mr. Tkach said there was "no change"—only a clarification. That year, the church also changed positions on the Kingdom of God, the exclusivity of the church and the fact that Christ could have sinned. They discontinued the booklets *Who or What is the Prophetic Beast?*, *Why Were You Born?*, *All About Water Baptism* and *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*. Yet, even still, when asked about the changes, they *consistently* responded, "Changes? What changes?"

In 1992, Mr. Tkach accepted the traditional trinity doctrine, said the Ten Commandments were important but not enough, and taught that members were now "saved." He discontinued the booklet *Why Marriage?* and introduced the new booklet *God Is...*, paving the way for changing the Godhead doctrine. Members no longer bought into the "What changes?" defense. So late that year, Mr. Tkach *finally* admitted things



**"In His mercy God has changed our doctrines first, and we are now working to change our governmental structure and polity."**

Joseph Tkach Jr.

had changed, sort of. Incredibly, he said Mr. Armstrong had, on his deathbed, commissioned him to look into the "very changes" that had been made.

In 1993, they reversed positions on the God-family doctrine, insisted that God does not have a body and said that Jesus was not the God of the Old Testament—all in stark contrast to Mr. Armstrong's teachings.

In early 1994, they announced a "new, more effective way" of using the television medium by canceling *The World Tomorrow* program in favor of running occasional commercials. It was as if the Tkach administration was incapable of embarrassment. The real reason they pursued this new, more effective way of using television was because church membership and income were plummeting.

When the college finally obtained accreditation in 1994, the church still insisted it was what Mr. Armstrong always wanted, even though he had condemned it as late as six months before he died. Ironically, after saying they needed accreditation to survive, upon finally obtaining it, the college folded up. In trying to make sense of what happened, the church actually pinned the blame on Mr. Armstrong: "He chose not to make provisions for the long-range operation of the church or for Ambassador" (*Gilmer Mirror*, Jan. 4, 1997).

Yet, despite all this "positive change" and "growth"—even as the church itself was falling apart—Tkach Sr. retained all of his AUTOCRATIC POWER right up until he died of cancer in the fall of 1995. He used that self-appointed authority to anoint his son, Joseph Tkach Jr., as ABSOLUTE RULER of the church.

Tkach Jr., as he admits in his own book, has also retained full authority and power throughout the entire "transformation." *Only now*, after "God" has seen fit to "change the doctrines first," will he consider altering the church's governmental structure.

What a sham. He knows, of course, that he couldn't have seized control of the church, betrayed Mr. Armstrong's ideals and silenced his voice by banning his written works were it not for the "absolute power" he has presumably come to detest. Joseph Tkach Jr. knows that were it not for abusing his own absolute power, this "innocent" transformation would have never come about. ♦

## Yugoslavia *from page 21*

cant nations to join the Union from the east and southeast.

It has taken decades to build the European Union from its inception as the European Steel and Coal Community in 1949 to its present powerhouse economic and political status. Its collective economy is now second only to that of the U.S. and in fact stands on the brink of overtaking the U.S. in size, extent and scope, on present trends, within months.

Yet the progress of this economic and political giant to its present position as a global power has seemingly been at times painful, cumbersome and slow. This is not surprising, given its ethnic mix and the tendency for its individual member nations to always be seeking the best deal for themselves as they proceed towards federation under a single constitution.

Considering this, what is most startling is the speed with which two EU initiatives are now moving into high gear, each of which had its genesis in the Kosovo conflict that erupted in April 1999: the new *EU defense force* and the *Balkan Stability Pact*. Javier Solana, EU foreign-policy guru, describes the development of the EU Rapid Reaction Force as "moving with the speed of light." That's unprecedented in EU history, considering that most of its efforts have seemingly moved at a snail's pace by comparison—at least up to 1990! With respect to the *Balkan Stability Pact*, *its drive to cement Yugoslavia into the institutions that will lead it towards EU membership is without precedent*. Ordinarily, to qualify for EU membership, applicant nations are supposed to meet stringent economic standards which require a fundamental reconstitution of the nation's economy and its basic systems of government and administration over a period of years. In the rush to absorb Yugoslavia into the EU, this process is being largely swept aside.

### German Political Will

The Germans are an energetic and enterprising folk. Well-organized, with an eye for detail, they have a rich heritage of the arts and are certainly a culturally advanced nation given to great friendliness. Yet the Germans have a

dark side to their character which has shown itself at its worst during the past century. Unlike Anglo-Saxons, the Germans are a people easily led. Give them a strong leader and they will readily fall in line and follow. That is not the way of the British and American peoples. They simply find it hard to submit to government. Yet there is good and bad leadership. Sadly, *Germany has demonstrated in the past an inability to discern between leadership that is constructive and that which is destructive to the most extreme extent.*

That it is German political will that is driving the eastward push of the European Union is patently obvious to all. What happens if this German political will ends up dominating the new Rapid Reaction Force in the same aggressive way that it is currently leading Europe economically and politically? What if German political will becomes German *military might* yet once again? Could it happen? Will it happen—again?

Well, believe it or not, your Bible says it will. It's time you started to watch the world scene. America and Britain are generally *not watching*, not watching out for the repetition of history. A nation not watching is a nation unguarded. You need to be *on guard*.

Keep reading the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. We tell it like it is—and we tell you *before* it happens; that's the best way to be prepared when events actually happen. Keep watching Europe—watch Yugoslavia—watch Germany—watch, especially, the European Union, and read our reports next month on the outcome of the crucial EU summit meeting in Nice, France, being held this month. Decisions made at that meeting will soon affect you economically, politically and militarily. "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (1 Thes. 5:6). ♦

### RECOMMENDED READING

Our booklet *The Rising Beast* is available to you at no cost. Visit [www.pcog.org](http://www.pcog.org) to order online, or see the inside cover of this magazine for information on how to order by phone or mail.



## Nobel Prize *from page 13*

Most of our people don't know that today. Nor do they care to know. In fact, they usually refuse to know.

That means we are going to pay some mind-splitting penalties for this attitude. It is time to wake up!

How could Alexander Solzhenitsyn be so right about the Communist system and so wrong about the Western system—as most Westerners reason? Are we so sure we're right that we won't even listen to objective criticism? Why would Solzhenitsyn even give such a speech? All it got him was ridicule and scorn. Isn't it possible he wanted to help us save our nations from disaster?

He has suffered as few people have in this modern world. And HE LEARNED SOME PROFOUND LESSONS IN THE PROCESS.

If we fail to listen to the warnings—especially God's—then God is left with one only option.

All of those nuclear bombs would remain unexploded if mankind would listen to God's words today. If they fail to listen, God is going to get their attention the only way He can!

### Where Is Our Courage?

This Nobel Prize winner struck at the very heart of what makes a nation great—or what causes a superpower to fall. He continued in his Harvard speech, "A decline in courage may be the MOST STRIKING FEATURE THAT AN OUTSIDE OBSERVER NOTICES IN THE WEST TODAY. The Western world has lost its civic courage, both as a whole and separately, in each country, in each government, in each political party, and, of course, in the United Nations. Such a decline in courage is particularly noticeable AMONG THE RULING AND INTELLECTUAL ELITES, causing an impression of a loss of courage by the entire society. There are many courageous individuals, but they have no determining influence on public life.

"Political and intellectual functionaries...BASE STATE POLICIES ON WEAKNESS AND COWARDICE. And the decline in courage, at times attaining what could be termed A LACK OF MANHOOD...[means] they get tongue-tied and paralyzed when they deal with powerful governments and threatening forces, with aggressors and international terrorists.

"Must one point out that from ancient times a decline in courage HAS BEEN CONSIDERED THE FIRST SYMPTOM OF THE END?"

That last line truly disturbed many people! He stated a great truth of history that has been demonstrated repeatedly, but that few men have learned. It has been proven again and again since "ancient times." A radical decline in courage is a frightening symptom of the end of America and Britain!

HE IS DISCUSSING THE DEATH OF OUR NATIONS! But that is only a small part of the problem. History also thunders that he is right. So does Bible prophecy.

What a powerful warning Mr. Solzhenitsyn gave, if only we would heed and get to the CAUSE of our problems.

America has suffered many foreign-policy setbacks in recent years. Nobody fears the great American superpower anymore.

America is called the world's only superpower. We do have the military might. But Solzhenitsyn says we lack the WILL to use it.

In this world full of tigers, a superpower can't resign or sneak off into the night. Other nations know that if they can destroy a superpower, they become a superpower themselves.

This is a sobering thought that America should keep in mind!

Solzhenitsyn made other condemning statements about the West, but they were made over a long period of time. Mostly they were unnoticed or ignored. But his speech at Harvard was different. On that hot summer day in 1978, he had the attention of America's intellectual elite. The press was there, listening intently. A speech like that, so concen-

world's political and economic leaders, responsible for the security and well-being of the globe. But many members of the Clinton administration are PLAGUED BY SELF-DOUBT in their dealings with the pariah states and sources of terror and instability. This schizophrenia leads to confusion, both within the U.S. government and among America's allies...

"This is *not* the behavior EXPECTED from the WORLD'S ONLY SUPERPOWER.

"Since the end of the cold war, Washington has been the undisputed capital of the world. If the Americans do not fill this leadership role, the rogue states and regional conflicts will grow out of control, and the world economic system will spiral into depression...

"In response, Israelis could decide that despite all the promises and assurances, in a prolonged crisis, THE U.S. IS NOT A RELIABLE ALLY."

This prestigious newspaper states that America is "plagued by self-doubt" and has a "schizophrenia" that leads to confusion.

There is indeed a leadership role that urgently needs to be filled in the Middle East by a strong America. But we are failing badly. Many Israelis say we are not acting like the world's only superpower. Some of our foreign friends have already decided that we are not a "reliable ally"! THAT KIND OF THINKING WOULD DISTURB US MIGHTILY—IF WE WERE A REAL SUPERPOWER! But we are too weak to be stung by such words, much less demonstrate to the world that they are wrong. The weaker our foreign policy, the more an anti-American tide rises around the world.

Here is what Solzhenitsyn said in

## AMERICA IS CALLED THE WORLD'S ONLY SUPERPOWER. WE DO HAVE THE MILITARY MIGHT. BUT SOLZHENITSYN SAYS WE LACK THE WILL TO USE IT.

trated and focused, and with such an attentive audience, could not be ignored!

### A Broken Will

Several years earlier, Solzhenitsyn said, "We see [the West] today, crawling on hands and knees, ITS WILL PARALYZED."

This Nobel Prize winner has spoken more forcefully than others. But haven't we noticed the many other critics outside Britain and America today?

Notice this comment from the *Jerusalem Post International Edition*, February 21, 1998: "The Americans view themselves, correctly, as the

*The Oak and the Calf*: "Unmoved by all the misfortunes and threats that hemmed us in, I knew that it was time: time to find some way of shocking the West into the realization that it could not look after its own interests, that while it raged implacably against the weak, it invariably lost, INVARIABLY SURRENDERED TO ROCK-HARD TYRANTS."

The West "invariably surrendered to rock-hard tyrants" like Saddam Hussein. And isn't he still in power because we lacked the will to remove him in the Persian Gulf War?

That same year, 1991, America and the entire United Nations succumbed

to the bullying tactics of a resurgent Germany regarding the independence of Croatia and Slovenia.

Still, America likes to nurture the illusion that we are the world's only superpower.

"During my time in the camps, I had gotten to know the enemies of the human race quite well: They respect the *big fist* and nothing else; the harder you slug them, the safer you will be. (PEOPLE IN THE WEST SIMPLY WILL NOT UNDERSTAND THIS...)" (ibid.).

We REFUSE to understand because of our weak will!

**"EVEN 50 YEARS AGO, IT WOULD HAVE SEEMED QUITE IMPOSSIBLE, IN AMERICA, THAT AN INDIVIDUAL BE GRANTED BOUNDLESS FREEDOM WITH NO PURPOSE, SIMPLY FOR THE SATISFACTION OF HIS WHIMS."**

There were many mistakes made in the Vietnam War. But we rarely ever discuss why President Kennedy got us involved in the first place. The president knew we were NOT taking a stand against the rock-hard Communist tyrants at that time the way we should. He said, "We must show some resolve to the Communists." We did just the opposite in Vietnam. And to this day we still haven't shown them that "resolve." And what's more, we are not going to in the future.

Herbert W. Armstrong said, "America has won its last war." I agree completely. So does Bible prophecy.

#### What Is the Solution?

Let's look at a prophecy that is for this end time. Leviticus 26 is called the blessings and cursings chapter. God promises blessings upon Israel for obedience, cursings for disobedience. Israel today is primarily America and Britain. (You can prove this by reading our free booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.) "But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments... I WILL SET MY FACE AGAINST YOU, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you" (Lev. 26:14, 17). It's a dreadful condition to have God "against you." "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I WILL BREAK THE PRIDE OF YOUR POWER" (vv. 18-19). If we disobey God, He has promised to break the pride of our power. That means we would be a

great power in the end time, but our WILL would be broken. That has happened exactly as God prophesied!

And that is exactly the way Alexander Solzhenitsyn and others have described Britain and especially America today.

God often agrees with our foreign-policy critics. Our *weakness* is directly TIED TO THE ALL-POWERFUL GOD! That should cause us to pause and think.

Daniel prophesied that the words of Moses, like the book of Leviticus, were for this end time (Dan. 9:13). Our broken will is just one of the curses upon us.

Daniel was written for this end time (Dan. 12:4, 9). And he says the book of Leviticus, which Moses wrote, is for the nations of Israel in this end time as well.

Most people don't even know who the nations of Israel are today. But these prophecies indicate that God's very elect would know and proclaim to the world who they are. It is a critical job that must be done.

Why don't we understand God's truth and prophecies? Daniel says it is because we won't repent and turn from our sins. God would give us understanding if we would just repent of our sins. God commands us to TURN to His righteousness and blessings. We will never understand who we are and what is happening to us until we turn to God. That includes religion.

The whole world is deceived (Rev. 12:9). Religion most of all!

"Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice" (Dan. 9:14). God is actually bringing all the evils upon us because of our sins. And the Leviticus prophecy says the problems will intensify until we repent or die!

That is what it means when it says God is "against" us!

Ezekiel is also an end-time book addressed to Israel. "Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, am AGAINST THEE, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations" (Ezek. 5:8). "I, even I" am against you, God says. This repetition is to emphasize the horror of the statement.

WHO COULD BE IN A MORE HORRIFYING STATE? God is going to punish us in the sight of all nations. If we don't repent collectively, just sit back and watch it happen very fast.

"And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations" (v. 9). Our punishment will be the worst ever inflicted on any nation! (Matt. 24:21-22; Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1). It will happen because of all our "abominations."

Our punishment is going to be the worst ever because our sins are the most abominable in our history!

There is a great cause behind God's punishment. "Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and THEY SHALL KNOW THAT I THE LORD have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them" (Ezek. 5:13). We are going to get to KNOW GOD. We don't know Him today because *Satan* is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:1-4). Mankind worships him rather than the true God.

How grotesque can our deception be? Being so deeply deceived shows that we refuse to accept God's truth. People love living in deceit!

#### Future Filled With Hope

America, Britain and all the nations of Israel have failed God. Now God is using spiritual Israel—His church—to do His work. But God chose the tribes of Israel to do His work, and He will yet choose them to lead all the other nations to God!

"For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the Lord our God. For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the CHIEF of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel" (Jer. 31:6-7).

Jacob (whose name was later changed to Israel) is going to be "*chief* of the nations." He will lead the world "unto the Lord our God." Our nations should be doing this now. But God is merciful and will still cause Israel to fulfill His will.

Then Israel will have the respect and love of the world. They receive contempt from many other nations today. An inspiring change is about to occur. What a wonderful, loving God we have! ♦

## Personal from page 1

TUTION OF THIS GREAT LAND, MORE THAN THEIR MAN BECOMING PRESIDENT? HERE IS THE HEART OF THIS CRISIS! I believe that they can't even relate to what I'm writing. They have been practicing this evil for too long! Putting self above the Constitution has become a way of life. Here is the real constitutional crisis.

This painful truth portends a black future for America unless we make some serious changes.

Even if the courts stop the lawyer blitz, too many politicians and members of the press have given dignity to a destructive attack on our law and the Constitution. These institutions are going to be less respected and even hated by many people.

It was Patrick Henry who said, "Give me liberty or give me death." The Constitution is what gives us our liberty. Too many of our leaders are saying, "Give me political victory and to Hades with the Constitution!"

The presidential office has been dangerously crippled.

Already our foreign policy is being adversely affected. "The United States' descent into electoral chaos is likely to diminish its effectiveness as chief mediator in the Middle East..." (Agence France Press, Nov. 13).

"The real danger the American election poses is that it calls into question the legitimacy of the presidency. Since the president is the chief agent of U.S. foreign policy, this could destabilize the international system. The consequences are not trivial" ("Worldview," *www.stratfor.com*, Nov. 13).

But do our leaders see that "the consequences are not trivial"? Do we see what we are doing to our country?

People have become so ignorant of history, they are unaware of how delicate a democracy is. Like Humpty Dumpty, once it falls, you can't put it back together again.

A mature understanding of history would help us to see the inherent dangers. So would understanding Bible prophecy.

"For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The

captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them" (Isa. 3:1-4). This book was specifically written for the end time (Isa. 30:8). The mighty man, the judge, the prudent and the HONORABLE MAN have been taken away. Mostly we are left with childish leaders who are *not honorable*. Like mischievous children, they only want to get their own way. They are our leaders and princes—"babes shall rule over them."

Our leaders cause us to err (Isa. 3:12). So it is a *leadership crisis*—not an election crisis. They lead the deceived people astray.

If you look at the context of Isaiah 3, this despicable condition is leading us into an unparalleled national disaster! It is a tragic condition that exists just before our country's collapse.

We have become a people who hate laws. We could not be led even if we were to have strong leaders. Soon a great crisis will reveal that stark truth. Because only strong leadership can solve such a crisis. Winston Churchill proved that in World War II, and the world situation is much more dangerous today than it was then.

President Nixon refused to challenge the 1960 election when he had a good chance of winning. And he had every reason to challenge a corrupt Cook County in Illinois (unlike the Florida challenge in our election). But he wouldn't put the country through that dangerous crisis. He put America ahead of himself. It was an honorable decision. He had understanding that most of our leaders lack today.

In spite of what you may think of Mr. Nixon, where do we find such an honorable decision in our political crisis?

Perhaps that should give us some measure of how bad our crisis is.

Leaders today can't see the dangers America faces. They have virtually no vision. But nations around us see what a repugnant spectacle we have become. Several major newspapers of other nations have labeled our election a *farce*.

Our problems are going to intensify rapidly until we wake up. The warning contained in this magazine is going out to help us avoid national collapse.

Will we heed the warning? Are we willing to face our leadership crisis? If not, be prepared to watch our political process grow dangerously worse, and fast!

AFTER READING YOUR LEAD ARTICLE REGARDING *Mystery of the Ages*, I feel confident that you will win your court case, and God will deliver a knockout blow to the agenda the Worldwide Church of God has put forth to ruin the wonderful and truly great work that Mr. Armstrong labored so uncompromisingly to build.

Pittsford, N.Y.

ALTHOUGH I RECENTLY CANCELED MY SUBSCRIPTION to your magazine, watching the news recently makes me realize that I need to watch world events more closely. Your magazine offers a unique perspective, and, while I do not agree with all of your statements (particularly in reference to the Catholic Church), there is a ring of truth to many of your views. Would you please renew my subscription to the *Trumpet* and *True Education*?

Leicestershire, England

AS THE LIBRARIAN OF THE RIVER SALLEE School and Community Library, I would like to express our sincerest gratitude to you. The *Trumpet* magazine not only provides our patrons with a spiritual base, but also contains current events from around the world, as well as history.

St. Patrick's, Grenada

I HAVE BEEN READING YOUR EXTRAORDINARY magazine for over a year and would like to thank you for writing the full truth in regards to the situation in former Yugoslavia. Yours is the only magazine that has written the entire truth on both present and past events.

Edmondton, Alb.

### Germany's Long History

I'M 19 YEARS OLD, A BABE IN CHRIST WHO is only beginning to learn about what's truly happening in today's world. Your article about Germany and the peace treaty has helped me understand more about the end time. It's impossible *not* to understand what you are saying. Thanks for sharing this knowledge with the world. If you could just get it to more teenagers—that would be great!

Dallas, Tex.

I WISH THE *TRUMPET* WOULD TAKE AN IMPARTIAL stance on the problems of Northern Ireland. The persecution of Irish Catholics is horrendous. However, I share your angst about the condition of the Anglo-Saxon world. There is almost no such thing as morality anymore.

Treasure Island, Fla.

GARY RETHFORD

# Duty, Honor, Country

Have we become our own enemy?

AS I STOOD, LOOKING OUT OVER THE FIELDS, IT WASN'T DIFFICULT to allow my imagination the freedom to hear the roar of Spitfires and Hurricane fighters, their Merlin engines interrupting the soothing lyrics of a popular song of the times: "There'll be bluebirds over / The white cliffs of Dover.... / Just you wait and see."

My wife and I had just spent the afternoon visiting the Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge and were waiting in the misty rain as my gaze roamed over what remained of that glorious time. Now, Hawkinge Airfield is being dozed up for new housing, its history just a fading memory—mute testimony to the former glory of England in its finest hour. In the Autumn of 1940 however, it was vital, as directly across the English Channel from nearby Folkestone and Dover was a mighty foe.

In his September 11, 1940, radio speech, Winston Churchill said, "We must regard the next week or so as a very important period in our history. It ranks with the days when the Spanish Armada was approaching the channel, and Drake was finishing his game of bowls; or when Nelson stood between us and Napoleon's Grand Army at Boulogne. We have read all about this in the history books; but what is happening now is on a far greater scale and of far more consequence to the life and future of the world and its civilization than those brave old days."

And so it proved to be. Just as Churchill had forecast, the next few weeks of September were a time of extreme crisis. But the dauntless pilots and crews of the Royal Air Force of that time responded to the call and went on to prevail in the Battle of Britain, ending attempts to destroy England from the air.

In those days of 1939 to 1945, Britain and its empire pulled together. The nation and its colonies had to, because they were met by a strong and resolute enemy. The battle became a common effort. Joined later by the American Allies, the war continued to be personal to the citizenry. The common denominator for everyone was "duty, honor and country."

How markedly different from today. Those who study war know that when "duty, honor and country" are lost in the individual, the nation always falls. That's why the English-speaking nations of the world are in such deadly PERIL!

A recent article in the British press painted a picture of the country today. After World War II, when peace once again prevailed, a 21-year-old Royal Air Force volunteer, Edith Kup, became a social worker. She sums up the difference between the time of World War II and the year 2000 in one word: determination. "I've never seen determination like it in

my lifetime, and I don't think I could see it today" (*Spectator*, Sept. 30). Instead, she sees ill-discipline and over-indulgence.

The British reporter went on to relate Edith's observations of the changes that have taken place in society over a period of 60 years, saying that she thinks "Britain used to be a better,

braver place. In return for all the freedom, the fun and the civil rights that we enjoy today, she feels that values which meant so much in 1940 have been downgraded and even, at times, derided: values such as duty, self-reliance, respect....

"Recently, in London's New Cross, I came across a group of bored-looking teenagers at the railway station casually abusing customers as they walked past. Some got spat on, some got attempted trip-ups.... No one dared challenge them—not their victims, not the numerous Connex staff in their RAF-blue uniforms, not even me.... There's a kind of slovenly cruelty, an off-hand rudeness about today that, I strongly suspect, was nothing like as common then" (*ibid.*).

Does this sound like a country of people with a sense of duty? A sense of honor? Do we see evidence of honor

shown to neighbor—let alone country?

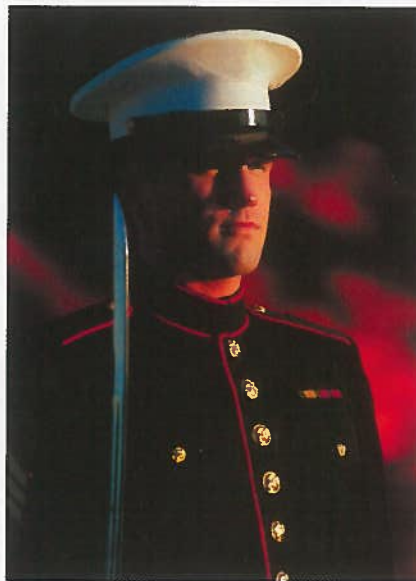
We are in the days of fulfilled prophecy. Notice Isaiah 3:4-5: "And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable." God is clearly speaking about a breakdown in the sense of duty, honor and country in individuals.

America and Britain have a "fifth column" in their midst—a foe aiding the enemy from within. It involves destruction of the devotion to duty, and honor to country and God, in individuals and in families.

A nation rests fundamentally on the morality of its people. Even though they will seldom publicly admit it, Western liberals have done a more effective job than Marx, Engel, Lenin and Stalin in undermining Western social values.

The stated mission of West Point Academy is: "To educate, train and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of duty, honor, country; professional growth throughout a career as an officer in the United States Army; and a lifetime of selfless service to the nation."

It would be well for America and Britain to seek that goal of character training committed to the values of duty, honor and country! It's either that, or the enemy within—our own sins and failures—will soon overtake us.



SIRIAC

# THE KEY OF DAVID

# Tomorrow's News Today!

## Television and Radio Listings

### United States

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

**Northeast cable**—WWOR 7:00am ET, Sun

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

**Nationwide cable**—WGN 6:30am ET, Sun

**National Radio**—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F \*\*

Alabama, Montgomery—WNCB 7:00am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix—KNXV 6:30am, Sun

California, Fresno—KNSO 8:00am, Sun

California, Los Angeles—KCOP 7:00am, Sun

Colorado, Alamosa—KOBF 8:30am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford—WBNE 7:00am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville—WJWB 9:00am, Sun

Florida, Miami—WPLG 7:00am, Sun

Florida, Orlando—WRDQ 7:00am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee—WTLH 8:30am, Sun

Florida, Tampa—WTSP 7:00am, Sun

Idaho, Boise—KNIN 7:00am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago—WCIU 9:00am, Sat

Illinois, Chicago—WGN 5:30am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis—WRTV 9:00am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis—Radio 87.7 FM 9:00am, Sun

Iowa, Waterloo—KXEL 1540kHz 10:00pm, M-F

Kentucky, Louisville—WBNA 9:30am, Sun

Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 7:30am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles—KBMT 9:00am, Sun

Maryland, Baltimore—WUTB 7:00am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston—WFXT 7:30am, Sun

Michigan, Detroit—WADL 9:00am, Sun

Missouri, Cape Girardeau— 7:30am, Sun

Missouri, Kansas City—KCWE 8:00am, Sun

Montana, Billings—KHMT 7:00am, Sun

New Mexico, Albuquerque—KOB 8:30am, Sun

New Mexico, Farmington—KOBF 8:30am, Sun

New York, Buffalo—WIVB 6:30am, Sun

New York, Plattsburg—WVNY 7:00am, Sun

New York, New York City—WWOR 7:00am, Sun

North Carolina, Asheville—WASV 8:00am, Sun

North Carolina, Charlotte—WAXN 8:00am, Sun

North Carolina, Kannapolis—WAXN 8:00am, Sun

North Carolina, Fayetteville—WKFT 8:00am, Sun

North Carolina, Raleigh—WKFT 8:00am, Sun

Ohio, Cincinnati—WXIX 7:30am, Sun

Ohio, Cleveland—WOIO 6:30am, Sun

Oklahoma, Lawton—KAUZ 9:00am, Sun

Oklahoma, Lawton—Radio 87.7 FM 9:00am, Sun

Oklahoma, Oklahoma City—KOCB 7:00am, Sun

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia—WTFX 6:30am, Sun

Pennsylvania, Red Lion—WGCB 8:30am, Sun

South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WASV 8:00am, Sun

Tennessee, Memphis—WLMT 9:00am, Sun

Texas, Amarillo—KAMR 7:00am, Sun

Texas, Beaumont—KBMT 9:00am, Sun

Texas, Dallas—KDFI 8:30am, Sun

Texas, San Antonio—KSAT 6:30am, Sun

Texas, Tyler—KLTV 10:30am, Sun

Texas, Wichita Falls—KAUZ 9:00am, Sun

Texas, Wichita Falls—Radio 87.7 FM 9:00am, Sun

Vermont, Burlington—WVNY 7:00am, Sun

Virginia, Richmond—WRIC 7:30am, Sun

Virginia, Roanoke—WDRL 10:30am, Sun

Washington D.C.—WTTG 7:00am, Sun

### Canada

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

**Nationwide satellite**—WWOR 7:00am ET, Sun

**Nationwide cable**—WGN 6:30am ET, Sun

Alberta—CKRD 9:30am, Sun

British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 9:00am, Sun

Manitoba—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F

New Brunswick—CIHF 7:00am, Sun

Nova Scotia—CIHF 7:00am, Sun

Ontario—CFMT 8:30am, Sun

Ontario—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F

Prince Edward Island—CIHF 7:00am, Sun

Quebec, Montreal—WVNY 7:00am, Sun

Quebec—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F

Saskatchewan—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F

Saskatchewan, Regina—CFRE 7:00am, Sun

Saskatchewan, Saskatoon—CFSK 7:00am, Sun

### Latin America

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

**Argentina**—WGN 5:30am, Sun; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

**Belize**—WGN 4:30am, Sun; WFXT 6:30am, Sun; WPLG 6:00am, Sun; Goodlife Network 5:30am, Mon

**Bolivia**—WGN 6:30am, Sun

**Brazil**—WGN 7:30am, Sun; WWOR 8:00am, Sun

**Chile**—WGN 6:30am, Sun; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

**Colombia**—WGN 5:30am, Sun; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

**Costa Rica**—WGN 4:30am, Sun

**Dominican Republic**—WGN 6:30am, Sun

**Ecuador**—WGN 5:30am, Sun

**El Salvador**—WGN 4:30am, Sun

**Guatemala**—WGN 4:30am, Sun

**Honduras**—WGN 4:30am, Sun

**Mexico**—WGN 5:30am, Sun; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

**Nicaragua**—WGN 4:30am, Sun

**Panama**—WGN 5:30am, Sun

**Peru**—WGN 5:30am, Sun

**Puerto Rico**—WGN 7:30am, Sun; WWOR 7:30am, Sun

**Venezuela**—WGN 6:30am, Sun; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

### Caribbean

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

**Aruba**—WGN 6:30am, Sun

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

**Cuba**—WGN 6:30am, Sun; WWOR 6:00am, Sun

**Grenada**—CCN 7:30am, Sun

**Guyana**—DTV, Channel 8, 8:00pm, Thur

**Haiti**—WGN 5:30am, Sun

**Jamaica**—WGN 7:30am, Sun; WWOR 8:00am, Sun

**Tobago**—CCN 7:30am, Sun

**Trinidad**—CCN 7:30am, Sun

### Middle East and Africa

**Algeria**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Bahrain**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Cyprus**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Egypt**—Star World 11:00pm, Sun

**Ethiopia**—Star World 12:00am, Sun

**Iran**—Star World 1:30am, Sun

**Iraq**—Star World 11:50pm, Sat

**Israel**—Star World 11:00pm, Sat

**Jordan**—Star World 11:00pm, Sun

**Kuwait**—Star World 12:00am, Sun

**Lebanon**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Morocco**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Oman**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Palestine**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Qatar**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Saudi Arabia**—Star World 12:00am, Sun

**Somalia**—Star World 12:00am, Sun

**Sudan**—Star World 11:00pm, Sat

**Syria**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

**Tunisia**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

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

**Yemen**—Star World 1:00am, Sun

### Asia/Pacific

**Cambodia**—Star World 4:00am, Sun

**China**—Star World 5:00am, Sun

**North Korea**—Star World 6:00am, Sun

**South Korea**—Star World 6:00am, Sun

**Hong Kong**—Star World 5:00am, Sun

**India**—Star World 2:30am, Sun

**Nepal**—Star World 2:45am, Sun

**Pakistan**—Star World 2:00am, Sun

**Kazakhstan**—Star World 4:00am, Sun

**Uzbekistan**—Star World 2:00am, Sun

**Georgia**—Star World 12:00am, Sun

**Indonesia**—Star World 4:00am, Sun

**Malaysia**—Star World 5:00am, Sun

**Maldives**—Star World 2:00am, Sun

**Brunei**—Star World 5:00am, Sun

**Vietnam**—Star World 4:00am, Sun

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

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

**Fiji**—Star World 5:00am, Sun

**Singapore**—Star World 5:00am, Sun

**Taiwan**—Star World 5:00am, Sun

**Maldives**—Star World 2:00am, Sun

### Australia/New Zealand

**Australia nationwide**—Network Ten 4:30am, Sun

Adelaide—Channel 31/ACE Ch.6, 7:00pm, Wed

New South Wales—NRTV 4:30am, Sun

Canberra—Ten Capital 4:30am, Sun

Queensland—QTV 4:30am, Sun

Victoria—Ten Victoria 4:30am, Sun

**New Zealand nationwide**—TV3 6:00am, Fri

**Nationwide satellite**—Sky TV 6:00am, Sun

\*\* Indicates a new station or time change

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