

Same-Sex  
What?



How This Magazine  
Is About to Change

What Is  
Real  
Beauty?



SEPTEMBER 2008

THE PHILADELPHIA

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# TRUMPET

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION  
WILDFIRES BANK FAILURE  
DRUGS ARE WE UNEMPLOYED  
DROUGHT IN OIL PRICES  
DS FLOODS THE RACISM  
RORISM LAST  
SEASE  
OWN DAYS?  
RAQ  
FALLING DOLLAR HOUSING  
ORALS FOOD SHORTAGE



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## How This Magazine Is About to Change

**H**AVE YOU NOTICED THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN CATASTROPHIC events lately? This should deeply concern each one of us. Far too many are asleep—but conditions are getting bad enough that many are waking up.

The United States economy is suffering a series of distressing shocks. As I write, the papers are full of news about the failure of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two corporations that cover *about half* of America's \$12 trillion in mortgages! The government is bailing them out—but is already so deeply indebted that *it* needs to be bailed out! The dollar is quickly losing value. Job losses are reaching into the hundreds of thousands. Herbert W. Armstrong often said that a GLOBAL CRISIS COULD BE SPARKED BY AN ECONOMIC COLLAPSE IN THE U.S.! As these headlines keep getting worse, those words have been ringing in my ears.

Meanwhile, within the U.S. and around the world we see an acceleration in weather disasters. Right now, America's Midwest is drowning while the West Coast is burning. Several countries are suffering record droughts and record flooding. This all puts tremendous pressure on food production and food prices, which are already very high. Pocketbooks are also being hit hard by record-high oil prices, which raise the price of everything. Millions worldwide are slipping below the poverty line.

These are only a few of the *many, many* significant events affecting our lives. And they aren't going to get better as some people seem to believe. They will *radically change life as we know it!*

You need to understand *WHY* that is a true statement—and *WHY* these things are happening. It's not enough to just know *what* is happening as it happens.

THAT'S WHY THIS MAGAZINE EXISTS. The *Trumpet* is unlike any other newsmagazine. The world is drowning in magazines and news sources. They all fail to tell you *why* our world is changing! They don't even begin to tell you where these events are leading.

That is because they categorically *REJECT* the understanding that our loving Creator God gives us through biblical prophecy. So they can only guess and feel around in darkness.

Did you know that *one third* of your Bible is prophecy? *WHY* would God have taken such pains to record all that? It is because He wants you to know what is going to happen—*BEFORE IT HAPPENS*. "I am God, and there is none like me," He says, "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are NOT YET DONE, saying, My counsel shall stand ..." (Isaiah 46:9-10). Almost ALL of that prophecy is BEING FULFILLED NOW OR IS ABOUT TO COME TO PASS!

Prophecy is God's warning to mankind to consider the horrifying end results of the choices we are making. It shows where our disobedience to God is leading us! (e.g. Jude 15). It is God's effort to convince us individually to *turn our lives to Him* while there is yet time (e.g. Ezekiel 33:11; Zephaniah 2:1-3). So it serves a beautiful and a loving purpose.

The underlying thrust of all Bible prophecy is positive. It's about the return of Jesus Christ. However, some very dark prophe-

cies precede Christ's return. Even those prophecies contain God's hope and love, but men refuse to understand. It is only because of mankind's *rebellion* that we face so many horrific prophecies. We bring these curses on ourselves—and then often blame God! This is the problem of all mankind, and that attitude is why we face those dark prophecies.

If you have been reading the magazine for a while, you have probably noticed how we say that if our nations would repent and turn to God, they could *avoid* those prophesied curses.

However, I believe God is directing us to change that focus.

If you study the biblical prophets, there came a point when their warnings *no longer spoke about repentance*. They were simply BOLD STATEMENTS OF FACT—spoken AS A WITNESS against those peoples who had rejected God. I strongly believe our nations today—particularly the United States and Britain, modern descendants of the biblical nation of Israel—have *passed the point of no return*. THE HOPE OF THEIR TURNING TO GOD DURING THIS AGE HAS BEEN ECLIPSED BY THE MAGNITUDE OF THEIR REBELLION!

This indicates that time is indeed *very short* before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The increase in catastrophic events shows God STRENGTHENING HIS CORRECTION. Thus, I believe God simultaneously wants to STRENGTHEN AND INTENSIFY THE PROPHETIC WARNING—in the hopes of reaching those *individuals* who exhibit a teachable attitude and a willingness to accept His guidance.

It is my fervent hope that *you*, dear reader, are one of those individuals.

I have directed our writers to begin thinking more deeply about how to reach out and supply you with the *understanding* you need to recognize the *unparalleled urgency* of these times. We want to make sure we are concentrating intensively on the MOST SIGNIFICANT PROPHECIES that are unfolding in today's world. We want to prove to you how God *told* us these things would happen and just how they would end.

At the same time, we want to show you the *hope*—the *wonderful, sure HOPE* that exists *beyond* this evil age! God gives us that prophetic hope to *motivate* us and to keep us stirred and uplifted, even amid accumulating tragedies. "And when these things begin to come to pass, then *look up, and lift up your heads; FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH*" (Luke 21:28).

God offers us an unparalleled future if we will only submit our lives to Him. Though the world is descending into a global holocaust, God promises to spare those *individuals* who repent and turn to Him. But the hope is more than just one of *physical protection* in the short term. Beyond that, God has a magnificent plan that involves opening up *eternal* salvation to every human being who has ever lived!



**GERALD FLURRY**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF





# Healing Our Sick Land

We are witnessing record disaster levels. Can anything be done? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**





**O**UR LAND IS SICK. IT NEEDS healing. Earlier this summer, an unprecedented 2,010 wildfires torched a drought-stricken California. At the same time, 5 million acres of prime Midwestern farmland lay drowning in the worst flooding in 15 years.

These were among the 37 major disasters and five emergencies declared in the United States to that point this year.

These catastrophes would be bad enough. But they are piling up on top of a mountain of other crises that cumulatively threaten to change life as we know it.

### Once in a Lifetime

Take a look around.

People around the globe are dealing with record-high food prices and low food reserves. Even if you don't live in one of the more than two dozen Third World nations experiencing riots as a result, you are still probably feeling the effects. And what has caused the food crisis? A dizzying mass of once-in-a-lifetime freakish factors: historically high oil prices; the drive for biofuels; the subprime mortgage crisis; runaway monetary inflation; Asia's increasing appetite for high-quality food to feed its growing middle class. All this in addition to historically high levels of crop and livestock disease, natural disasters, and adverse weather conditions around the world.

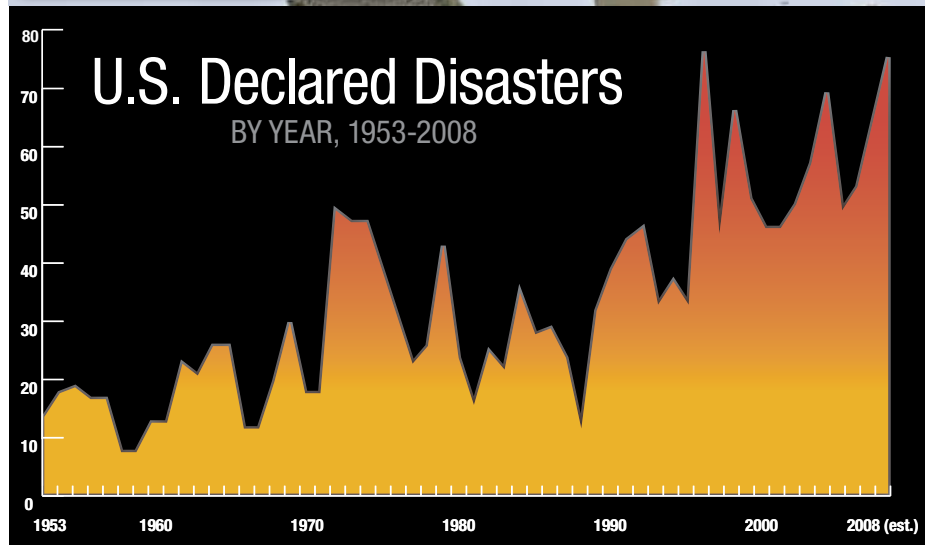
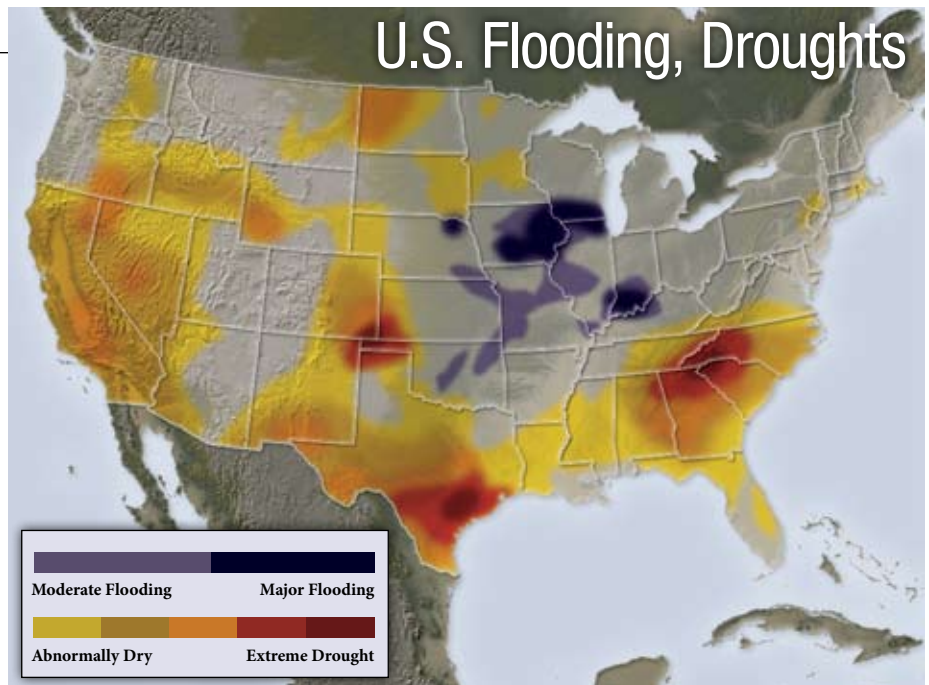
Considering this assortment of pressures on food costs and reserves, what the world desperately needs this year is *bumper crops*. That is what makes this year's series of droughts, floods, freezes, heat waves and insect infestations so disastrous. It is simply walloping global food production.

Central Asia was invaded by a devastating swarm of crop-devouring locusts. Australia's wheat is withering in the country's worst drought in recorded history.

And in the U.S., instead of favorable harvest conditions prevailing, the heavens opened and flooded the nation's breadbasket to the point where farmers were inspecting their corn fields by boat.

As a result, corn is more expensive than ever—double what it sold for two years ago. Soybean prices aren't far behind. And when grain costs rise, so does the price of the cattle that feed on it. That affects sticker prices on meat and dairy products, as well as eggs.

For many people, high prices are more than a mere inconvenience. Given today's food shortages, a growing number are facing malnourishment and starvation. U.S.



farmers produce 60 percent of the world's corn, a third of its soybeans, a quarter of its wheat and a tenth of its rice. The weather woes are hurting America's ability to even meet normal production levels, let alone make up for food shortages in the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, people in California surely watched the Midwest flooding with a heavy sense of irony. Heat waves and parched conditions there—plus millions of Ponderosa pines killed in a recent bark beetle infestation—created an enormous amount of kindling. On June 22, unusually intense lightning storms sparked fires that consumed more than 1,400 square miles and put half a million people to flight. They could have used some of that overflowing Mississippi River water.

### The Weather Is No Accident

If it seems like these kinds of disasters are

accelerating in frequency, your instincts are right. According to FEMA, in the 37 years between 1953 and 1989, there was an average of 23 major disaster declarations in the U.S. per year. In the 18 years that followed, that average *more than doubled*—to 49.

This year, at the halfway point, was on pace to see *74 major disasters*.

What is going on here? Is it all just an accident of nature?

The God of the Bible claims *He* controls the weather. He says He causes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. He sends the snow and ice as well as drought and heat.

Before you dismiss any notion that God has a connection to the disasters we're seeing, consider.

If you believe in God, what sort of God is He?

# A Confluence of Catastrophes

**D**ISASTERS are hardly unique to our time. Periodic drought, flood, wildfire, recession, boom-and-bust cycles, famine, wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, tornadoes, hurricanes—all have darkened the human experience for generations.

Yet something unique in this tired old world's history is now occurring. The realists within our society, the real thinkers, those who deeply consider just what is going on upon planet Earth, are taking notice. All of a sudden, there appears to be a confluence of numerous catastrophes that are affecting not just one or two nations here and there, but the entire global system.

If you check the record books, you will see that the past two decades have been unique in the number of records continuously being broken in various fields of study from weather to economics.

**WEATHER** Record floods, record drought, record cold and record heat, all have been a phenomenon of the past two decades compared to the rest of the period over which weather records have been kept. Recent catastrophes in Myanmar and China added their own statistics to the record books. At the same time, record drought ravages Australia and vast extremes of weather hit the United States.



**ECONOMY** In the world of finance and economics, the U.S. continues to break records as to its level of indebtedness to other nations. Oil prices continue to smash records, with the result that there has been a record drop in motor vehicular traffic in America. In the U.S., only one major airline remains solvent. In the meantime, while the U.S. is being squeezed by OPEC, Middle East oil-producing nations are awash with capital. Oil, gas, iron ore, coal, copper, steel and a host of other mineral products have hit record prices over the past year, pushing construction bills way beyond realistic levels.

**FOOD** The result of rampant farm input costs, within a global economy that is literally out of control, coming on top of a time when unprecedented weather and industrial disruption has hit the world's main breadbaskets, is drastically being felt at the family dinner table.



**BUSINESS** Record fraud and corruption from the highest levels of the boardroom down to junior bank officers has been not only a recurring, but an increasing theme of the past 20 years.

The God who spoke in Leviticus 26:4-5 promises to give rain in due season and weather favorable for abundant crops. "[Y]our threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely," He says.

Looking at our simultaneously parched and flooded land, shouldn't we be asking, where is *this God*?

But notice the context. Those promises come with a condition: "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them" (verse 3).

Job 38:28 reveals God as the *father* of rain. He is able to command storm clouds to serve His purposes: "Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud: And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth. He causeth it to come, *whether for correction,*

*or for his land, or for mercy*" (Job 37:11-13).

Yes, sometimes God bathes the Earth with gentle rain to show His loving concern and mercy—and other times God uses the weather to *correct* people!

Do you believe in *that God*?

America calls itself a Christian nation. But when catastrophe strikes, people tend to have the attitude, *These things happen. We just need to rebuild and move on.*

There is perhaps no better description of people's view of God's role in these weather disasters than the Apostle Paul's prophecy about people in our day having "*a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof*" (2 Timothy 3:5).

## An Expression of Love

The God of the Bible is not impotent. He has the punitive sword of *flood and mildew*—and also that of *drought* (Deuteronomy 28:22; 11:17). Sometimes He uses both at the same time—as we saw this summer

in the United States—in order to heighten their corrective power: "... I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered" (Amos 4:7).

Apparently, most people don't believe these scriptures. Many believe in a "God of love" who would never do anything so horrible as those prophecies suggest.

Those who believe this, however, fail to recognize God's *judgment* and God's *correction* as *expressions* of God's love! This demonstrates an utter lack of understanding of the God of the Bible.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul wrote, "For whom the Lord *loveth* he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Hebrews 12:6). Jesus Christ Himself says, "As many as I *love*, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Revelation 3:19). While in the flesh, He flipped over tables in order to drive mercenaries out of His Father's house. He gave stern tongue-lashings to unrepentant people. He rebuked and chastened, He demanded repentance—not because He hated people, but *because He loved them*.

**WAR** A great global armaments buildup within the non-English-speaking nations is under way as global tensions rise ahead of an emerging new global order. Twenty-six armed conflicts currently blight the globe. Murder, torture and rape are a daily way of life in too many African nations still caught up in tribal warfare merging at times into genocide.



**I**SOLATED disaster can be handled within an economy that is in a healthy condition. But this unprecedented array of catastrophes, seemingly overtaking each other in strength of negative impact on world markets and populations, is occurring as the pall of worldwide economic depression is an increasing reality.

Three high-powered financial institutions have issued warnings about the state of the world economy.

The prestigious Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has sounded a warning bell on the outcome of the global credit crisis. This bank, which negotiates deals with central banks, “warned that *the credit crisis could lead world economies into a crash on a scale not seen since the 1930s*” (*Banking Times*, June 9; emphasis mine throughout). This warning came a year after the bank reported its fear that the world had already moved into the mentality that presaged the Great Depression of the 1930s. The editor of *Banking Times* observed that “BIS have indeed already warned of repeat of conditions that could be as extreme as the Great Depression, and are now describing that process as we move through it” (*ibid.*).

A team of bankers at Morgan Stanley has warned that conflicting policies between the Fed and the European Central Bank could lead to a

“catastrophic event.” At issue is the bankers’ observation that indicates they see “striking similarities between the transatlantic tensions that built up in the early 1990s and those that are accumulating again today. The outcome of the 1992 deadlock was *a major currency crisis and a recession in Europe*” (*Daily Telegraph*, June 17).

The Royal Bank of Scotland “has advised clients to brace for a full-fledged crash in global stock and credit markets . . . as inflation paralyses the major central banks. ‘A very nasty period is soon to be upon us—be prepared,’ said Bob Janjuah, the bank’s credit strategist” (*ibid.*, June 18).

*Financial Times* reported that German economist and former European Central Bank executive board member Jürgen Stark, in a further warning, declared that eurozone inflation was unacceptable, having hit a 16-year high at 3.7 percent in May, and a “*reason to be alarmed*” (June 19).

National governments and international institutions have operated for too long like a boy with his finger in the dike seeking to stem the flow from a great, swelling breach.

It’s time to get real! This world is facing global disaster of *unprecedented* proportions. That’s not alarmist talk. It comes from a perspective of clear-eyed observation and analysis, born of decades of studying the global situation in relation to history, current events, and irrefutable Bible prophecy. It’s the perspective Herbert Armstrong possessed, from which he warned for over half a century that great global catastrophe—of which the world is now beginning to have a foretaste—would become a reality unless humanity changed its ways.

The *Trumpet* is in the vanguard of declaring the unsavory news of the dark days ahead. But more than that—much more—the *Trumpet* is at the forefront of declaring the greatest hope for the future of mankind that lies just beyond this world’s looming darkest hour!

Read our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. Open your mind to the vision it contains and begin to look beyond this age of increasing catastrophe, on to the world of great peace and abundance that lies ahead! A world of the confluence of *blessings!* **RON FRASER**

To the Pharisees—whom He uncere- moniously called *hypocrites, serpents and vipers*—He said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, *how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!* Behold, your house is left unto you desolate” (Matthew 23:37-38). Their severe punishment was necessitated by their rebellion against God’s messengers, their rejection of God’s love.

If we understand the beautiful purpose of God’s law, then the application of rebuke and chastening for disobedience makes perfect sense. God always aims it at redi- recting our errant steps in order to guide us back onto the path of lawkeeping that re- sults in blessings. Yes, God gets angry—but He remains controlled and never punishes beyond what is deserved. God’s anger is not *contrary* to His love, but a *product* of it.

Notice how Christ concluded His cor- rection in that passage with hope: “For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me hence- forth, *till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord*” (verse 39). Yes, once those murderers, brought back

to life in a resurrection, humble them- selves and accept God’s messengers, then they *will* see Christ again.

### How Our Land Will Be Healed

Here is a wonderful promise from God: “If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall *humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;* THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, and will FORGIVE THEIR SIN, and will HEAL THEIR LAND” (2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

*Do you believe that God?*

Our land is sick. It desperately *needs* the healing that *only God* can supply.

But that healing *will not occur* until the modern descendants of Israel—the peoples of the United States and Britain—*humble themselves, and pray, and truly, sincerely seek God’s face—and repent* of their wickedness!

We cannot expect that to happen in this sin-saturated world. Nevertheless, the Bible prophesies of a time—and it is sooner than you think—when the catastrophes plagu-

ing us today, including the weather, escalate to such an overwhelming scale that these peoples *will* reach the point where they are willing to repent (e.g. Isaiah 45:22-25).

Still, the God who issued and will yet fulfill that promise is this very moment seeking *individuals* to work with and pre- pare *in advance* for that future harvest. God is *always* eager to extend mercy and forgiveness to someone who repents, who is willing to turn from sin. He holds out hope for the repentance of every sinner (2 Peter 3:9). This is the truth of the Bible, in both Old Testament and New.

To study the prophecies of the time when God *will* hear from heaven and *heal the land*, order a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s inspiring booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. ■

**FREE BOOKLET OFFER**  
Read online or request at [theTrumpet.com](http://theTrumpet.com)

Learn about the inspiring world government that is coming soon. Request your free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*.





# Why You Should Be Concerned About Australia's Drought

**D**ROUGHT IS ENDEMIC TO AUSTRALIA. ACCESS TO WATER IS A DEFINING FEATURE of the Aussie lifestyle, affecting everything from literature to the economy, demographics (80 percent of the population lives near the coast) to the gritty Aussie spirit.

Australians might be accustomed to bouts of dry weather, but they've never experienced anything like this: They are presently enduring *the worst drought in recorded history*. It's not just a few parched parcels of land groaning for relief. Almost the entire country—which is nearly the size of the contiguous United States—lacks for water to one degree or another.

Water restrictions, many severe, have been imposed in *every* major city across the country. Drought is transforming the nation. Just ask the farmers. Since 2003 drought has driven more than 10,000 Australian farming families off the land. Thousands of others have gone bankrupt.

The suffering isn't confined to farmers. Food bills in Australia have risen 45 percent in the past decade. Moreover, the consequences are truly global; they ripple beyond the Australian coastline, and even now are affecting you!

Take wheat, for example. Global supplies are stretched, which has resulted in price rises in a range of goods from bread to beer, not to mention bread shortages, even riots, in some countries. The drought in Australia—which is typically the world's third- or fourth-largest wheat exporter—has slammed wheat production just as the world is coming to really need its typically overflowing wheat silos.

From 2005 to 2006, Australia's wheat exports dropped by 46 percent, and then fell another 24 percent last year. Hopes are high at the moment that this year's wheat harvest will exceed last year's dismal figure, thanks to some solid rainfall in some prime wheat regions and a 13 percent increase in the amount of land sown to wheat. But with the drought still far from broken, future wheat production remains uncertain.

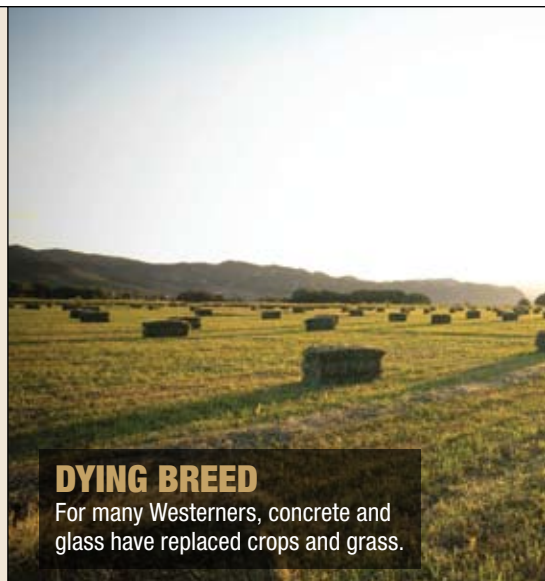
The same goes for crops such as barley and canola. Once the second-largest canola producer in the world, Australia has seen its production slump drastically in recent years. The harvest for the 2005-06 growing season was 1.4 million tons. By the 2006-07 growing season, drought had shriveled that figure to 573,000 tons. Some decent winter rain has expectations high that this year's canola harvest will rebound. Still, it will take years of substantial and consistent rain before canola production reaches pre-drought levels, which amounted to more than 1.7 million tons a year.

Meanwhile, in the critical Murray-Darling Basin—a massive region with rich alluvial soil commonly called Australia's breadbasket because it produces 40 percent of Australia's fruit, vegetables and grain—a decade-long drought is slowly choking the volume of produce. Scientists have warned that the drought in this region is so bad it's close to causing irreversible ecological damage.

And weather experts believe the drought will only get worse.

It's a grim picture. Not just for Aussies, who will assuredly have to continue adapting to life with a lot less water, but also for the world, particularly Asia and the Middle East, which relies heavily on Australia for critical agricultural products.

Fact is, the majority of our food is no longer produced locally. We live in a globalized world where the quality, volume and price of *your* food is largely a function of the agricultural success or failure of other countries. That's why you ought to be concerned about the drought ravaging the land Down Under! **BRAD MACDONALD**



## DYING BREED

For many Westerners, concrete and glass have replaced crops and grass.

## What We Lost When We Sold the Farm

**The further mankind has gotten from the land, the further he has gotten from God. BY BRAD MACDONALD**

**M**AN WAS CREATED WITH AN INHERENT and intimate connection with the land. Our connection to the ground is probably more intimate than most people would like to admit. How intimate? "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground ..." (Genesis 2:7). Man was created from soil. The physical elements that comprise your body originate in the dirt. It doesn't get much more intimate than that.

But Adam wasn't just physically created from dirt; *he was created to have a special connection to the land*. You can study the account for yourself in Genesis. In chapter 1, it's evident that God recreated planet Earth for the purpose of sustaining human life. Prior to Adam's creation on the sixth day, God spent a full five days perfecting the conditions and materials that to this day make our globe the only successful incubator for humans. The land was created by God *for man*.

Now read and think about Genesis 2:15:



## BIG DRY

The worst drought in living memory in New South Wales, Australia.





“And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden *to dress it and keep it.*” God vested Adam and his progeny with the responsibility to “dress” and “keep” the land—in other words, to *work* the land and then to *protect and preserve* it. Put bluntly, *man was created to have a relationship with the land.* There is a remarkable reason for this.

### Exodus to the City

Briefly consider how divorced mankind is today from the land, the weather and our physical environment in general. According to the United Nations, by the end of this year *half the world’s population will live in cities.* This has never before happened in history. In the world’s most developed regions—Europe, North America and Oceania—*far more* than half the people live in cities.

Although cities have been around since the time of Cain, the West’s cultural infatuation with cities, and the mass trek from the land to the city, began in the 18th century with the Industrial Revolution. The pilgrimage thrived as demand for factory workers rose and a new bourgeoisie class of merchants, bankers and white-collar workers blossomed. The faster that nations developed, the more that cities became hubs of activity, the center points of trade, commerce, culture, education and recreation—and an appealing alternative to life on the land.

Across the Western world, cities have thrived while those living on the land have struggled to avoid being swallowed by wealthy commercial farming operations, rising costs of production, fierce competition and the growing rate of devastating natural and weather-related disasters.

This isn’t even addressing the cultural and psychological impact the shift away from the land has had on the mindset of Western societies. You’ve probably heard about inner-city children not knowing milk comes from cows, or seen the reality shows where trendy city-slickers head to the farm to educate their naive, living-life-behind-the-eight-ball counterparts. Often, farmers are seen as fools living a primitive lifestyle.

Western societies are almost wholly disconnected from the agricultural lifestyle, the land, the weather and the environment. We ignore and underestimate the dominating influence of agriculture and the environment on our lives. Still, the majority, riding blindly on the man-made-global-warming, save-the-polar-bears bandwagon, believe they value the land and have a connection with it. But their devotion—manifested in their tout-ing an unproven, self-hating theory—is shallow, vain and baseless.

The reality is, English-speaking societies have virtually severed all contact with nature, the land, the environment and the weather. We have become a city-centric, materially focused people with little appreciation for the natural world we live in. The land and weather are for farmers, we reason. They have no bearing on our lives.

### God’s Purpose in Land Use

Mankind was created by God and put into a carefully crafted ecosystem that depends on laws—including agricultural, environmental and atmospheric laws. If you study the Bible openly and honestly, you will see that God created this Earth—with its systems of flora and fauna *sustained* by weather patterns—expressly for mankind’s individual and collective physical, mental and spiritual development. Read Genesis 2:15 again: Adam was given the *responsibility* to dress and keep the Garden of Eden. He was called to be a farmer; he was called to have a connection with the land, the environment and the weather.

*Why would God give Adam this responsibility?* God didn’t instruct Adam to build cities, or develop complex systems of government or finance. He told him to “dress” and “keep” the land. *Why?* BECAUSE GOD KNEW THAT WORKING THE LAND WOULD KEEP ADAM FOCUSED ON HIM!

The Bible is packed with evidence that God’s presence is revealed in His creation. Take the weather, for example. Throughout the Bible God says that *He* pulls the levers governing our planet’s weather patterns (e.g. Job 38). God obviously created the weather as a means of sustaining hu-

man life, but He also created it as *a means of interacting with mankind.*

Righteous men such as Abraham and Joseph understood this. These men were obedient, and then relied and called upon God to bless the weather that governed their agricultural success, which ultimately made them incredibly wealthy men. Both were farmers, and *their relationship and dependence on the land* helped keep them in close contact with God.

God uses the weather as a means of revealing both His LOVE and His ANGER toward mankind! Few chapters in the Bible explain this as well as Leviticus 26, known as the blessings and cursing chapter. In the first 13 verses of the chapter, God outlines the blessings—one of which is rain in due season—that come when mankind obeys His laws.

Beginning in verse 14, God outlines the curses for disobedience. Notice verse 20: “*And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.*” *God says He will curse the land.* In Deuteronomy 28, the counterpart to Leviticus 26, God talks about weather curses even more specifically: “And the heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron” (verse 23).

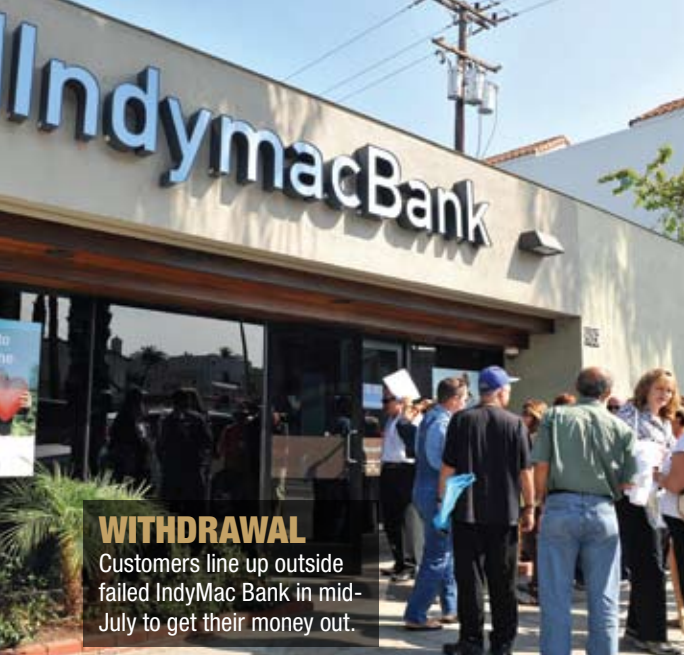
WEATHER IS A MEASURE OF GOD’S HAPPINESS WITH MANKIND! Tragically, mankind today, blind to God’s presence in the land and weather, is ignorant of the correction God is delivering through the land and weather—thereby forcing God to intensify the curses!

Vanity has caused us to bury the amazing truth about God’s purpose for the creation under millions of tons of concrete and steel. We think city life is the height of progress.

In truth, the further mankind has gotten from the land, the further he has gotten from God!

The rejected reality is that the land and the farming lifestyle as it was created by God is a spectacular teaching tool, a means of educating us, strengthening our relationship with our Creator and establishing God’s presence at the center of our lives.

This isn’t to suggest we should all quit our jobs and become farmers. We can, however, personally guard against participating in the cultural divorce from the land. Make it a personal goal to forge—through study, prayer and even practical experience—a deeper respect, appreciation and love for the physical creation. As we do that in a right spirit, we will better see our Creator!



### WITHDRAWAL

Customers line up outside failed IndyMac Bank in mid-July to get their money out.

## ECONOMY

take years before it is recovered—if ever.

The most alarming thing about the IndyMac collapse wasn't how fast it occurred or even how big it was. The real shocker was that the FDIC didn't see the failure coming. As of March 31, the FDIC had identified and placed 90 institutions, with assets totaling \$26.3 billion, on its "problem list," but IndyMac was not one of them. When IndyMac failed, it had assets supposedly valued at \$32 billion—more than the grand total of all the companies on FDIC watch. To say it caught regulators off guard is an understatement.

Another reason this is so alarming is that by the time the FDIC is done cleaning up IndyMac, analysts suggest it may cost up to \$8 billion—and that's if the housing market doesn't keep deteriorating, which it will. Since the FDIC has just

over \$52 billion in assets, IndyMac burned approximately 15 percent of its cash. Beyond the 90 already identified, how many more banks that regulators have no clue about are ready to go down?

### Who Will Be Next?

The Royal Bank of Canada estimated that over 300 U.S. banks will not survive the next few years. But even this estimate may be on the light side. And some of the financial institutions in question absolutely dwarf IndyMac.

Nobody knows which will be the next, but there are a lot of candidates. Rumors, backed up by cascading share prices, abound. Will it be investment giant Lehman Brothers? As of July 11, share prices had dropped 83.3 percent from their peak. Will it be Washington Mutual, the nation's largest savings and loan? By early July, its stock was worth less than 10 percent of its former value. How about Newport Beach, California-based Downy Financial Corp., or Los Angeles' FirstFed Financial?

For that matter, what is the solvency outlook for the FDIC? How many more banks can it afford to cover? Who will be insuring people's bank deposits when the FDIC is overwhelmed?

But it is not only the FDIC whose solvency is being questioned. It is also the

federal government's.

The weekend after IndyMac bank fell apart, the U.S. government, in conjunction with the Federal Reserve, announced that it would be bailing out mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The twin government-sponsored lenders got in way over their heads, and now their bloated debt loads are threatening to take not only the whole U.S. housing market, but other banks and the economy in general down with them.

Fannie and Freddie own or guarantee a mind-boggling \$5.2 trillion worth of U.S. home mortgages. That is approaching half of all the mortgages in the United States. Backing up that \$5.2 trillion in loans is a paltry \$95 billion in capital; the rest is borrowed money! With home prices falling and mortgage delinquencies rising, the companies were balancing on the edge of insolvency; thus the government stepped in.

That \$5.2 trillion is greater than the gross domestic product of both Germany and Japan, and is almost 40 percent of America's GDP. How two government-backed lenders were able to borrow so much money defies reason.

And now that the government has decided to bail them out, it means those liabilities are now the government's—and that means yours, and mine too. \$5.2 trillion will *double* the federal government's public debt burden.

With conditions deteriorating—and at least 2.5 million more homes in danger of going into foreclosure across the country—the bill from Fannie and Freddie's largesse is sure to end up in Taxpayer Eddie and Taxpayer Suzie's mailbox.

### A Nightmare Scenario

The July 12 *Wall Street Journal* called the bailout a "nightmare scenario." For probably the first time in at least 40 years, America's AAA credit rating is being questioned. And because America is so dependent on borrowing, a downward revision could be a deathblow for the whole economy.

If America's good credit rating goes, it will set off a chain reaction. Interest rates will jump; the bond market will get massacred; the government debt burden will soar; the dollar will plummet; and foreign capital flight will decimate the U.S. But with all the debt swamping America, a ratings downgrade is probably inevitable. America's foreign creditors are realizing that America will never be able to pay its huge debts.

And as bad as all that sounds, it could get worse. If the U.S. resorts to printing money to pay the bills (and that is the only option

# Brace for More Bank Failures

America's banking system is in collapse. BY ROBERT MORLEY

**I**F YOU ARE UNEASY ABOUT THE FAILURE of IndyMac Bancorp in July, the second-largest financial institution to close in U.S. history, prepare yourself. The crisis is about to get a whole lot uglier. Government-sponsored Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, holders of half the nation's mortgages, just went down too. It is becoming clear that before all is said and done, the financial wipeout will be bigger than anything America has ever experienced.

### A Run at the Bank

It didn't take much to set off a run on Pasadena-headquartered IndyMac. In a scene resembling the storied collapse of British bank Northern Rock last year, customers lined up by the hundreds and stood in line for hours to try and pull out what money was available before the doors closed. The corporate motto of America's seventh-largest savings and loan—"Raise Your Expectations"—didn't do much to comfort depositors, who withdrew \$1.3 billion over 11 days.

As a result, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has its hands full. On July 11, the FDIC seized IndyMac and began covering the insured accounts. However, as some hapless savers found out, if anyone had more than \$100,000 in an account, the rest is frozen and it may





## The U.S. Economy

**T**HIS MAGAZINE WALKS IN THE FOOTSTEPS of the *Plain Truth*, founded in 1933 by Herbert W. Armstrong. For more than five decades under his stewardship, the *Plain Truth* powerfully explained the connection between world events and Bible prophecy.

Mr. Armstrong's KEYNOTE PROPHECY was of a coming united European superpower. He declared this prophecy even as the smoke from World War II billowed over the European landscape in the 1940s—and never stopped until he died in 1986. Europe's rise, he warned, would immediately precede the catastrophic events Jesus Christ discussed in Matthew 24.

But Mr. Armstrong didn't merely state that a resurrected European empire was imminent. He explained in graphic detail how it would occur. We need to take note of his gripping explanation: It has NEVER been more pertinent!

Mr. Armstrong warned that *a massive financial crisis—centered in America, but which would affect the whole world*—would spark the rise of a European superstate.

A massive banking crisis in America, he wrote in July 1984, "could suddenly result in triggering European nations to UNITE as a NEW WORLD POWER larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S. That, in turn, could bring on THE GREAT TRIBULATION suddenly. And that will lead quickly to the Second Coming of Christ, and END OF THIS WORLD as we know it" (emphasis his). Consider those words in light of America's unraveling financial system.

In August 1984, when the Cold War was at its height, Mr. Armstrong explained what would precipitate the ignition of the nuclear catastrophe described in Matthew 24. "Now we're hearing in the news of a soon-coming nuclear winter," he wrote. "Nuclear explosions will produce an Earth-covering cloud that will give us a nuclear night. The sun will not get through. Crops will not grow. Billions will be killed by the nuclear blasts. Those remaining will starve. ... [T]his is no wolf-wolf cry! It is PROPHESIED in your Bible! It is REAL! And ... *economic crisis threatens to bring this about* ..."

We need the faith to connect Mr. Armstrong's warning to the turmoil currently gripping America's financial system and the effects it is having on the rest of the world.

Trust in the U.S. financial system has been the backbone of the international economic system. Today that is plummeting. Assumptions are being questioned. Perceptions are changing. Confidence in America's economic supremacy and leadership is cracking—rapidly—and the world is beginning to TRANSFORM!

A large global poll conducted by the Pew Research Center found that, "with only a few exceptions, the American economy is now seen as having a negative impact on national economies, both large and small, in all parts of the world" (June 12). The world is now positioning itself for America's economic crash.

Germany, Europe and the rest of the world are mocking the U.S. Federal Reserve. In fact, confidence in the Fed is so low the International Monetary Fund (IMF) wants to examine the U.S. financial system. "As part of the assessment," Germany's Spiegel Online wrote, "the Fed, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the major investment banks, mortgage banks and hedge funds will be asked to hand over confidential documents to the IMF team. They will be required to answer the questions they are asked during interviews. Their databases will be subjected to so-called stress tests ..." (June 26).

The world is deeply alarmed by America's economic health. As confidence in the U.S. economy tumbles, the number of people looking to reinvest their trust and confidence elsewhere is quickly rising. The need for a stable, well-managed financial system to stabilize the global financial system is growing.

That urgent need is increasingly being met—by EUROPE. Just as Mr. Armstrong, year after year, decade after decade, warned would happen. As economic crises worsen, it will get easier for people to see how they are precipitating the resurrection of a European superpower.

How could Herbert Armstrong—who has been dead for 22 years—make this forecast so accurately? Where did his understanding come from? Those are two of the most important questions you could ask as you read the *Trumpet*. Request a free copy of our "He Was Right" sample issue for more.

**BRAD MACDONALD**

short of massive service and welfare cuts and tax increases), then all bets are off. The end result: a currency value headed south as quickly as that of Zimbabwe.

America's wealth is about to disappear.

Although the severity of the current banking crisis might come as a shock to some, it comes as no surprise to long-term readers of the *Trumpet* and its predecessor, the *Plain Truth*. *Plain Truth* founder and editor in chief Herbert Armstrong warned that Bible prophecy indicates a massive crisis in America's economy will thrust the international economy into chaos and disorder. The havoc this event would cause, he said, would mark the beginning of the Great Tribulation discussed by Jesus Christ in Matthew 24.

In June, investment bank Morgan Stanley warned that a "catastrophic event" in world currency markets is imminent. The same month, the Royal Bank of Scotland warned investors to prepare for a full-fledged crash in global stock and credit markets over the following three months, and banking group Barclays advised clients to batten down the hatches for a worldwide financial storm. The list of those issuing warnings is now growing: the International Monetary Fund, the Bank for International Settlements, global analysts LEAP/2020, etc.

What is truly remarkable, however, is that Herbert Armstrong discussed—regularly and fervently—this precise scenario for *years* prior to his death in 1986.

The banking sector is the heart and core of America's economy. It contains the pillars supporting the entire Anglo-Saxon economic model. Its smaller pillars are already snapping like twigs, and the big pillars are cracking under the strain. The whole thing is about to go, and repairs at this point can only be temporary quick fixes.

The good news, as Mr. Armstrong always pointed to, is that this was all *prophesied* to occur. And just as sure as the Bible forecasted this imminent economic trouble, so also has it forecasted a future time of financial abundance for all nations, thriving businesses, healthy industries, responsible government, fair business practices—even lower taxes. Today's economic problems are the result of decades of compounding unsound business practices, dishonesty and greed. Jesus Christ is about to return to rule and will, among other things, establish a healthy, prosperous, fair, thriving financial system. And that is something we can all look forward to! ■

**T**HE PRESSURE ON A YOUNG GIRL to be pretty is one of the greatest weights on the female mind—especially in the Western world.

In his 2001 book *Bringing Up Boys*, Dr. James Dobson tells a story that all parents of GIRLS should heed. When Western television penetrated the islands of the South Pacific for the first time, it “projected images of gorgeous, very thin actresses who starred on *Melrose Place*, *Beverly Hills 90210* and other teen-oriented shows. Four years later, a survey of 65 Fijian girls revealed how their attitudes had been shaped (or warped) by what they had seen. Almost immediately, the girls began to dress and try to fix their hair like Western women.” Officials, he reported, saw “serious changes in eating habits among ... adolescents. Those who watched TV three times per week or more were 50 percent more likely to perceive themselves as ‘too big’ or ‘too fat’ than those who did not. More than 62 percent had attempted to diet in the previous 30 days.”

The *pressure* to be pretty is a monstrous thing. Add to that how society *defines* pretty, and it can be perilous. It can produce in our daughters a dangerous cocktail of vanity, materialism, health problems and a host of character flaws.

Do our young girls have any hope to escape the rank deception that comes their way about their physical appearance? How can the false images popular culture relentlessly thrusts on them be combatted?

The answer lies in the home, with the parents—particularly the FATHER!

#### **Make Your Daughter Beautiful**

Fathers: You have a special role as the first male authority in your daughter's life to ensure that she not only feels beautiful but that she also *KNOWS* what *true* beauty is!

How can we make our daughters beautiful in a godly way? The answer lies in understanding how God adorned the first woman.

When God clothed Adam and Eve in animal skins (see Genesis 3:20-21), the Hebrew for *clothed* means to don with apparel or raiment—namely outer garments. It “implies *adding* attractiveness rather than hiding shamefulness” (Herbert W. Armstrong, *The Missing Dimension in Sex*—request a FREE copy). Being clothed with raiment can make your daughters prettier. Yet, this Satan-dominated society often wants to define “pretty” by how much skin you *show*. Of course, different contexts (and even cultures) allow for different coverings.

# Teach Your Daughter True Beauty

**Fathers! You may not realize how important physical beauty is to your daughter. Here's how you can combat society's lies about beauty and teach your daughter the truth! BY RYAN MALONE**





If you want your daughters to be beautiful, **ADORN** them (and *teach* them how to adorn themselves) God's way. Teach them that modest apparel makes them more beautiful. It is ugliness to be *immodest*, which can arouse lust in a man and lead to more ugliness.

What's more, the main seat of physical beauty for the female is not in the body or the clothing. It is in the **FACE**.

### How Supermodels Make Themselves Ugly

Dale Carnegie, in *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, relates a story about a dinner party he attended. "One of the guests, a woman who had inherited money, was eager to make a pleasing impression on everyone. She had squandered a modest fortune on sables, diamonds and pearls. But she hadn't done anything whatever about her face. It radiated sourness and selfishness. She didn't realize what every man knows: namely, that the expression a woman wears on her face is far more important than the clothes she wears on her back."

Yes, every man—every **FATHER**—knows that. How often do you remind your daughter that the most beautiful thing about her is her **SMILE**? Yet how many "beautiful" women grace magazine covers with **SOUR** looks on their faces? It's meant to be seductive or sexy, but as a man and father, I'm troubled by it. Not only is it intimidating, it's not nearly as pretty. Teach your daughter that she exudes beauty when she has a **POSITIVE** attitude and expression on her face.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, concerning sex appeal, that it "is somewhere between 95 percent and 99 percent what one sees from the neck up! It is, mostly, what one sees in the face of the other which exerts the appeal" (op. cit.).

But our deceived society and its fashion designers seem to think that beauty is 95 to 99 percent from the neck **DOWN**.

Modern fashion wants to show as much cleavage as possible, or as much of the top of the rear end as possible, or when swimming, to show as much of the gluteus maximus as possible. Yes, God designed those areas to be beautiful *in a marital relationship*.

But ask your daughter: Does she want to be a mere **OBJECT**? Or would she rather attain beauty the way God intended it to be done—by living a happy life that **SHINES** through the face and then *adorn*-ing the rest of her body modestly in a way that highlights her figure but doesn't draw undue attention to it over her character,

mind, sparkle, energy and smile?

God is not **AGAINST** *outward* beauty, but He also says it is **VAIN**: It won't last but a few years—IT'S **MERELY** A *TYPE* OF THE **SPIRITUAL** BEAUTY GOD WANTS TO PRAISE US FOR. Still, God made sure Eve was physically appealing to her husband. God's Word describes women like Sarah, Rebecca and Esther as outwardly beautiful.

### A Facelift for Free

God's Word also has a lot to say about hairstyles, jewelry, cosmetics and clothing. Isaiah 3:16 shows that the end-time decline of our nations is directly tied to the improper values in women's appearance—the power they try to exert through their beauty—whether in applying cosmetics or in walking seductively. The rest of that chapter says God will strip them of their beauty and ornaments. This society, preoccupied with its warped sense of beauty, is about to be destroyed.

What our daughters need most of all is **REAL**, **LASTING** **SPIRITUAL** BEAUTY. You can help give that to your daughter. Ecclesiastes 8:1 says "wisdom maketh [the] face to shine." Teach her the truth about eternal, inward beauty and that will cause her face to shine more than all those who spend thousands of dollars a year in keeping their face "lifted."

The Apostle Peter, using jewelry metaphors, exhorts Christian women to focus their adorning on the "hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Peter 3:4). He also points to the outwardly beautiful Sarah, wife of Abraham, to teach where her real beauty lay: Her **TRUST** in God and His government gave her the most beautiful adorning any woman could desire (verses 5-6). This is the fundamental lesson in spiritual comeliness.

In 1 Timothy 2:9, the Apostle Paul addresses physical fashion, telling Christian women to "adorn themselves in modest [well-arranged] apparel." Then the rest of the verse shows how true beauty comes from godly humility and the development of the mind in understanding God's Word. If our daughters seek that, they will

one day possess *eternal* beauty—with a radiant face, shimmering hair and dazzling eyes. God's Word promises that!

### Help Her Stand Out in Society

How can we help our daughters radiate the genuine happiness that enhances their beauty? Much of that comes from the happiness and encouragement **WE GIVE THEM**. They look to us fathers for that support; they need us to let them know what we find admirable about them. If we show them the proper kind of love and attention, they will feel adored, protected and truly beautiful. A daughter who is not cared for by her father will either feel she is not worthy of a man's love or will seek that attention and care in misguided, damaging ways.

With all this in place, you can then help her understand what makes her beautiful physically. Teach her that the majority of her outward beauty rests in her face—in her eyes and smile. Also teach her—with the aid of her mother if she is in the picture—that good hygiene and proper health often does more for the appearance than clothing. Exercise can aid in appropriate muscle tone and healthy skin.

Also encourage her to develop feminine mannerisms. Helen Andelin, in her book *Fascinating Womanhood*, states, "There are thousands of rather plain women with irregular features and faulty builds who succeed in being attractive to men because they are models of femininity. On the other hand, there are thousands of other women who have beautiful faces and features but who, because of woodenness, or masculinity of manner, never impress men as being especially attractive. When a woman is tender, soft, fun-loving, lovable, and also innocent and pure, who stops to inquire if she has beauty in the classical sense? [T]o most men she seems a paragon of femininity. To them she is beautiful!"

Teach your daughter about these attributes of lasting spiritual beauty. Love and adore her; set the example of possessing positive energy. And if she stands out a little in this **UGLY** world, then let it be for the **RADIANT** BEAUTY that God is creating in her and for being the royal princess that she is!

This is excerpted from a lengthier article by the same title in *Royal Vision* magazine. The bi-monthly *Royal Vision* is filled with Bible-based instruction in Christian living and doctrine. It is available free to subscribers of the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. If you enjoyed this article, we encourage you to supplement your *Trumpet* subscription with its practical, enlightening, motivational, life-changing companion magazine. Request *Royal Vision* today!



# Bulldozing Jerusalem



**Some Israelis are calling for the division of their capital city. Will it happen?** BY STEPHEN FLURRY

**J**UDGING BY THE DEAFENING BLAST of sirens and the sheer number of law enforcement vehicles—SUVs, sedans, motorcycles, even mopeds—racing across town, we knew something terrible had just happened.

We were waiting for our bus on a Wednesday afternoon near the intersection of King George Street and Jaffa Road—one of Jerusalem's busiest commercial districts. Less than a mile ahead of us, on Jaffa, a 30-year-old Arab construction worker had just begun a deadly game of bumper cars. Behind the wheel of a massive 50,000-pound front-end loader, Husam Dwayat rammed his foot on the accelerator and screamed "GOD IS GREAT!"

Then, he proceeded to wildly bulldoze his way from one side of the street to the other—smashing everything in his path.

In the end, after this fit of squashing automobiles and tipping over buses, three Israeli women were left dead and dozens of others injured. An 18-year-old Israeli soldier, at home on leave from the army, ended the carnage as abruptly as it started when he jumped onto the bulldozer, climbed into the cab and shot the terrorist in the head.

After boarding our chartered bus, with Jaffa now sealed off, our bus driver proceeded to circle around for an alternative route to Tel Aviv. We were headed to the Institute for National Security Studies to attend a briefing about specific proposals

designed to push forward the often discussed two-state solution.

Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland (Ret.), formerly Israel's national security adviser, made two proposals. His first plan called for Jordan to maintain control over a semi-autonomous Palestinian state in the West Bank (which Jordan doesn't want). The second proposal was much more complicated—requiring Israel, Egypt and Jordan to give up land to the Palestinians in exchange for economic benefits mostly.

*But what about Jerusalem?* one reporter asked after his presentation.

"I don't want to talk about Jerusalem now because it is out of the context of the presentation," Eiland responded. "Jerusalem has nothing to do with this solution."

Yet the tragedy on Jaffa that very day, together with the attack four months earlier at Mercaz Harav Yeshiva, where an





## WRECKAGE AND CARNAGE

The first of two front-end loaders used by Palestinians in July to murderously plow through traffic and people on busy Jerusalem streets.

Jerusalem prefer, by the way). These Arabs, equipped with Jerusalem residency cards, are allowed to move freely throughout the city and—as in the case of Dwayat—even work for Jewish construction companies. Terrorist groups outside the Green Line view the Palestinians in Jerusalem as a *crucial* pool of potential recruits since they are already inside Israel.

For Israel, the situation is worsened because of its standing as a free democracy, where all residents are meant to be treated equally. Immediately after the Jaffa attack, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and the mayor of Jerusalem all called for Dwayat's home in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sur Bahir to be demolished in order to send a message to wannabe terrorists.

This is easier said than done, as Jerusalemites learned after the March shooting spree, when many government officials called for the same action but failed to act on it. As Calev Ben-David pointed out in the *Jerusalem Post*, "By granting special residency and potential citizenship status to Jerusalem's Palestinians, Israel has opened up a hornet's nest of problematic legal issues when it comes to carrying out retaliatory sanctions against them in the wake of terrorist attacks such as the one yesterday. For example, any home demolitions and expulsion orders against Arab residents and citizens will surely face judicial challenges that such actions violate the country's basic laws against discrimination unless they are equally applied to its Jewish residents and citizens" (July 3).

The complexity of this arrangement, together with the security benefits the fence has provided overall, is why more Israelis are warming to the idea of dividing Jerusalem.

## Calls to Divide the City

Just seven years ago, after Ehud Barak offered half of Jerusalem to Yasser Arafat, 400,000 Israelis protested the move at a demonstration near the Old City—Israel's largest group protest ever.

Since then, even before the Jerusalem attacks this year, polls have shown dwindling support for the "one Jerusalem" platform. In December of 2005, one study suggested that about half of Israelis supported the idea of giving up parts of Arab east Jerusalem if it would solidify a peace deal with the Palestinians.

After the July 2 attack, some Jewish organizations called upon Israel's government to immediately begin constructing additional barriers within Jerusalem. The

following day, Israeli Vice Premier Haim Ramon said the West Bank barrier should be rerouted in order to exclude Arab neighborhoods from Israel. "These are Palestinian villages that were never part of Jerusalem. They were annexed to it in 1967," Ramon said on Army Radio.

On the evening of the attack, Prime Minister Olmert acknowledged that Israel must get tougher on perpetrators of terror. But "there is no way to fence off the Arabs of east Jerusalem and every home of a potential terrorist," he said. With tens of thousands of Jews and Arabs living in neighborhoods that abut one another—all of them sharing the same parks, malls and government services—the task of carving up the city with a security fence would be nearly impossible.

Regular *Trumpet* readers know EXACTLY where these events are leading. Backed by the authority of God's Word, we have been saying for years that Jerusalem will eventually be split in half—but not the way most observers think!

## Taken by Violence

As weak as Israel's current government is—as much as it wants to give away land for peace—east Jerusalem will not be given away. God says it will be taken by VIOLENCE! "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh," the Prophet Zechariah wrote, "and THE CITY [JERUSALEM] SHALL BE TAKEN, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and *half of the city shall go forth into captivity*, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city" (Zechariah 14:1-2).

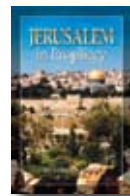
Of the 26 Israelis that have been killed by terrorists this year (already twice as many as were killed in 2007), nearly half have been murdered in the Jerusalem attacks.

*What we are witnessing may be the earliest stages of violence that will result in half of Jerusalem falling into the hands of terrorists.* God's prophecies ought to be ringing in our heads like those siren blasts we heard echoing in this ancient city!

Look again at Zechariah's prophecy. Notice what's presented right in the context of half of Jerusalem being taken captive: the appearance of the Messiah on Earth! (see verses 3 and 4).

So watch Jerusalem. It has *everything* to do with the solution God has in mind for ultimately bringing peace to the Middle East—and the ENTIRE WORLD! ■

**For more on this subject, request a free copy of our booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.**



east Jerusalem Arab gunned down eight Jewish students, has thrust the Jerusalem question to front and center of the current debate about peace in the Middle East.

## Terrorists' Choice Recruiting Pool

The unconventional attack on July 2 highlights how imaginative terrorists can be in killing their enemies. But it also proves how difficult it has been for them to smuggle explosives across Israel's 465-mile security fence. Since Israel constructed its "wall of defense" in response to the second intifada, suicide bombing attacks have virtually ground to a halt. Last year, for example, Palestinian terrorists killed 13 Israelis, compared to 426 in 2002.

The barrier that was designed to keep terrorists and explosives *out*, however, also works to keep more than 200,000 Palestinians *in* (a situation most Palestinians in

# The Marvelous

It is the work of a master artist. Its bright orange wings, black stripes and white dots make this one of the most easily recognized butterflies in the world. In addition, the life cycle of the monarch butterfly—a remarkably intricate four-stage process called *metamorphosis*—creates many problems for the theory of evolution. Let's take a closer look to see why this complex and beautiful creature can so stump the evolutionists. **BY DALE FRYE AND CARL HILLIKER**



To reproduce, the male and female of this species must mate. Considering that the average monarch butterfly lives only two to six weeks, how they could have evolved into a male and female is hard enough to explain, but that is only the beginning of this remarkable circle of life.

The egg is the first stage of metamorphosis. The female monarch will lay 300 to 700 fertilized eggs in her brief lifetime. The female attaches each egg to the bottom of a milkweed leaf with quick-drying glue she secretes along with each egg.

In three to five days, the second stage of life, a tiny wormlike larva, emerges. The larva's first meal is its own eggshell. After that, it will eat the milkweed leaves nonstop for about two weeks. During this voracious eating, the larva will molt, or shed its skin, four to five times. After each molt, it eats its old skin. It will increase its weight 3,000 times, until the caterpillar is about 2 inches long.

As it turns out, eating the milkweed plant is a valuable service because milkweed is a noxious plant that can cause problems to farmers' fields. As the caterpillars eat, they store the milkweed toxins in their bodies yet are not affected by them at all. (The importance of these toxins will not be fully appreciated until the next stage of life, when the monarch will become a poisonous butterfly. An animal that eats a monarch will get very sick and vomit but generally will not die. Predators quickly learn that this brightly colored butterfly will make them sick, and they avoid eating other monarchs.)

At the end of about 15 days, the caterpillar leaves the milkweed plant and attaches itself to a tree branch or twig with small hooks in its tail end. It then spins silk from its spinneret to make the attachment secure. It hangs its head down and molts for the last time. The newly exposed skin dries and hardens and takes the form of a jade green pupa, or *chrysalis*, the third stage of metamorphosis. During the next 10 to 15 days, the entire body is reorganized and transformed. It will emerge an entirely new creature, fully suited for a completely different lifestyle.

The adult monarch butterfly will emerge fully grown, but damp. It immediately pumps liquid into the veins in its wings to inflate them from the tight folds that were necessary to fit inside the pupa stage. The wings will dry and stiffen in three to four hours, providing the rigid strength needed for the monarch to fly away for the first time (never having seen or experienced flight before).

The final adult-stage monarch eats liquids rather than leaves. It has been fully equipped with a long, flexible tube-like "tongue" called a *proboscis*. This uncoils to sip food, and coils up when not in use. Monarchs drink nectar from many flowers, including milkweed, clover, thistle, lilac and goldenrod.

This new generation of adult monarchs has somehow been transformed into males and females fully equipped to reproduce, something that was not done at all during the earlier caterpillar stage. They soon mate and continue the cycle of metamorphosis all over again.



# Monarch



The monarch butterfly migrates for the winter. In North America, monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains migrate to some 80 locations along the Southern California coast. Pismo Beach is one of the largest sites. As a result, February 5 is Monarch Butterfly Day in California. Monarchs living east of the Rockies migrate to the mountains in south-central Mexico. Some monarchs travel well over 2,500 miles from southern Canada! Others have even been known to make transatlantic crossings when wind conditions are right.

The life span of the adult monarch varies, depending on the season in which it emerged from the pupa stage. Adults that emerge in early summer live for only two to five weeks. Those that emerge in the summer may live six to eight weeks; they will remain in one area their entire lives. Those that emerge in late summer, however, will live *six to nine months*, long enough to migrate to various southern locations where they basically hibernate for the winter. They live off their own body fats and get their moisture from the morning dew. Scientists call this migratory generation of monarchs the "Methuselah generation." This would be like a human being living 500 years. This is a fact science cannot explain.

These migrating butterflies are the fourth or fifth generation born during the summer. This generation generally does not reproduce until after they begin the long migration back home beginning in February and March. For example, those butterflies in Mexico may travel as far north as Texas or Oklahoma during the spring migration before they find the early milkweed growth needed to lay their eggs. It is the second or third generations that will eventually return to their northern locations in the United States or Canada.

Another thing that stymies scientists is how the butterflies migrate to the same place year after year having never been there before. They

theorize that the butterfly follows the sun or has an internal clock, or that perhaps it has something to do with the Earth's magnetic field. They never seem to make a connection to a Creator God. God says that He created and sustains all life.

Yes, the monarch is a marvelous example of God's creation, yet it is only one of more than 5,000 species of butterflies scientists have classified as the family Nymphalidae, a class reserved only for butterflies with dwarfed front legs. Just look around and reflect on the vast variety of God's marvelous miracles of life all around us. The more we study creation, the more it reveals our Creator and His plan for placing us here.

Romans 1:20 explains that "the invisible things of [God] from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that [people] are without excuse."

Think of the intricately detailed design and purpose God put into the creation of just this one seemingly insignificant creature. How much more thought has God put into the design and purpose of man? Man has a far greater transformation ahead of him than that experienced by the monarch. You have a much greater future ahead of you than you could possibly imagine. You may be a part of the generation of man that will also one day be given an extended life in order to make a great migration into the universe. Request *The Incredible Human Potential* to learn more about God's great plan for you. ■

# WORLDWATCH

## EUROPE

EUROPE IS IN DISARRAY. OR so it appears. In June the Irish decisively voted against the EU constitution version 2.0, aka the Lisbon Treaty. After democracy destroyed the first EU constitution, when France and the Netherlands voted against it, European nations were careful not to let the people have a say in the ratification of their new constitution—except for Ireland. In its referendum, 53.4 percent of those voting rejected the treaty.

Despite this hiccup, Europe marches forward. Germany and France issued a joint statement that the treaty ratification process is to continue in other nations while a solution to the Ireland conundrum is worked out. French President Nicolas Sarkozy said, “The Irish will have to vote again.” Somehow, Europe will overcome this difficulty. It has never let democracy get in the way before; why start now? Regardless of a YouGov poll that showed only 14 percent of Britons support it, the UK formally ratified the Lisbon Treaty in June. Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords ratified the treaty, and the Queen gave it her royal assent.

For the rest of Europe, it was also business as usual. Superstate-type policies, such as a controversial law establishing a common EU policy for expelling illegal immigrants, continue to be introduced. European interior ministers meeting in France in July announced that EU nations could station their police in tourist hot spots around Europe. This means, for example, French police could send their police to London and British police could be stationed in Paris. Since March, detectives from Europol nations have



been able to carry out investigations and even make arrests in other nations.

As Europe grows in power, expect it to become less tolerant of those citizens who do not conform to its social norms. Anti-Islam action is growing across the EU. The Italian interior minister, for example, announced in July that he will shut down the Jenner mosque in Milan after receiving complaints from local residents. Also in July, a woman from Morocco who has lived in France since 2000 and who has a French husband and French-born children, was denied citizenship because she wears a burka; the supreme court on administrative matters ruled that it was incompatible with French values.

Even as Europe starts to get tougher at home, it is seeking to expand its global influence. President Sarkozy launched his Union for the Mediterranean in July. The Union includes 43 European, Middle Eastern and African countries, with a total population of 800 million. This is the latest of many European efforts to expand its influence

in the Middle East and Africa, fulfilling a specific biblical prophecy (Daniel 8:9).

Germany also committed itself to investing heavily in Kosovo in July, pledging €100 million for 2008 and 2009 toward the construction and development of Kosovo's democratic structures, particularly its ailing economy. This makes it Kosovo's second-largest single donor after the U.S. Germany's ongoing investment in Kosovo demonstrates its position as the new master of the Balkans and is part of what editor in chief Gerald Flurry has termed Germany's "master plan." That master plan is swiftly unfolding toward a shocking and dramatic conclusion. To learn about this conclusion, request a free copy of *The Rising Beast—Germany's Conquest of the Balkans*.

## MIDEAST

TERRORIST ATTACKS HAVE risen by more than 40 percent in eastern Afghanistan in the first five months of 2008 compared to the same period last year.

Turkey is in the midst of a constitutional crisis. In March, the country's chief prosecutor launched a suit aimed at shutting down the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and banning dozens of politicians for five years because of their efforts to undermine the secular state and impose Islamic rule. Heightening the political tension, police arrested 21 people in early July, including two retired generals, suspected of plotting a coup against the AKP. Europe has responded by condemning the secularists for being undemocratic. Turkey is in a Catch-22 with respect to Europe. Should the prosecution be successful in removing the ruling party, EU officials say it would set back Turkey's bid for Union membership indefinitely. If it is unsuccessful, Europe will consider Turkey "too Muslim" to join the EU.

Hezbollah and its allies acquired the power of veto in a new Lebanese national unity government on July 11. The Iran-backed terrorist

Cuba

Venezuela

Colombia





group and its opposition allies now hold 11 of 30 seats in the cabinet. Five days later, Hezbollah won another victory when **Israel** handed over five terrorists in exchange for the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers whose capture initiated the Israel-Hezbollah war two years ago (see article, page 26).

An truce between Israel and Hamas, brokered by **Egypt**, began June 19, though sporadic rocket fire from Gaza has continued. Given the history and nature of Hamas, this cease-fire is nothing more than a chance for the terrorist group to catch its breath.

**Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's** Kadima party and Defense Minister Ehud Barak's Labor Party struck a deal on June 25 to prevent the ruling coalition from collapsing as a result of the Olmert bribery scandal fallout. Kadima has agreed to hold primaries to elect a new party leader (and hence prime minister) by September 25, and Labor has agreed not

to push for early national elections. What may appear to be a show of unity, however, is anything but: It is simply a desperate measure to avoid an election that would bring to power the more popular Likud. Meanwhile, Olmert is a lame-duck prime minister.

Israel is experiencing its fourth consecutive year of drought, with last winter's rainfall only 65 percent of the long-term average and the water level in the Sea of Galilee dropping close to the danger line. Ironically, it is during this current water crisis that the Olmert administration has put both the West Bank and the Golan Heights on the negotiating table—two primary sources for Israel's water.

The European Union an-



Aftermath of a terrorist attack in Afghanistan.

nounced a significant upgrade in its relations with Israel on June 16 during the annual EU-Israel Association Council Meeting in **Luxembourg**. The agreement "will usher in a new era in Israeli-European relations," the Foreign Ministry said. Israel's apparent warming relationship with Europe is prophesied in the Bible—along with the outcome of it: a massive double cross (request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*).

Conflicting reports in recent weeks of war games and peace deals in the Middle East have observers drawing diverse conclusions. Israel con-

ducted a large military exercise in June. A few weeks later, Iran responded by launching medium- and long-range test missiles. Meanwhile, there has been talk of Israel and **Syria** inching toward a landmark peace deal, and on July 13 Prime Minister Olmert declared Israel and the Palestinians "have never been this close" to a deal. What's more, there are indications the United States and Iran are moving closer to making a deal over **Iraq**, and officials are downplaying the idea of an Iranian nuclear threat. In reality, Israel and the West are being manipulated; Iran and



its proxies are simply laying the groundwork for realizing their ambitions—in Iraq, in **Lebanon**, in Israel, in nuclear technology. At a moment of their choosing, they will start pushing again. Bible prophecy tells us that despite any short-term gains for peace in the region, we will soon see the Middle East explode in war—which will actually presage peace breaking out through the coming of the Messiah to this Earth.

## ASIA

**A**LARMED BY RISING oil prices, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is seriously considering building nuclear power plants to provide energy for its 10 member nations. A Southeast Asian nuclear power grid could work in conjunction with nuclear power plants already in **India, China, Russia** and **Japan** to turn the Asian continent into a giant nuclear power bloc—both civilly and militarily.

As China, **Singapore, South Korea** and the United Arab Emirates gobble up Western assets using sovereign wealth funds, Russia and Japan are looking to establish such funds of their own. A government agency will manage Russia's soon-to-be-created sovereign wealth fund, allowing Moscow to more effectively invest in American institutions. Japanese lawmakers have proposed a US\$94.2 billion fund. If created, it would likely target foreign real estate and securitized products, stocks and domestic bonds. American bankers and businessmen may welcome such investments, but they would give foreign countries control over America's strategic and income-producing assets and erode its economic base.

As the EU and Russia com-

pete over the natural resource wealth of Central Asia, Russia is forming military alliances to secure its stake. In June, the State Duma ratified an agreement with **Tajikistan** on the mutual use of military forces. Uzbek President Islam Karimov suggested that the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Eurasian Economic Community should merge to create a "powerful union capable of becoming a

counterbalance to NATO and the EU."

In **North Korea**, **Kim Jong Il** met with visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping on June 18 to highlight the two nations'

warm ties. China is North Korea's most important ally, biggest trade partner, and main source of food, arms and fuel. North Korea then handed over a much-delayed declaration of its covert nuclear activities to China, a long-overdue part of a nuclear disarmament deal agreed to in February 2007. While the U.S. celebrated the move, all this declaration signals is that North Korea is willing to cooperate with China in return for security and economic prosperity. Remember, it was just last September that it was helping Syria and Iran build a secret weapons-grade plutonium refinery.

Asia is minting new millionaires faster than anywhere in the world and is home to five of the 10 fastest-growing private wealth-creation markets. Asia now has 2.8 million millionaires, third-most after North America (3.3 million) and Europe (3.1 million). If the trend continues, Asia will possess more combined millionaire wealth than Europe in only five years.



As the food crisis ripples through the world, Asia is feeling the effects. At least 29 countries have enacted drastic food export limitations to keep prices down. The restrictions are hurting impoverished countries that rely on food imports. The result: rising prices, scarcity and panic.

Japan signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with **Indonesia** that will pave the way for more Indonesian workers in Japan. As Japan's birthrate drops, its populace is aging and its workforce shrinking. This agreement marks Japan's first significant diplomatic step to address its demography issue. Expect Japan—a traditionally ethnocentric country with an anti-immigration policy—to continue to improve its relationships with the rest of Asia.

## LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

**T**HE GLOBAL SUPPLY OF coca and opium has dramatically increased, according to the United Nations. **Coca cultivation in Colombia—the world's top cocaine producer—grew 27 percent in 2007**, most of it in regions controlled

by insurgents. Global opium output—92 percent of which comes from Afghanistan—doubled between 2005 and 2007. The profit largely went to Taliban militants. The war on terror and the war on drugs are closely connected, so recent growth in the drug industry is bad news on both fronts.

The government of **Venezuela** is supporting Hezbollah—providing safe harbor for and employing its agents. The U.S. State Department also says Venezuela has deepened ties to Iran and **Cuba**, both state sponsors of terrorism. July 22, President Hugo Chávez announced plans to purchase weapons, including tanks, from Russia, citing the threat posed by the U.S. as the reason for it. Venezuelan oil spigots to the U.S. have definitely slowed—11.7 percent in the first four months of this year alone. It will take time for Venezuela to wean itself off U.S. funds completely, but China is moving in as Venezuela's new favorite buyer.

**Zimbabwean** President Robert Mugabe went ahead with a run-off election on June 27 despite his opponent withdrawing because of violence against his supporters. G-8 nations issued a strongly worded condemnation of President Mugabe's illegitimate election, but South Africa's Thabo





Mbeki has been quiet, and Russia and China protect Zimbabwe with promises to veto any UN sanctions against Zimbabwe.

Oil is becoming a favorite tool of both terrorists and politicians. The leader of the **Algerian** wing of al Qaeda says the group will strike U.S. oil targets because of Washington's support of "criminal" governments and purported plans to steal African oil. In June, **Libya's** Oil Ministry announced it is considering punishing the U.S. by reducing its oil output, sparking a \$4 per barrel jump in oil prices. Militant attacks in African oil giant **Nigeria** have been so successful that its production (at one time 3.2 million barrels per day) dipped below that of **Angola** (which produces less than 2 million bpd). Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua says billions of dollars in oil has been stolen and traded for guns.

Though these militants aim to run off foreign investment in Nigerian energy, it appears they may only shift who those investors are. Russia has developed a preliminary agreement with Nigeria to handle oil production in Ogoniland—the same area that Royal Dutch/Shell abandoned in 1995 because of the violence. Though Russian energy giant Gazprom will face significant security and public relations challenges, the desire to gain an edge in the global resource war is leading more countries to make risky deals. For more information on where the fight for and with resources is headed, read "The Battleground" from the March 2006 *Trumpet*.



## ANGLO-AMERICA

**A** MERICAN FINANCIAL woes are heavy on the minds of Americans—as well as other nations whose economies are tied to this sinking ship. A Barclays Capital official has said the world economy is headed for a financial storm, and the best that investors can do is try to hold on to the wealth they have. The Royal Bank of Scotland is equally pessimistic, advising clients to brace for a global stock and credit crash. Bloomberg says that the world is about to enter one of the worst bear markets in the last century. Barclays also said the U.S. Fed now has zero or even "negative credibility," and that "the creditworthiness of many U.S. financial institutions will decline in coming months" (for more on the state of America's economy, see articles, pages 8-9).

These economic woes come in the middle of new record-high petroleum costs and rising steel costs. Crude oil has risen 50 percent since the beginning of the year, and the

average price of a gallon of gas in California is above \$4.50. At the same time, torrential weather has forced agricultural commodities to record highs as Midwest floods have ruined crops and increased the risk of a smaller harvest. Corn for December delivery rose to \$7.80 a bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade, the highest-ever close for a most-active contract. Corn reserves are at a 12-year low, representing about 20 days of supplies.

The weather has also been wracking California with drought and fires on the heels of its latest moral debacle, the legalization of homosexual unions. California authorities ordered mandatory evacuations in early July in Big Sur. At the peak of the blazes, **about 25,000 personnel were fighting more than 2,000 fires across northern California.**

A recent study found that Americans are the world's top consumers of cannabis and cocaine. More than 16 percent of Americans have tried cocaine at least once and 42 percent have used marijuana, according to the online scientific magazine *PLoS Medicine*.

More and more girls barely

out of puberty are choosing to end the life of the unborn child growing inside them. British newsmedia report that last year, 21 percent more British girls under age 14 had abortions than in 2006. Abortion rates for girls under 16 rose 10 percent, amid climbing rates of abortion for all age groups.

In what many are hoping is not a sign of things to come, two young British students have been punished for not praying to Allah. The two students from year seven (11-to-12-year-olds) at Alsager High School were apparently sent to detention in early July for refusing to kneel down and "pray to Allah" in religious education class. The rest of the class was reportedly denied its snack break as punishment. The class also apparently involved a foot-washing ritual. "Making them pray to Allah, who isn't who they worship, is wrong and what got me is that they were told they were being disrespectful," parent Sharon Luinen said. One grandparent said, "[I]f Muslims were asked to go to church on Sunday and take Holy Communion, there would be war."

# Why Same-Sex Marriage Will Always Be Illegal

**California's judges are forcing the issue down our throats. But they'll never truly change the law. BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**I**N 2000, NEARLY TWO THIRDS OF CALIFORNIANS passed a law forbidding homosexual marriage. In May this year, a mere *four individuals* killed that law, nullified the will of the people, and shoved open the door to same-sex unions in California. The “weddings” started June 16.

Massachusetts passed a similar law in 2003, but a statute prevents non-residents from marrying there. Not so with California. Couples from around the country can come to the Golden State to be “wed”—and then return to their home states ready to launch legal battles to have their unions officially recognized there as well.

This judgment is one of the most hostile attacks on traditional marriage ever mounted. Remarkably, however, in the face of this monumental redefinition of the *most important institution in society*, virtually *no one* is standing up and articulating an effective and credible defense.

Those commentators who speak out about the decision generally focus on the thwarting of democracy by four radically activist California Supreme Court judges. They raise concerns over the possible economic fallout. They bemoan the prospect of the bizarre illogic of the decision leading toward eventual legal acceptance of polygamy, pedophilia, or other unorthodox “family” arrangements. They wonder aloud why California couldn’t have just left well enough alone with the “domestic partnerships” already permitted under state law.

In other words, aggressive homosexual activists have been so successful in promoting their agenda that this argument is taking place—and being lost—on the fringes of a battlefield on which they have already planted their rainbow-colored flag.

## It Does Make a Difference

A *USA Today*/Gallup Poll revealed that an astonishing *63 percent of Americans* say same-sex “marriage” is “strictly a private decision” between two people and that the state shouldn’t interfere. Apparently the

majority view is, since homosexuals marrying doesn’t prevent heterosexuals from marrying, what difference does it make?

*This promotion of personal license over the broader interests of society is a deadly error.*

Evidence is plenteous showing the benefits of traditional marriage to both husband and wife, as well as society at large—and the high costs associated with its dissolution. Time and again, studies have shown the enormous advantages to children—in personal safety, academic performance, financial well-being, emotional stability, self-respect, and assimilation into law-abiding adult life, among other things—of growing up under the same roof with both biological parents. In other words, societal stability directly depends on the greatest number of children possible growing up in a home with both a father and a mother to whom they are biologically related.

Marriage is the most effective way of guaranteeing children grow up in this favorable environment. For the sake of our children and our society, we should be doing all we can to promote stable marriages—in the true sense of the term.

However, under an onslaught of no-fault divorce and other anti-family pressures, marriages are falling apart at alarming rates. In just the past few generations, every millennia-long tradition regarding marriage—all of which, it should be mentioned, were based on God-ordained laws—has been challenged: the respective roles of husband as guide and provider, and wife as helpmeet and homemaker; the importance of abstaining from sex outside of marriage; the authority of parents over their children. As these principles were contested, a negative cycle began. Rejection of these principles produced bad marriages and fueled the tendency to question the institution’s fundamental nature. The result was a general, misguided dissatisfaction with marriage itself and an inevitable lack of appreciation for and understand-

ing of it. The current dispute over the very idea of marriage involving one man and one woman is a measure of just how deep this misunderstanding has grown.

The legitimization of homosexual unions—as the jewel in the crown of a host of initiatives aimed at drawing more and more people into the homosexual lifestyle—is moving 180 degrees opposite the family stability we desperately need to be encouraging.

This goes far deeper than the mere fact that same-sex relationships—even “marriages”—are two to three times likelier to dissolve than heterosexual relationships. It’s more than just that a child in such a home cannot grow up with both biological parents and is deprived of the influence at home of strong role models of both sexes.

## Why Male and Female?

Why male and female? Have you ever thought about that? This is a conundrum that both creationists and evolutionists must wrestle with.

For the person who doesn’t believe in a Creator, it requires explaining how, by natural means—not by design but by accident—humanity (and virtually all living creatures) came to exist in two distinct groups, different yet the same, mutually dependent upon the other for procreation.

But even for the creationist, the question can be equally puzzling. Why did God make male and female?

Scripture shows that in creating humankind in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26), God made the conscious decision to divide us into *two groups*: male and female (verse 27). Why? This is an important question to contemplate. Try to push from your mind the politically correct falsehood that there are no differences between the two. Consider this realistically.

The fact is that the relentless drive over the past half century in particular to equalize the sexes has completely obscured



and destroyed the very deep and important reasons for God's creative implementation of sex differences! Homosexuality, in effect, treats this essential component of creation as if it were mere decoration—even a mistake on God's part. At best, it trivializes and neutralizes the formation of gender.

Can you acknowledge the possibility that sex is not an accident of evolution, nor an arbitrary ornament on creation, but a *conscious, deliberate choice with design and intent* made by a super-intelligent Creator? Are you willing to consider the reasoning, the logic, in His decision? This God who reveals Himself in the Bible claims that His thoughts are *higher* than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). Is it possible you have allowed your mind to be prejudiced against His superior thinking by simple *peer pressure*—the intellectual coercion of a society that is almost wholly hostile toward its Creator?

### Where Did Marriage Come From?

Why marriage? Do you know where marriage originated? Most do not.

Marriage is not a mere tradition. Marriage is actually a sacred institution, originated and established by God at the creation of humankind. It was created for specific purposes and designed to function according to definite laws. Those laws are as absolute and inexorable as the physical laws governing the universe. If they are broken, unhappiness and dissatisfaction result.

God created sexual attraction, to draw a man and a woman into a love relationship. He created marriage—a binding covenant relationship with prescribed, God-ordained roles (e.g. Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Ephesians 5:29-33; 1 Timothy 5:8), and gave laws confining the use of sex to that relationship (e.g. Exodus 20:14, 17). He intended this covenant relationship to bring stability into our lives, to teach us faithfulness and loyalty, and to give each mate the op-



portunity to learn to live unselfishly with another person, different from himself or herself, as a harmonious team.

In addition, God created our anatomies so that this two-person relationship is what generates children. He designed the human development process to occur slowly—much more slowly than in animals—in order to make family life necessary: Children are completely dependent upon their parents, and parents must love, nurture, protect, educate and discipline their children. He gave laws and principles governing that parent-child relationship (e.g. Exodus 20:12).

Why? To one who doesn't understand God's purpose for mankind, it might seem somewhat arbitrary. Why male and female? Why marriage? Why do we reproduce through sex? Why children? Why family?

But the answer is clear to anyone who understands the truth revealed in the Bible but not generally understood—that of the incredible human potential.

### Family's Ultimate Purpose

The way God designed male, female, marriage and children, the family unit naturally creates a *government structure* patterned after the *God Family pattern*.

God designed all of these things the way He did to prepare us for eternal life in His Family!

The truth of this reality far surpasses the insipid view of an afterlife spent sitting

on a cloud strumming a harp. God is about to establish a Kingdom, here on Earth, ruling all nations, with literal positions of king-priesthood to be filled by human beings transformed into Spirit-born members of the God Family! (Request our book *The Incredible Human Potential* for a thorough biblical explanation of this truth.)

This is why the human family is so critical in God's mind. We need family, *as God designed it*, in order to prepare for positions in God's Family! Done right, marriage is intended to teach spiritual lessons about the God Family. A child growing up in a godly family learns spiritual lessons. If a family is run the way God intended it to be run, then there are God-plane dynamics at work—living lessons in God's government and family love.

There is a war being waged over marriage and family. On one side are those trying to preserve God's design; on the other are those trying to destroy God's design. Proponents of homosexual "marriage" overlook, ignore, dismiss and ridicule any evidence that exposes the damage their agenda produces. In their eyes, the deepest sacrifices to society are worth the resulting gains in personal license.

But that license hurts both the individuals who indulge in it and society as a whole. It deeply violates the law of God—an eternal, binding law that no human being can alter. Time will prove conclusively that the more California or any other state moves to permit what God has condemned, the more misery, strife, bitterness and unhappiness it will generate. In the end, the increasing social fragmentation it brings will result in societal ruin. ■

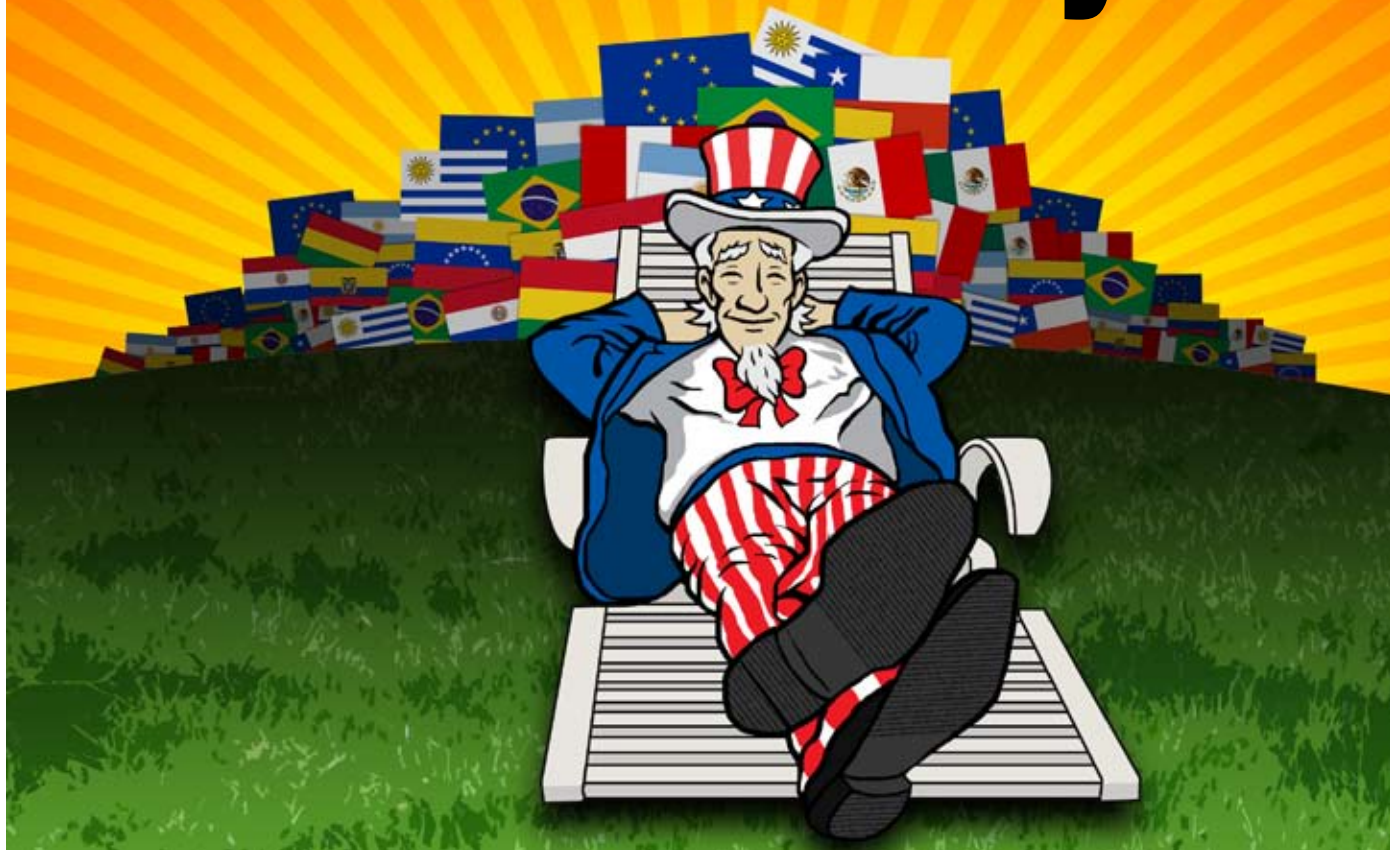
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# The Hidden Enemy in America's Backyard



**Have you noticed? Headlines emerging from South America signal a potential threat to the U.S. greater than Islamism and communism combined. BY ANDREW MILLER**

**S**OUTH AMERICA IS TURNING ITS back on the United States.

This is a far greater potential threat to the U.S. than most people would imagine. To understand *why* requires a clear-eyed look not only at the remarkable shifts in trade relationships appearing in today's headlines, but also some unsavory facts of history that some have tried to bury. You *need* this understanding.

Brazil is driving the creation of an economic, political and military union that threatens to exclude the U.S. from military planning in the vast region spanning from Antarctica to Panama. Should it come to fruition, this project would represent the final undoing of a fracturing relationship the United States worked almost 200 years to build.

On May 23, leaders from the 12 sovereign nations of South America met in the Brazilian capital and signed the constituent treaty outlining the legal framework of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). This plan would establish an EU-style government for South America. It would unite the continent's two major trade blocs—Mercosur and the Andean Community—and create a federal parliament based in Bolivia. A new South American Defense Council would mediate regional conflicts and defend the region from foreign interference.

"We are going to make it so that the strength of South America is born of the union of our peoples," Brazilian Defense Minister Nelson Jobim said in April.

The treaty will come into full force af-

ter it is ratified by nine of its 12 would-be member states.

While there are definite obstacles to overcome, the political, economic and military integration of South America is bound to be far smoother than the rocky road the European Union has traveled for the past 51 years. It is the only multinational continent in the world united by a common linguistic background, a common culture, and a common religion. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez's exclamation that "From Mexico to Argentina, we are one whole nation" is an overstatement, but it definitely holds a kernel of truth.

This region is being united by more than just religion, culture and money, however. It is also being united by a dangerous ideology: anti-Americanism.



## How Latin America Is Turning Red

One sentiment that emerged during the framing of UNASUR and the South American Defense Council was that the U.S. is in no way to be involved. “[T]here is no possibility of participation by the United States,” the Brazilian defense minister said, “because the council is South American and the U.S. is not in South America.”

The U.S. has been deeply entrenched in Latin American affairs since 1823, when President James Monroe established the Monroe Doctrine to keep European powers out of the New World. In pursuit of American interests, the U.S. has overthrown no fewer than 40 hostile Latin American governments in the 20th century alone. What many Americans view as a policy of protection and liberation, however, is now seen in Latin America as rank imperialism.

The BBC, in an analysis titled “How the U.S. ‘lost’ Latin America,” summed up the situation this way: “If you were to color a map of anti-Americanism in Latin America, for nearly 50 years Fidel Castro’s Cuba has been the deepest red. Three of the most economically developed countries—Brazil, Chile and Argentina—are now in varying shades of left-of-center pink” (April 3, 2006). It went on to say that Venezuela and Bolivia could both now be considered deep red and that current conditions in Peru, Mexico and Nicaragua indicate they soon may become more anti-American. Colombia is the only country in the region that could be considered a U.S. ally.

U.S.-Venezuelan lawyer Eva Golinger, who has dedicated herself to exposing U.S. intervention in Venezuela, claims the United States has literally lost control of the region. “The backyard of the U.S. has gone,” she says. “It’s created its own neighborhood, and the U.S. isn’t part of it” (*Green Left Weekly*, May 21).

Former Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro contemptuously contends that while U.S. politicians can always seem to find the money to sponsor wars in Latin America, they rarely seem to come up with enough funds for peacetime developments. She claims that even a slice of the money used to back anti-Communist Contra guerrillas in her country would be enough to build a whole new Nicaragua.

## South America’s Rising Star

If peacetime investment levels are any indication, however, *Germany and its EU allies* should be Latin America’s best friends. Even though the European trade bloc is still only Latin America’s second-greatest trade partner (behind the United States),

it is definitely Latin America’s greatest *investor* and its primary donor of developmental aid.

As anti-Americanism increases, Europe is becoming the rising star south of the Rio Grande.

German trade alone across the entire Latin American region had already risen to a value of \$55 billion as of last year—making Germany Latin America’s largest trade partner in the EU. Germany has sold 340 of its tanks to the Chilean military over the past 12 years. Industrial giants like ThyssenKrupp AG have been investing in Latin America since 1837. Now ThyssenKrupp is developing a huge, \$4.6 billion steel-producing complex in Brazil, intended to supply steel products to both Germany and South American countries. A full 10 percent of Brazil’s industrial gross domestic product is already produced by German daughter companies throughout the nation.

Granted, Germany’s relationship with Venezuela is still pretty rocky at times. Nevertheless, high levels of economic investment, developmental aid and arms exports are forging a strategic partnership between the EU—particularly Germany—and most of Latin America.

This relationship is not completely one-sided by any means, because Latin America is far more important to Europe as a raw materials base than as a simple trade partner. The entire region from the Rio Grande to Terra del Fuego is a giant storehouse of timber, natural gas, crude oil, minerals, precious metals, and especially iron. These are resources Europe needs if it is to continue its ascension to superpower status.

So, what does the emergence of a unified, anti-American, European-oriented trade bloc mean for the world?

## Virtual Colonies of a New Empire

Consider the following statement from the May 1962 *Plain Truth*: “*The United States is going to be left out in the cold as two gigantic trade blocs, Europe and Latin America, mesh together and begin calling the shots in world commerce. The United States is going to be literally besieged—economically—frozen out of world trade.*”

With the U.S. having grown increasingly dependent on Latin America for goods,

especially foodstuffs, it could find its supply of basic staples drastically impacted if the U.S. is frozen out of Latino markets. With American agriculture increasingly plagued by floods, fires, droughts, pests and disease—in addition to the loss of huge tracts of land to urban development and the squeezing of its farmers by excessive input costs—such an event would place the whole U.S. economy at risk of collapse.

Such a crisis would add to a host of other economic pressures, such as the ongoing



dive of the dollar and American trade being hurt by restrictive EU regulations. Major creditor nations could pinch America’s already broken economy simply by demanding the U.S. begin paying its debts. In the end, a convergence of several factors could trigger economic meltdown in the U.S. and cause a domino effect across all nations that are significantly dollar-dependent.

Such a combination of events could well place the EU in the box seat. Countries across Latin America, and also to an extent Africa, would then have no option other than to completely rely for survival on the economic ties that a German-led EU is rapidly locking them into.

Either in name or in effect, the nations of Latin America would become virtual colonies of a European empire. It is as T.H. Tetens wrote in his book *Germany Plots With the Kremlin*, “South America will be conquered by business agents, not by guns.”

### The Resurrection of a Secret Plan

Latin America's growing integration and alliance with Europe at first appears to be the haphazard result of undirected forces. The shocking part, however, is that Germany has had a goal to control Latin America for at least a century.

It is well known that German Kaiser Wilhelm II had planned to use Mexico as a launchpad for an invasion of the U.S. if America entered World War I. It was the revelation of this plan in the *Zimmerman Telegraph* that finally prompted America to enter the war on the side of the Allies. What is not as well known, however, is that in addition to this proposed alliance with Mexico, the Germans also sought a strong presence in the southern part of South America. Shortly before hostilities broke out in World War I, Otto Tannenberg, the famous German general and propagandist, wrote that "Germany will take under its protection the republics of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay; furthermore, the southern third of Bolivia and the southern portion of Brazil" (Michael Sayers and Albert E. Kahn, *The Plot Against the Peace*, 1945).

The defeat of the German Empire in World War I brought a temporary halt to these plans. They were resumed, however, once the Nazis came to power.

Nazi propaganda minister Paul Joseph Goebbels wrote in the March 26, 1944, edition of his personal publication, *Das Reich*, that "Argentina will one day be at the head of a tariff union comprising the nations in the southern half of South America. Such a focus of opposition against the United States of America will, together with Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, form a powerful economic bloc; and eventually, by way of Peru, it will spread northward to place the dollar colony of Brazil in a difficult position."

It is unsettling how close the situation today matches Goebbels' prediction. South America is composed of two tariff unions that are about to merge into an economic and political alliance. Argentina may or may not be the head of this union, but it is certainly a major member, and the "dollar colony" of Brazil is already on board as the most dominant member of the forming Union of South American Nations. It won't be long before this bloc is working under the protection of Germany as "a focus of opposition against the United States."

How did this happen? Not overnight!

In 1996, the American government declassified a shocking World War II intelligence document relating the details of a secret Nazi meeting of industrialists that

took place on Aug. 10, 1944, in Strasbourg, France. The Nazis' purpose was to instruct German industrialists how to conduct "a postwar commercial campaign" to finance the Nazi Party, "which would be forced to go underground," thus ensuring that "a strong German Empire [could] be created after the defeat." These industrialists were specifically told to strengthen Germany "through their exports" and to "make contacts and alliances with foreign firms." Many of the corporations represented at this meeting, such as Krupp and Volkswagenwerk, chose Latin America as their site of foreign investment. (We have reprinted this document in our free booklet *The Rising Beast*. Request a free copy.)

Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach was the chairman of the board of directors of ThyssenKrupp's predecessor organization, Fried Krupp AG, from 1943 until his death in 1968. He was the man in charge of producing weapons for the Third Reich during the latter half of World War II. Possibly more than any other man of his era, he understood that economic relations could be a precursor to political conquest. He once said his corporation would reverse the old adage that trade follows the flag: In a postwar German Reich, the flag would follow trade.

After Krupp was convicted for war crimes at Nuremberg in 1947, the Allies released him from prison in 1951 and let him resume sole proprietorship of Fried Krupp AG (the predecessor of ThyssenKrupp AG) in 1953. Loyal to the instructions his representative received from Nazi officials at the Strasbourg meeting in 1944, Alfried immediately went to work creating new export markets in Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America (especially Brazil). Although he died in 1967, with his personal copy of *Mein Kampf* still on his nightstand, his corporation continued to follow the path he had set for it. The current leadership of ThyssenKrupp AG may or may not know much about its corporation's past association with Nazism, but it is definitely still creating German ties to Latin America as it earmarks Brazil as its largest site of foreign investment.

It is also well known that many Nazi war criminals—such as Adolf Eichmann, Josef Mengele and Martin Bormann—fled to sympathetic governments in Latin America after World War II in order to escape prosecution. Even as late as 1962, Gunther Theodor—an agent of an international organization that was then trying to capture Bormann—told the Brazilian newspaper *Correio da Manhã* that "Neo-Nazism is



### NASTY NEIGHBORS

Guatemalans, here burning a flag near the presidential palace during President George W. Bush's March 2007 visit, aren't the only Latin Americans upset with the U.S.

simply boiling over in South America, *operating under the shield of the Communists.*"

As the May 1962 *Plain Truth* further reported, "Germany's economic conquest of South America has been in the planning for decades. Nazi agents, many of them disguised as 'legitimate' businessmen, were rampant throughout South America even before World War II."

It has been estimated that enough Nazis escaped into Latin America via Vatican ratlines to establish an elite cadre big enough for another fascist regime complete with chiefs of state, cabinet ministers and military men.

Almost all of these Nazi agents have since died, but their children and successors are still working to strengthen the relationship between Latin American countries and the Fatherland. Everything is just a bit more *sophisticated* than it used to be. The racist political activists of yesterday have become the respectable businessmen and technocrats of today.

### The Fascist Threat

It is easy to see that an anti-American, European-oriented political and economic union in Latin America presents a major economic threat to the U.S. Yet the threat is even greater than just that.

Henry A. Wallace was the 33rd vice president of the U.S., from 1941 to 1945. In an article he wrote for the *New York Times* in 1944 titled "The Danger of American Fascism," he wrote, "The European brand





of fascism will probably present its most serious postwar threat to us via Latin America. The effect of the war has been to raise the cost of living in most Latin American countries much faster than the wages of labor. The fascists in most Latin American countries tell the people that the reason their wages will not buy as much in the way of goods is because of Yankee imperialism. The fascists in Latin America learn to speak and act like natives. Our chemical and other manufacturing concerns are all too often ready to let the Germans have Latin American markets, provided the American companies can work out an arrangement which will enable them to charge high prices to the consumer inside the United States. Following this war, technology will have reached such a point that it will be possible for Germans, using South America as a base, to cause us much more difficulty in World War III than they did in World War II. The military and landowning cliques in many South American countries will find it attractive financially to work with German fascist concerns as well as expedient from the standpoint of temporary power politics."

This is a chilling, yet very accurate assessment of what could happen if fascism were ever to gain a hold on Germany. As long as Angela Merkel (or someone like her) rules, America and the rest of the world appear to be under no great threat from an imperialistic Europe. If a second Adolf Hitler or a new Charlemagne were ever to come

to power in Germany, however, the consequences would be devastating. German technology has reached such a point and German dominance over both Europe and Latin America has developed far enough that America would not be able to weather World War III as it did World War II.

With the help of hostile nations to America's south, a new German Reich could reverse D-day and carry out a full-scale invasion of the United States, for example, by gathering in Mexico and swarming across the Rio Grande River.

### Latin America in Prophecy

As shocking as this situation may sound, Goebbels and Wallace were not the first to recognize that Germany could use Latin America as a base against the U.S.

In the 17th and 18th chapters of the biblical book of Revelation, God labels the German-led, Vatican-influenced empire that is emerging in Europe as "Babylon the Great." In the corresponding Old Testament prophecies of Isaiah 23 and Ezekiel 27, the same empire appears under the name of the most powerful trading center of the ancient Mediterranean world—Tyre.

A prophecy in Ezekiel 27:12 directed at the king of Tyre says, "Tarshish was thy merchant by reason of the multitude of all kind of riches; with silver, iron, tin, and lead, they traded in thy fairs."

Anciently, the people of Tarshish lived in southern Spain. Today, these people have spread throughout Spain and its old

colonies in Latin America.

It can be clearly seen then that the modern-day Latin Americans are prophesied to be a great trading people that provides a resource-hungry European empire with silver, iron, tin, lead and other goods. All these products are currently major exports of Latin America. As the July 1965 *Plain Truth* says of this verse, "Flowing across the Atlantic to feed the hungry furnaces of the Ruhr and the other industrial complexes of Europe will come the rich mineral wealth of Latin America."

More is prophesied for this European empire than mere economic dominance. In Isaiah 10:5-6, God says Assyria (modern-day Germany) would be the rod of His anger used to punish the hypocritical nations of Israel (modern-day America, Britain and its dominions) and Judah (the Jewish state of Israel). This prophecy says the Germans will take Anglo-America's spoil and will tread its people down into the mire of the streets. Such terminology indicates more than just a nuclear invasion; it indicates an invasion of foreign troops that can "tread" and "take." (Request *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* and *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for proof of these national identities.)

It would be very plausible for this Germanic invasion force to exploit its alliance with Latin America and use that region as a launchpad into the U.S. The same overarching church that will be guiding Europe also heads the dominant religion throughout Latin America, and such a plan was already being considered in the time of the kaiser.

Washington is currently obsessed with the Islamic threat and, secondarily, those posed by Russia and China. The Bible is clear, however, that while radical Islam may be a painful thorn in America's side and Asia a major economic competitor, the major threat to Anglo-Saxon nations is posed by a great power called "the king of the north." Your Bible prophesies that only those who heed a trumpeted final warning to the Israelitish nations, and who repent of disobeying their God, will be protected from the coming onslaught from this European power.

These are sobering and terrifying predictions, but they are also signs of the best news anyone could ever hear. After this nuclear calamity, Jesus Christ will return to this Earth and set up a reign of peace, happiness and prosperity that will last for all eternity. For more information on this joyous reign of peace, request our free book *Isaiah's End-Time Vision*. ■



# What Happened to the LION OF JUDAH?

**Why has Israel's fierce, lion-like roar been reduced to a harmless purr? BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**I**N ANCIENT ISRAEL, EACH OF THE 12 tribes camped underneath its own tribal flag, called a *standard* or *banner* in Scripture (see Numbers 2:2). It might surprise you to learn that the ancient emblem on Judah's flag was *not* the Shield of David, as it is on the flag Zionists adopted 60 years ago for the Jewish state. It was a ROARING lion. Over this image, according to the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, was an inscription taken from Numbers 10:35: "Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee" (article "flag").

Judah's tribal symbol traces its origin all the way back to the book of Genesis and the great patriarch Jacob. In a fantastic prophecy, Jacob gathered his 12 sons to tell them "that which shall befall you in the *last days*" (Genesis 49:1). To Judah, he said, "[Y]our hand shall be on the neck of your enemies .... Judah is a *lion's whelp*; from the prey, my son, you have gone up.

He stooped down, he couched as a lion, and AS A LIONESS; who dares rouse him up?" (verses 8-9, Revised Standard Version). With these lion-like characteristics, Judah often assumed a lead position in marching against Israel's enemies.

Moses also identified these warrior-like skills when, before he died, he bestowed similar blessings on the fourth son of Leah: *Let Judah's hands be sufficient in defending his cause, and may you, God, help against his enemies* (Deuteronomy 33:7). Judah's hands, with God's help, were sufficient against his enemies.

Even in modern times, God has roused the warrior spirit of the lion of Judah to secure its independence in 1948 and to prevent its destruction in 1967 and again in 1973. God has done this—not because the Jews are His favorites or because God takes sides in international disputes. God has helped them BECAUSE OF WHAT HE PROPHESED millennia ago!

The establishment of a Jewish state HAD TO HAPPEN in our day because of what God said would occur in the *latter days*. The unification of Jerusalem under the lion of Judah in 1967 also HAD TO HAPPEN because of what God has prophesied.

Yet, if all of this *had* to happen—and with God's blessing and protection along the way—WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HAPPENING to Judah *now*?

## Israel's First Defeat

Why is Israel's current government so determined to hand over land and strategic positions to its enemies—even when the policy keeps backfiring? Israel pulled out of southern Lebanon in 2000 and Hezbollah moved in. Within months of taking over southern Lebanon, Hezbollah guerrillas crossed into Israeli territory and abducted three IDF soldiers near Shebaa Farms. That resulted in what, until this July, must have been the most lopsided prisoner swap in the history of hostage negotiations. Three years after their victory, Hezbollah again conducted a cross-border raid, kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and initiated an aerial attack against northern Israel with a barrage of Katyusha rockets.

Why, after responding to Hezbollah's attack with force—after publicly stating that the fighting would not stop until the captives were returned and Hezbollah was destroyed—did Prime Minister Ehud Olmert back away from those promises *within days* and later end the conflict without fulfilling either of those objectives?

How—more importantly, *why*—did Israel lose its first war against a ragtag group of Hezbollah fighters? And how could its government be so blind as to exult in the "unprecedented" gains Israel had supposedly made during the Second Lebanon War? Prime Minister Olmert said on Aug. 1, 2006, for example, that Hezbollah would "never again" be able to threaten Israel.

On July 11, Hezbollah was granted minority veto power in Lebanon's newly formed government, two months after the Iranian-backed regime effectively conquered the whole of Lebanon.

## Glutton for Punishment

In Gaza, Israel uprooted 9,000 of its own citizens—many of them forcefully—and handed the Strip over to Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah regime. Overnight, it seems, Gaza transformed into the Iranian proxy of Hamastan. Since the Hamas reign of terror began in June of 2007, terrorists have launched more than 3,000 rockets and mortar bombs on southwestern Israel.



Even still, gluttonous for punishment, Israel's government is now begging Syrian President Bashar Assad for peace, even if it means relinquishing control of the strategically critical Golan Heights. *Why*—even when a majority of Israelis are dead-set against it?

And why, if Israeli and Syrian leaders have never been this close (as Olmert claims), did Assad ignore his Israeli counterpart at the Mediterranean Union in July? Hours before the summit began, Olmert sent Assad a note in which he expressed his “serious” desire for peace and requested direct talks between the two nations (instead of working through a Turkish mediator). During the summit, Olmert tried everything short of blowing Bashar a kiss in order to get his attention. But Israel's newest partner for “peace” refused to even acknowledge Olmert with a glance, let alone shake his hand. About 20 minutes before Olmert's speech at the summit, Assad got up and walked out.

How could someone like *that*—the dictatorial head of a state that sponsors worldwide terror networks, including Hezbollah—be given red-carpet treatment at the 43-nation Union for the Mediterranean talks? What a diplomatic coup for yet another of Israel's enemies—treated like a celebrity in France; his every move captured by an adoring throng of reporters.

Just three years ago, Assad turned the Lebanese government on its head when his assassins murdered Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Yet today, Western leaders reward him with superstar treatment for simply agreeing to *tone down* Hezbollah now that they've grabbed control of Lebanon's government. Even the Associated Press expressed astonishment at this sudden turn in events, saying French President Sarkozy's invitation for Assad to attend the summit “signaled a spectacular emergence from isolation in the West.”

How can this be happening?

### One Heavy Price

Then there is the humiliating capitulation that occurred on July 16—Israel's newest, most lopsided prisoner swap ever. For the past two years, Hezbollah withheld every detail regarding the status of the two soldiers they kidnapped prior to the Second Lebanon War. They repeatedly denied requests by the Red Cross to visit the captives.

On the other hand, Samir Kuntar—the convicted murderer Hezbollah coveted most in the swap—was hardly rotting away in an Israeli prison. Sentenced to 542 years

in prison in 1980, the portly captive had enjoyed three squares a day while incarcerated and received regular visits from international workers, friends and family members. He met the love of his life in prison and married her behind bars. He learned Hebrew and earned his bachelor's degree in humanities from a Tel Aviv university's distance learning course. He concentrated his studies on Israel and its society, titling his final paper, “The Contradiction of Democracy and Security in Israel.”

Who is Samir Kuntar? In 1979, at the tender age of 16, Kuntar and his terrorist cell breached Israel's border security in hopes of taking hostages back to Lebanon. After killing a security guard who stumbled upon the group off the Mediterranean coast, Kuntar and his gunmen then busted into an apartment in Naharia and Kuntar proceeded to murder the father of two before bludgeoning his 4-year-old girl to death with the butt of his rifle. The victim's terrified wife had managed to hide herself and their 2-year-old daughter in a crawl space during the struggle. The mom, however, inadvertently suffocated the toddler while trying to stifle her screams.

On July 16, Israel returned an unrepentant Kuntar and four prisoners captured during the 2006 war, along with 199 corpses, for two coffins containing the dead bodies of the IDF soldiers. The day before, taking advantage of one last chance to rub salt into Israel's already gaping wound, a Lebanese newspaper circulated the rumor that one of the Israeli soldiers was still alive. Thus, an already despondent Israeli public plummeted to the depths of despair once those two coffins were hauled out of the transport vehicle.

In Lebanon, on the other hand, July 16 was declared a national holiday and Kuntar and company were welcomed home as national heroes. Even Lebanon's Western-backed prime minister, Fuad Saniora, was seen kissing the terrorists at the Beirut airport.

What is happening to Israel? How can its leaders be so blind to the obvious—that this exchange will only drive up the price in future negotiations; that it possibly sealed the fate of Hamas's captive Gilad Shalit now that corpses can generate such a handsome return; that it only puts Israeli soldiers and civilians at greater risk and will only lead to more abductions and murders?

Don't they see how this emboldens their enemies? Don't they see that by choosing the path of least resistance now, they are guaranteeing catastrophic consequences in the long run? As Melanie Phillips

pointed out, “Israel's failure to grasp this essential fact is the most dismal indication that its current governing class lacks the moral vision and statesmanship essential to continue to defend the country against an enemy which gloats that Israel's reverence for life spells its own collective death warrant. It is not an empty boast” (Spectator.co.uk, July 17).

### The Age of Defeat

Hezbollah head Hassan Nasrallah couldn't resist the urge to come out of hiding in order to gloat over Kuntar's release. “The age of defeats is gone, and the era of victories has come,” Nasrallah declared before cheering throngs of Lebanese.

Nasrallah's “era of victories” speech stood in stark contrast to Ehud Olmert's “tired of winning” address three years ago: “We are tired of fighting; we are tired of being courageous,” Olmert told the Israel Policy Forum. “We are *tired of winning*, we are tired of defeating our enemies” (emphasis mine). The once proud, lion-like roar of the tribe of Judah now purrs like one of the many harmless stray cats that roam the streets of Jerusalem.

THAT is what has happened to Israel today. *And why?*

BECAUSE OF WHAT GOD HAS PROPHESED IN HIS WORD! That's right—the same God who helped establish the Jewish state in modern times also prophesied that Israel would be mortally wounded by an insoluble “peace” process (Hosea 5:13). Yes, the same God who arranged for Israel to gain full control of Jerusalem in 1967 also prophesied that the Jews would later lose that eastern half of their capital city (Zechariah 14:1-2).

These prophecies are sure. They will soon impact every individual on Earth because Jerusalem is the powder keg that will set off the biblically prophesied Great Tribulation to occur just before the Messiah sets foot on the Mount of Olives.

Are *you* prepared for that blessed event?

Just before Moses prayed that God would make Judah's hands sufficient against his enemies, he asked for God to hear Judah's *prayers*—implying that they were once a God-fearing, *praying* people. That has always been the key to Judah's well-being—even its very existence—its *dependency on the Most High*.

While it may be past the point of no return for Israel as a whole, you—*individually*—can turn to the God of Israel in prayerful repentance.

If you do, God WILL hear. ■

The *Philadelphia Trumpet*, in conjunction with the *Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course*, presents this brief excursion into the fascinating study of the Bible. Simply turn to and read in your Bible each verse given in answer to the questions. You will be amazed at the new understanding gained from this short study!

## Are We Living in the Last Days?

**W**ORLD LEADERS AND SCIENTISTS ARE FRANKLY *frightened* by the prospects of the future. They warn that man now possesses the means of committing COSMOCIDE—*suicide* of the whole human race—and even talk in terms of “overkill.” They realize something totally unforeseen must soon occur to *stop* the present trend of world events—or humanity will finally DESTROY itself!

Today, there is mounting speculation that *terrorists* have obtained weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Sam Nunn, co-chairman and chief executive officer of the Nuclear Threat Initiative and former U.S. senator, after visiting Russia in 2002 said, “It would be a miracle if nuclear materials had not been smuggled out of Russia to rogue nations and terrorist groups willing to pay top dollar to satisfy their WMD ambitions.” According to Nunn, less than half the material for making nuclear bombs that Russia inherited from the collapse of the Soviet Union was adequately protected.

Many other renowned statesmen and analysts speak fearfully of the END OF THE WORLD—the END of human civilization!

### Prophesied Centuries Ago

The sad state of our world was prophesied and written in advance. About 2,000 years ago, the greatest “newscaster” the world has ever known *foretold* today’s chaotic world conditions! He foresaw today’s scientific discoveries and technological advancements, and the outcome of it all.

This famous newscaster *knew* that men would produce the destructive forces that now threaten cosmocide! He warned: “For that will be a time of greater horror than anything the world has ever seen or will ever see again. In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, the entire human race will be destroyed” (Matthew 24:21-22; New Living Translation).

This great newscaster was Jesus Christ of Nazareth—the same Jesus who is coming again to intervene at the last moment to save humanity from extinction. What He prophesied has been written in your Bible all these centuries. No other book is as up to date as *your Bible*!

Jesus Christ prophesied today’s world conditions in vivid language. He foretold the wars, famines, disease epidemics and natural disasters that are now occurring increasingly before our very eyes! Scientists and world leaders—most of whom know little of Bible prophecy, and even reject the Bible—readily admit that events He prophesied are taking place *right now*!

### The Last Days

“But,” some will object, “there have always been ‘*prophets of doom*.’” Skeptics have long scoffed at Bible prophecy. The Apostle Peter warned they would be especially active “in the last days” (2 Peter 3:3-4). Yet how can we know *for sure* if we have crossed the threshold into the time of the end—the time shortly preceding the prophesied return of Jesus Christ? There is one statement in the Bible that is *especially* beyond refutation.

**How can we know for sure if we have crossed the threshold into the time of the end—the time shortly preceding the prophesied return of Jesus Christ? There is one statement in the Bible that is especially beyond refutation.**

1. Did Jesus’s disciples ask Him about His Second Coming and “the end of the age”? Matthew 24:3, New King James Version. At what specific point in time did Christ declare He would have to

intervene and return to Earth? Verse 22.

**COMMENT:** We need to understand the full import of this shocking scripture! The Moffatt translation reads: “Had not those days been cut short, *not a soul would be saved alive*.” The Phillips translation states: “Yes, if those days had not been cut short *no human being would survive*.” The New Living Translation renders it this way: “In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, *the entire human race will be destroyed*.”

Let the gravity of those words sink in. If Jesus Christ does not return to this Earth, the time is soon coming when every last man, woman and child on this planet will be exterminated. Here is man’s number-one problem today—the threat of human extinction—predicted almost 2,000 years ago!

This is an *irrefutable* sign that we are in “the last days.” NEVER BEFORE has man had the capability to destroy *every* human being on Earth! Christ’s words could *never* have begun to be understood in correct context until the 20th century when the atomic bomb, followed by the hydrogen bomb and other weapons of mass destruction, was invented. In fact, the meaning of many other end-time prophecies could not be understood *until* the end time.



## A Sign of Christ's Coming

1. While sitting on the Mount of Olives, Christ's disciples questioned Him about His Second Coming (Matthew 24:3). Did Jesus foretell that **MANY** deceivers would arise to deceive **MANY** people before His return? Verses 4-5, 11, 24. Are they the ministers of the archdeceiver himself? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Is the *whole world* deceived as a result of their activities? Revelation 12:9.

2. What else did Jesus say would occur in the end time? Matthew 24:6-7.

**COMMENT:** The 20th century was the bloodiest in human history. World War I commenced in 1914 and claimed 8.5 million lives. Then World War II resulted in 55 million deaths. Moreover, according to author and professor of political science R. J. Rummel, totalitarian governments slaughtered 170 million people for ethnic, racial, tribal, religious or political reasons. Nation has continued to rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Just since World War II alone, there have been over 225 armed conflicts in 148 countries!

3. Is *famine* one of the major signs indicating that Christ's intervention in world affairs is near? Matthew 24:7.

**COMMENT:** About 5 billion people live in the developing world, and at the turn of the century, almost 800 million of them were undernourished. Today, multiple millions *die* of starvation each year. Others are severely stunted. Yet many experts believe the worst is yet to come.

4. What else was prophesied to occur? Matthew 24:7.

**COMMENT:** Primarily a consequence of fornication and adultery, AIDS has become one of the deadliest diseases of these last days. According to UNAIDS/WHO estimates, it has claimed 25 million lives, and each year is adding about 2 million to that total. Those *infected* with HIV/AIDS number about 33 million, and another 2.5 million are *newly* infected each year. The disease has plagued Africa most of all, but it is rapidly spreading in the rest of the world.

Pestilence is also partly the natural result of food shortages and consequent malnutrition, which breaks down the body's natural defenses. In addition, huge concentrations of population are ready-made tinder boxes of potential disease epidemics. More and more crowding means more waste and refuse, more garbage, more pollution of the water, air and land—**AND more disease!** Under crowded conditions, an epidemic can spread from person to person like wildfire. All the great pestilences of the past were just such contagious diseases.

Remember also that modern man already lives in an environment of poisons. He inhales dangerously polluted air, drinks contaminated water, and eats pesticide-laden foods. The inevitable result is that the heart, lungs and the entire body in general are *weakened*, thus lowering resistance to disease, which nearly always strikes the weakest *first!*

5. What else will happen with increasing severity? Matthew 24:7. When earthquake activity reaches a peak, will men at last begin to recognize that **GOD** is intervening? Isaiah 2:19-21.

**COMMENT:** Whenever catastrophic natural disasters strike, it seems to drive some to contemplate God. In the case of the cyclone that hit Myanmar and earthquake that struck China in May, killing around 200,000, many people were forced to reevaluate their shallow, self-made concepts of a "loving" God. As such disasters intensify, people will increasingly come to recognize the hand of the great God of judgment.

6. Are the signs Jesus foretold only the *beginning* of sorrows?

Matthew 24:8. If this prophesied time of world trouble were allowed to continue, would there be anyone left alive? Verses 21-22.

**COMMENT:** Famine, disease, pestilence, earthquakes and other disruptions of nature are taking an increasing toll in human life today. World leaders everywhere are afraid that man's destructive capability *will annihilate all life on Earth!*

When we take a hard, cold, realistic look at present world conditions and trends, they **DO** point to a fast-approaching **WORLD CRISIS** of war, starvation, uncontrollable disease epidemics, and the *extinction of human life* on this planet!

Some analysts look at this terrifying world picture and admit they are frightened! They warn us that man's *only hope* lies in the formation of a **SUPER WORLD GOVERNMENT** wielding all authority and power over the nations.

But the nations, hostile to one another, could never form such a government.

Let's face it! Either there does exist a *living GOD* of supreme mind and total **POWER** who very soon *will* step in and intervene in the affairs of this world to **SAVE HUMANITY FROM ITSELF**—or else the **EXTINCTION** of all life will inevitably occur as man unleashes the awesome forces at his control upon his neighbor!

## There Is Hope!

1. Will Jesus Christ return with great power and glory? Matthew 24:30. Will He come to rule the entire Earth? Revelation 19:15-16.

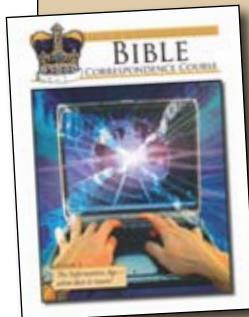
2. Will there be warfare then as there is now among nations? Isaiah 2:4. Will people be taught the way to peace and productivity? Same verse.

**COMMENT:** The very one who created man is coming to establish the **GOVERNMENT OF GOD** on Earth and to teach man the way to peace—to guide his inventive genius entirely into *peaceful* channels.

3. Did Micah also foretell the establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth? Micah 4:1-4.

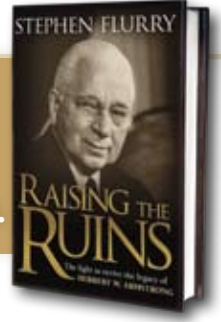
**COMMENT:** Your Bible shows there is *hope* for mankind! God will not allow misguided mankind to annihilate life on Earth! He is soon going to send Jesus Christ again—this time to establish an all-powerful, world-ruling government to save us from ourselves! It will be a government ruled *not* by carnal men, but by the living, all-powerful Creator of the universe! ■

## Enroll in our FREE Bible Course!



This short study you've just completed is a sample of the study method employed in each monthly lesson of the **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 40,000 people have already enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course! Ordering information is on the back cover of this issue.

In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the second half of the 19th chapter.



S T E P H E N F L U R R Y

# Round Two: WCG

## PART TWO

**“Suppose the book contained the recipe for building a nuclear weapon, and it’s out in publication—the author says, ‘... I don’t want this floating around the world. I’m going to call back all the copies and destroy them.’”**

— Judge Schwarzer *Ninth Circuit oral arguments, Dec. 6, 1999*

ON SEPT. 18, 2000, THE NINTH CIRCUIT FILED its opinion, voting 2 to 1 in favor of the WCG. Judge Letts’s ruling was reversed. The Honorable William W. Schwarzer wrote the opinion for the majority. Schwarzer noted that the WCG discontinued *Mystery* for a variety of reasons, including that it “conveyed outdated views that were racist in nature. Its Advisory Council of Elders indicated that the church stopped distributing MOA because of ‘cultural standards of social sensitivity’ and to avoid racial conflict. The Council noted, ‘Insensitivity in this area is contrary to the doctrinal program of the WCG to promote racial healing and reconciliation among the races.’”

That was on page 1. In their brief, the WCG had said *Mystery* had *social errors*. “For instance, increasing sensitivity to racial harmony meant that certain passages authored by Mr. Armstrong—who matured in a very different United States of the 1910s and 1920s—did not reflect WCG’s aspirations for the late 1980s.” That’s the way WCG attorneys explained it. Of course, we don’t agree with that assessment at all. But Schwarzer advanced the WCG’s critique to flat-out say *Mystery of the Ages* is racist! It’s not just outdated or insensitive—it’s RACIST—it causes RACIAL CONFLICT! *Ralph Helge* wouldn’t even take that position. Tkach Jr. would. But still, this was coming from a federal judge who was ruling on a matter regarding *copyright* law and whether or not printing an abandoned book is fair use.

At oral arguments the year before, Schwarzer clearly identified the “key issue” of the case: the application of Section 107 of the Copyright Act. Then why so much in his September 18 opinion on the inflammatory subject of race? He did address the matter of copyright law later in his ruling. But when he introduces his opinion, on page 1, with the “fact” that *Mystery of the Ages* is racist, one wonders if his personal views about the book or Mr. Armstrong skewed his judgment on a purely legal matter.

Maybe there really was something sinister implied by his “recipe for building a nuclear weapon” analogy the year before.

### ■ MARKETING DEVICE

As for the legal arguments Schwarzer made, he believed the “work for hire” issue was irrelevant since Mr. Armstrong bequeathed *Mystery of the Ages* and the rest of his estate to the WCG in his will. Whether he controlled the church, or vice versa, did not matter to Schwarzer. Mr. Armstrong’s personal desires for *Mystery* to be distributed widely did not matter either. What mattered was that WCG owned the copyright.

The judge later elaborated on the four factors for determining “fair use.” The first factor, we believe, weighed heavily in our favor since our use of the book was not for profit, but for educational purposes. But the way Schwarzer saw it, we were profiting from the book because in printing it, we had a “core text” that would attract new members, who would then become tithe-payers.

The second factor considers the work’s nature—whether it is a factual account or a creative work. And since the fair use doctrine “recognizes a greater need to disseminate factual works,” we felt like this tilted in our favor also. Problem is, Schwarzer reasoned, while PCG members might consider *Mystery of the Ages* factual, those outside the church would consider it a work of *fiction*. Unbelievable.

The third factor, *the amount copied*, also weighed against our use, Schwarzer said, since we copied the entire book. “PCG uses the MOA as a central element of its members’ religious observance; a reasonable person would expect PCG to pay WCG for the right to copy and distribute MOA created by WCG with its resources.” While he doesn’t see how fair use would allow wholesale copying of *Mystery*, it is interesting that he accept-



ed the fact that the book is central to our religious beliefs. If that's the case, how is it fair to say, in the very same opinion, that the PCG uses *Mystery of the Ages* as a "marketing device"? Is the *Book of Mormon* a marketing device? What about the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*? Do Mormons and Catholics use those documents to make money? Or do they represent bodies of *belief*—religious *teachings* that readers may either faithfully believe and follow, or cast aside as scripturally flawed? If an individual donates to the Mormon Church because he believes the *Book of Mormon* is the truth of God, is he practicing his religious freedom, or merely making a business transaction based on clever marketing by a supposedly "nonprofit" Christian church? Using Schwarzer's logic, how could a church *even be considered nonprofit*?

It's not like the subject of tithing is unique to the Philadelphia Church of God. Nearly every church in existence collects tithes and/or freewill offerings from adherents who consider it part and parcel of their religious faith. The patriarch Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec—and without ever having read *Mystery of the Ages*. Jesus told the Pharisees of His day to tithe. Was He a salesman just marketing a product? The Hebrew words for "tithe" appear 41 times in the Old Testament—the Greek equivalent surfaces in the New Testament 10 times.

If *Mystery of the Ages* really is central to the Philadelphia Church of God's teachings and beliefs, as Schwarzer acknowledged in his opinion, then to say it is *also* a marketing device is tantamount to religious bigotry.

## ■ COMPETING MARKETS

On the fourth fair use factor, Schwarzer said there was "undisputed evidence" showing "that individuals who received copies of MOA from PCG are present or *could be* potential adherents of WCG." Here again, he took Allan Browne's nonsense a step further. Allan said the WCG wanted to lure former members back into the fold and possibly even offer them *Mystery of the Ages* again. Schwarzer added that our distribution of the "racist" book might actually prevent people from joining the WCG!

"Because the church plans at some time to publish an annotated version of MOA, it is entitled to protection of its copyright." Schwarzer either bought into the annotated idea, or else he knowingly accepted the sham on account of what he believed to be the greater good—to prevent us from a "fair use" distribution of a "racist" book.

With that, the court granted the WCG's permanent injunction against our distribution of *Mystery of the Ages* and ordered the PCG to pay the WCG's costs for appeal. In addition, the case would be sent back to the district level for a damages trial to determine how much we owed the WCG for our "unauthorized" republication of the book.

## ■ DISSENTING OPINION

On the surface, about the only thing good to come from the Ninth Circuit ruling was Judge Brunetti's dissent. Like Judge Letts in the district court, he put the lawsuit in proper perspective. Right at the outset of his opinion, he said, "The copyright dispute in this case *arises from a change in religious doctrine* of the Worldwide Church of God." Later, he wrote,

"When WCG changed its church doctrine and renounced much of Armstrong's teachings, the founders and believers of PCG were forced from WCG as they could no longer practice their religious beliefs as set forth in MOA. It was WCG's doctrinal shift and renunciations that created the PCG and its need to publish MOA."

Indeed, were it not for WCG's unprecedented transformation, there would have never been a PCG!

On the four factors of "fair use," Brunetti saw it much differently than Schwarzer. The first factor, in Brunetti's view, weighed heavily in our favor. We are a nonprofit organization, he said. And even if you take into account the donations that came in specifically for *Mystery* distribution, those monies did not come close to covering the overall costs for printing and distributing the book, Brunetti explained. He also drew attention to the WCG's own admission that *Mystery of the Ages* was a costly production, and one of the reasons it was discontinued in the first place.

The second and third factors were mostly irrelevant in this case, Brunetti wrote. But the fourth factor, as has also been established by the Supreme Court, is the "most important statutory factor." On this point, Brunetti once again placed the dispute in its proper context. "WCG's decision to cease publication of MOA, destroy inventory copies, and disavow MOA's religious message in the context of its doctrinal shift as a church demonstrates that MOA is no longer of value to WCG for such purposes, regardless of PCG's actions."

When judging by fruits, you see, this whole case ought to be rather simple to weigh in on. Brunetti continued, "Because WCG has admitted that it has no plans to publish or distribute MOA as originally written, there can be no market interference."

Regarding the annotation, like Judge Letts, Brunetti wrote, "PCG's use creates a larger potential market for an annotation rather than interfering with it. Moreover, the failure of WCG to make any reasonable progress on the annotation over the course of a decade as well as WCG's belief that it has a Christian duty to keep Armstrong's doctrinal errors out of circulation tends to undermine the credibility of WCG's intention to publish any such annotation."

Brunetti's conclusion summed up the WCG position beautifully: "In this lawsuit, WCG appears less interested in protecting its rights to exploit MOA than in suppressing Armstrong's ideas which now run counter to church doctrine."

To us, Brunetti's dissent was a shining bright spot in the lawsuit's passage through the Ninth Circuit. His remarks, like those of Judge Letts, emboldened our approach to this case. My father described Brunetti's opinion as a "powerful dissenting opinion" that had "great clarity." He said, "Perhaps this was inspired by God and something dramatic is awaiting us."

The way we looked at it, of the four judges to hear the case, two of them saw right through the WCG's smokescreen and interpreted the fair use doctrine exactly the way we did. It's just that the other two made a two-thirds majority at the Ninth Circuit. But in a lot of ways, the views of Schwarzer and Tashima motivated my father more than that of the other two judges. "This is too outrageous for words," my father told our membership five days after the Ninth Circuit ruling. "It ought to outrage God's people! I think it's nothing less than scandalous for you to take and reverse the decision of a district court with such reasoning as that." He was referring to the annotation sham in particular. Indeed, Schwarzer's words

aroused a fighting spirit in my father not unlike the deceitful betrayal Tkachism had during the late 1980s. “I’ll tell you this,” my father continued, “if we’re not willing to fight against such a blatant and a flagrant violation of our rights, I think something has to be wrong with us spiritually. This has made me mad! And I want to fight more than ever. ... I want to take them on. ... I want to represent the great God. I want to defend God. And it makes no difference who’s out there fighting against God, that’s what we’re here for! That is what we are—defenders of the faith.”

### ■ HELGE INFORMS THE WCG MEMBERSHIP

Prior to the court of appeals ruling, most of the WCG membership was left in the dark regarding the lawsuit. Indeed, many of their own members had absolutely no idea their church was even in court. After their victory, however, Ralph Helge was quick to gloat before the membership. “PCG does have certain limited rights to request the court to modify the opinion and for some other procedural matters, and we assume they will petition for such relief. However, for all practical purposes, [the Ninth Circuit’s ruling] would seem to be final in all material respects.”

Two months later, Helge then backtracked in order to explain the church’s rationale behind instigating litigation in the first place. “I would like to clarify for the members of the WCG, and all others who may be interested, why the WCG filed this lawsuit in the first place. Having represented the WCG for about 42 years, I can say that it has only been in extreme circumstances that the WCG has ever taken the affirmative step of filing a lawsuit.”

He was responding to flack they were getting from their own members! Apparently, some couldn’t understand why they would take us to court over something like *Mystery of the Ages*—a book espousing doctrine they disavowed and even ridiculed, as well as destroyed. Helge explained that the church had an obligation to protect its “assets.” After all, if the PCG just helped itself to Mr. Armstrong’s literature, what’s to stop us from seizing control of other property?

He then told members about the annotation project, which must have come as a complete shock to most of them. “Just before the PCG’s inappropriate commandeering of WCG’s copyrighted assets, the WCG’s board of directors was considering what use they should make of these assets.” In actuality, the undisputed facts of the case reveal that it was just *after* we “commandeered the assets” that the WCG suddenly became interested in them. But I digress. According to Helge, the board “even discussed whether it would be appropriate for the church itself to reprint and publish certain of such literary works, reprinting *Mystery of the Ages* in annotated form explaining to the public where the church is in disagreement with conclusions in the book.”

And what did those discussions ultimately lead to? “Unfortunately [these discussions] came to an abrupt halt when the PCG undertook, to use the federal court’s language from its

own opinion, an act of piracy. The WCG then *could not proceed* with its own considered action regarding the literary works *because to do so would give the false impression that the WCG was intimidated into doing so by the PCG’s act of aggression.*”

Yet another chapter added to their fictitious story. They were *just about* to use *Mystery of the Ages* until we came along and preempted their plan, forcing them to set it aside in order to stand up to an aggressive bully.

### ■ OUR FINEST HOUR

A few days after the ruling, my father exhorted us to fight as if our very lives depended on it—and to do so with a positively optimistic outlook. “God is with us,” he said.

On Oct. 10, 2000, we submitted a petition to all 27 judges at the Ninth Circuit for a rehearing *en banc*. But the Ninth Circuit rejected our petition on November 9. On the surface, it appeared the odds were stacked heavily against us—especially since the chance of ever being heard at the Supreme Court is 1.6 percent. (Of the 5,000 or so requests for appeal every year at the Supreme Court, only about 80 of them are accepted.) But we were excited by the prospect of just submitting our case before the highest court in the land. *What an honor*, we thought.

Beyond that, there was the counterclaim. As much as the WCG would have liked it to piggyback on top of the *Mystery* ruling, it was an altogether separate case. And the longer litigation wore on, the easier it would be for us to expose the annotation lie by pressing them on the “plans” for the project.

We also saw a brightly-lit silver lining in the damages trial, because it would be tried before a jury. All along, my father felt that if we could tell our story *before a jury*, and *expose* the WCG for what it deceitfully did to Mr. Armstrong’s legacy, we would gain a distinct advantage. It’s one thing for a high-ranking WCG official to distort the truth and change his story in a deposition that most people never see. But to be exposed as a liar before a 12-person jury and a packed courtroom is much different. And rest assured, even if only a damages trial, we were determined that those men would be brought before the jury to answer for what they had done.

And besides what might happen in court, who knew what might happen outside of court. As my father told PCG members, something “dramatic” was going to happen in this case. “This news could be the greatest blessing this church has ever had,” he said. “A miraculous decision from God can change this little work as a winning decision ... never would have.” Harkening back to the 1970s, when the state of California seized control of the WCG’s assets and falsely accused Mr. Armstrong of all kinds of outrageous activity, my father said, “I’ve always thought that what happened when the state of California attacked the church under Mr. Armstrong, that that was the church’s finest hour. ... It unified God’s people as nothing ever did.”

“It’s not over yet,” my father insisted. “We’re going to win this thing in the end. *We absolutely know that.*” ■

Prior to the court of appeals ruling, most of the WCG membership was left in the dark regarding the lawsuit. Indeed, many of their own members had absolutely no idea their church was even in court.



# The 1930s All Over Again?

Germany's economic policy is strengthening its place at the heart of Europe—and irritating the German people. This has happened before. **BY ANDREW MILLER**



## PRODUCTIVE BUT PERTURBED

Workers like these Mercedes plant technicians have made Germany an economic powerhouse, but comparatively few benefits trickle down.

**T**HE GERMAN PEOPLE ARE NOT happy with their country's financial system. Almost three quarters of them think it is unfair, according to a Bertelsmann Foundation survey.

The grounds for their complaint? The fact that even though Germany is the largest goods exporting nation in the world—even ahead of China—its people feel their wages are too low and unemployment is too high.

In 2007, Germany produced its greatest trade surplus ever: Its exports exceeded its imports by an astounding \$288.5 billion. At the same time, the unemployment rate as of May stands at 7.9 percent. German export surpluses reputedly pay for deficits in Ireland, Italy, Spain and even France, while the German people scrimp and save to make ends meet. According to a study released in March by the Institute for Economic Research, just over a quarter of all Germans are now classified as poor. The federal employment agency says 1.2 million workers are paid so little that they qualify for welfare.

Shouldn't the nation functioning as the economic engine of the European Union do better at providing jobs and good wages for its own people? Well, it is all a matter

of priorities—and it is not the first time such conditions have existed in Germany.

## How Hitler Came to Power

"When in 1930 Heinrich Brüning became chancellor of Germany he told his friends in the unions that his chief aim was to liberate Germany from paying war reparations and foreign debt," Sara Moore wrote in the May issue of *European Journal*. "He felt that if he diverted all Germany's efforts into exports it would weaken the ability of America and the Allies to force Germany to pay her 100s if she chose not to. The German unions therefore agreed to Brüning reducing wages, raising taxes and diverting all industrial activity into exports so as to bring pressure on the Western powers, not realizing to what extent this would mean misery, unemployment and a diminution of power for the workers. Brüning's initiative was successful. Millions of people abroad were fooled into believing that Germany herself was really poor, not just her

hapless citizens, even though Germany was the greatest exporter in the world, with a mountain of cash in the bank."

Brüning put everything Germany had into producing exports for the Fatherland, even if that meant taking more money from the people. By doing this, he strengthened Germany's power and international position to the point where Germany was more powerful just 10 years after World War I than it was even at the beginning of the war.

Yet this economic system had another effect. The people became bitter and elected Adolf Hitler to lead them.

## Here We Go Again?

Now consider the economic reforms Germany has implemented since it adopted the euro as its currency in 1999. Moore's article continued: "Foreigners' faith in the euro rests primarily with Germany. Other euroland countries' economies are not so strong. Indeed, Germany's European neighbors have suddenly discovered that Germany effectively imposed a 'wage freeze' on its workers after the adoption of the euro in 1999, clawing back 40 percent in labor competitiveness against Italy, 30 percent against Spain and 20 percent against France by 2007. ...

"Katinka Barysch [of the Center for European Reform] declared that what distinguished Germany—from most of its peers—was the weakness of domestic demand. Indeed, after the arrival of the euro, German workers suffered years of stagnant or declining wages. Then the German government, in an admittedly pale comparison with 1930, decided to cut corporation tax and give other advantages to industry, and to raise VAT [value added tax], bringing pain to the workers, in order to pay for it."

These wage freezes and tax reforms are

**These wage freezes and tax reforms are keeping Germany's money in the hands of corporate industrialists instead of in the hands of private citizens.**

keeping Germany's money in the hands of corporate industrialists instead of in the hands of private citizens. This is one way Germany can afford

to develop countries in Eastern Europe and bail its Western European neighbors out of deficit problems—even as its own people are complaining about poor wages.

These same reforms are also strengthening Germany's position within the European Union at the expense of the smaller members. Moore continued: "We live in

changing times with the rise of India, China, Japan and the Far East and the relative decline of the world's greatest superpower, America. Germany has been a pillar of the international community since the war. With the help of the European Union and its most powerful provider of funds, Germany, the countries of the former Soviet Union in Eastern Europe are becoming richer, democratic and self-confident. Germany has a right to have an important say in the ECB [European Central Bank] to ensure that her money is well spent. Yet we live in a global economy. Power must be used with care. We must not underestimate Germany's strength because of her citizens' poverty or unemployment. Her deflation, and push for the ECB to adopt a high interest rate policy, besides affecting Britain and America, will slow growth for the whole of the European Union and create problems for the weakest states, whilst strengthening her relative position. How Germany will use this position is of fundamental interest and the parallels up to the present time with the 1930s experience raises cause for concern."

As in the 1930s, Germany has put all its economic might into producing exports that will enhance its power and cement it as the economic engine that drives Europe. Might these policies and the resulting economic frustrations lead the people to look for a political savior as they did in the 1930s? It is completely possible. Even Moore wrote, "One worries that if things do not go [Germany's] way, she could revert to her old idea of a Germanic empire."

Indeed, Germany's current economic policy is strengthening it as the heart of Europe. Meanwhile, the discontent it is creating could be the catalyst that leads to the ascension of a second Adolf Hitler—a new Charlemagne.



## UNITED STATES

**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

**Direct TV DBS** WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun

**Direct TV DBS** ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri

**Dish Network** ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri

**Dish Network DBS** WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun

**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

**Alabama, Birmingham** WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

**Alabama, Dothan** WTVY 8:30, Sun

**Alabama, Montgomery** WBMM 8:30, Sun

**Alaska, Anchorage** KIMO 8:30 am, Sun

**Alaska, Fairbanks** KATN 8:30 am, Sun

**Alaska, Juneau** KJUD 8:30 am, Sun

**Arizona, Phoenix** KPXX 5:00 am, Fri

**Arizona, Yuma-El Centro** KSWT 9:30 am, Sun

**Arkansas, Fayetteville** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Fort Smith** KCWA 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Jonesboro** KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

**Arkansas, Rogers** KWFT 8:30, Sun

**Arkansas, Springdale** KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

**California, Bakersfield** KGET 9:30 am, Sun

**California, Chico** KHSL 9:30 am, Sun

**California, El Centro** KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

**California, Eureka** KUVU 9:30 am, Sun

**California, Los Angeles** KPXX 6:00 am, Fri

**California, Monterey** KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

**California, Palm Springs** KESQ/KCWQ 9:30 am, Sun

**California, Redding** KHSL 9:30 am, Sun

**California, Sacramento** KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

**California, Salinas** KION 9:30 am, Sun

**California, San Francisco** KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

**California, Santa Barbara** KSBY 9:30 am, Sun

**Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

**Colorado, Grand Junction** KKCO 10:30 am, Sun

**Colorado, Montrose** KKCO 10:30 am, Sun

**Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Delaware, Dover** WBD 9:30 am, Sun

**Florida, Gainesville** WCJB 9:30 am, Sun

**Florida, Jacksonville** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

**Florida, Miami** WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

**Florida, Orlando** WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Florida, Panama City** WBPC 9:30 am, Sun

**Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville** WTLH/

WTLF 9:30 am, Sun; WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

**Florida, Tampa** WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

**Florida, West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00 am, Fri

**Georgia, Albany** WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

**Georgia, Augusta** WAGT 9:30 am, Sun

**Georgia, Brunswick** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

**Georgia, Columbus** WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

**Georgia, Macon** WBMM 9:30 am, Sun

**Georgia, Savannah** WWSA/WGCW 9:30 am, Sun

**Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo** Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed

**Hawaii, Kauai Ho'ike** Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

**Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku** Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

**Idaho, Idaho Falls** KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

**Idaho, Pocatello** KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

**Idaho, Twin Falls** KMVT/KTWT 10:30 am, Sun

**Illinois, Bloomington** WHOI 8:30 am, Sun

**Illinois, Chicago** WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

**Illinois, Peoria** WHOI 8:30 am, Sun

**Illinois, Rockford** WREX 8:30 am, Sun

**Indiana, Fort Wayne** WPTA 8:30 am, Sun

**Indiana, Indianapolis** WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Indiana, Lafayette** WBFI 8:30 am, Sun

**Indiana, Terre Haute** WBI 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

**Iowa, Des Moines** KPXX 5:00 am, Fri

**Iowa, Keokuk** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Kirksville** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Mason City** KTTC 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Rochester** KTTC 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Sioux City** KTIV 8:30 am, Sun

**Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30 am, Sun

**Kansas, Lincoln** KCWL 8:30 am, Sun

**Kansas, Topeka** KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

**Kentucky, Lexington** WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Louisiana, Alexandria** KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

**Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe** KNOE 8:30 am, Sun

**Louisiana, Lafayette** KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

**Louisiana, Lake Charles** WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

**Louisiana, New Orleans** WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

**Maine, Bangor** WABI 9:30 am, Sun

**Maine, Presque Isle** WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

**Maryland, Salisbury** WBD 9:30 am, Sun

**Massachusetts, Boston** WBXP 6:00 am, Fri;

WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

**Massachusetts, Holyoke** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

**Massachusetts, Springfield** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

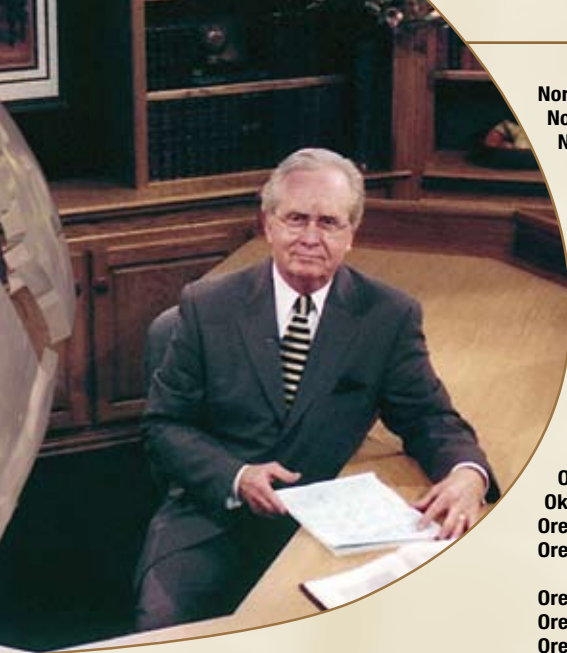
**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

**Michigan, Cadillac** WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun

**Michigan, Detroit** WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun

**Michigan, Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00 am, Fri





**North Carolina, Washington** WNCT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Wilmington** WBW 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Bismarck** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Dickinson** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Fargo** WDAY 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Minot** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Valley City** WDAY 8:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Ohio, Cincinnati** WSTR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Lima** WLIO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Steubenville** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Zanesville** WBZV 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KSHD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Lawton** KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oklahoma, Tulsa** KTPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KTVZ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Eugene** KMTR 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Klamath Falls** KMFD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Medford** KMFD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Portland** KPXG 6:00 am, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Erie** WBEP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia** WPPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh** WPCW 9:00 am, Sun  
**Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WCBD 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Florence** WWMB 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Myrtle Beach** WWMB 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Mitchell** KWSD 8:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KWBH 10:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Sioux Falls** KWSD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Tennessee, Jackson** WBJK 8:30 am, Sun  
**Tennessee, Knoxville** WPKX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Tennessee, Memphis** WPXX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Tennessee, Nashville** WNPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Abilene** KTWS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Amarillo** KVII/KVIH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Beaumont** KFDM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Brownsville** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Corpus Christi** KRIS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Harlingen** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Houston** KPXB 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Laredo** KTXW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Longview** KCEB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Lubbock** KLCW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Midland** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Odessa** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Port Arthur** KFDM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Angelo** KWSA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Antonio** KPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Sherman** KTEN 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Sweetwater** KTWS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Tyler** KCEB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Victoria** KWVB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Weslaco** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Wichita Falls** KWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Utah, Salt Lake City** KUPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Virginia, Charlottesville** WVIR 9:30 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Harrisonburg** WVIR 9:30 am, Sun  
**Virginia, Norfolk** WPXV 6:00 am, Fri  
**Virginia, Roanoke** WPRR 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington D.C.** WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Kennewick** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Pasco** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Richland** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Seattle** KWFX 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Spokane** KGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Yakima** KCWK 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** KVVA 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Bluefield** KVVA 9:30 am, Sun

**West Virginia, Charleston** WLPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**West Virginia, Clarksburg** WVFX 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Oak Hill** KVVA 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Parkersburg** WBPB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Weston** WVFX 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Wheeling** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, La Crosse** WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Wisconsin, Rhinelander** WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Wausau** WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KWWY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Cheyenne** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Riverton** KWWY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Scottsbluff** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

## CANADA

**Nationwide satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Nationwide cable** WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel 11:00 am ET, Sun.  
**Alberta, Calgary** CICT 12:30 am, Mon  
**Alberta, Edmonton** CITV 12:30 am, Mon  
**British Columbia, Vancouver** KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**British Columbia, Victoria** CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun  
**Manitoba, Winnipeg** CKND 12:30 am, Mon  
**Maritimes** CIHF 12:30 am, Mon  
**Ontario** CIII 12:30 am, Mon  
**Ontario, Toronto** CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun  
**Quebec, Montreal** CKMI 12:30 am, Mon  
**Saskatchewan, Regina** CFRE 12:30 am, Mon  
**Saskatchewan, Saskatoon** CFSK 12:30 am, Mon

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**Colombia** WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias TV 47 11:00 am, Fri  
**El Salvador** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Guatemala** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Honduras** WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Mexico** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Panama** WGN 7:00 am, Sun

## CARIBBEAN

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun  
**Aruba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Bahamas** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Barbados** CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun  
**Belize** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Cuba** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Dominican Republic** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Haiti** WGN 7:00 am, Sun  
**Jamaica** WGN 9:00 am, Sun  
**Puerto Rico** WGN 8:00 am, Sun  
**Trinidad and Tobago** WGN 8:00 am, Sun

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**Michigan, Traverse City** WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Duluth-Superior** KDLH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Mankato** KWEY 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00 am, Fri  
**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBGP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Columbus** WCBT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenville** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenwood** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Gulfport** WBGP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Hattiesburg** WBH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Laurel** WBH 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Meridian** WTOK 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Tupelo** WCBT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, West Point** WCBT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Columbia** KOMU 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Hannibal** WGEM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Jefferson City** KOMU 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Kansas City** KPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Missouri, Quincy** WGEM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, St. Joseph** WBJO 8:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Billings** KTVQ 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Bozeman-Butte** KBZK/KXLF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Glendive** KWZB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Great Falls** KRTV 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Helena** KMTF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Missoula** KPAX 10:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Hastings** KCWL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Kearney** KCWL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, North Platte** KWPL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KREN 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Albany** WYPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Binghamton** WBXI 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Buffalo** WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Elmira** WBE 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, New York City** WPNX 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am, Sun  
**New York, Syracuse** WSPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Utica** WBU 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Watertown** WWTI 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Charlotte** WLMY 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Durham** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greensboro** WGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greenville** WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, New Bern** WNCT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Raleigh** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

## Iran Conquered Lebanon

AS A MUSLIM IRANIAN-AMERICAN I applaud your article ("Iran Conquered Lebanon ... Now What?", August). The world does not want to believe how evil the Iranian regime is and appeasement won't work. The only option is regime change in Iran by its opposition. ... Peace in the Middle East won't be possible without a secular democratic government in Iran.

Babak DadRvand—U.S.

## The Universe

I RECENTLY WATCHED A television documentary on the big bang theory that you mentioned in your article ("A Majestic Tour of the Universe," August). The program mentioned the two flaws in this theory. First, it can't explain the existence of the laws of physics and chemistry—"where did they come from" as they put it. Second, it can't explain the fundamental constants. For example, an electron has a certain amount of energy (joules). And a proton has a certain atomic weight. If the atomic weight of a proton was different to its present value, you would not have suns and hence life. All known 22 fundamental constants are just right for the existence of life. The probability of this randomly being the case is so remote, the program itself concluded the universe was created.

Jenny Hart—WESTERN AUSTRALIA

THIS MAJESTIC TOUR OF THE UNIVERSE resonates on an entirely different note with me. I am Christian, but I have a hard time believing the Bible to hold literal truths. More likely I envision it as a series of parables. Not truthful in themselves, but containing truthful meaning. Like the stories Jesus used to tell. I don't believe that knowledge about God can be achieved through a rational means, nor do I believe that science should confirm what the Bible says. Mystical knowledge and faith are the only requirements here and they can be likened to a leap, made out of choice and will and not needing

facts, because an insecure faith is no faith at all. [T]he very stars you talk about are the biggest hurdles in the "Bible is literally true" movement that seems to grip the U.S. We see those stars, billion of light years away, because their light took the trouble to travel these billions of years. What this means for the theory that the universe is about 7,000 years old is up for you to decide.

George—ROMANIA



**The Bible indicates the universe is far older than 7,000 years. If you're interested,**

**you might give *The Incredible Human Potential* a read. We will send you a free copy.**

## Cyberterrorism

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, THE MAJORITY OF the U.S. is not prepared for a large cyberattack ("Target: America," August). Businesses are the least prepared. I recently spoke at an event for Business Continuity Planning Professionals. I asked those in attendance to raise their hand if their disaster recovery of business continuity plans addressed the threat of a cyberattack. NOT A SINGLE HAND WENT UP! If anyone should know how exposed we are, I would think it would be me. I was the former chief strategist of Netscape and I have been trying to raise this as an issue for nearly eight years. Just now, people are starting to listen. I recently interviewed the military attaché of Estonia who experienced a cyberattack firsthand. I asked him, if he had one piece of advice for business and government leaders, what would it be? He thought for a moment and said, "Don't learn the hard way"—what great advice!

Kevin Coleman—PENNSYLVANIA

## Dying Oceans

EXCELLENT ARTICLE ("WHERE HAVE ALL the Fish Gone?", August). As a professional fish biologist and believer, I appreciate this message very much. I just want to make one comment about the final portion. I have little hope of this turning around until Christ establishes His reign on Earth. ... Larry Fisher—WASHINGTON

## Joy of Life

KUDOS TO RON FRASER FOR HIS ARTICLE "The Joy of Life" in the June-July issue of the *Trumpet*. This has to be one of the most thought-provoking messages I've ever read, and truly I wish this article in its

entirety could be printed on page 3 of every newspaper in these United States. While it might not convince the hard-core evolutionists, I think it would have a profound and positive effect on many people who remain torn between accepting the false concept of evolution or accepting God as the Creator of the universe and the Creator of every life form that exists. Thank you for sending this valuable and informative magazine. It's much appreciated.

Ronald Edwards—CHICAGO, ILL.

## Slavery in America

I SAW YOUR PIECE IN THE MAY 2008 ISSUE ("The Obama-Wright Tragedy: It's Much Bigger Than Race"). I must disagree about "America breaking up black family structure"! Most, indeed virtually all, slaves brought here were originally enslaved (with family breakup) by fellow African blacks. Slavery in the U.S. was confined to the South. Fewer than 5 percent of Southern whites owned slaves, and the breakup of slave families was not the regular commonplace event that many assume. It is *unfair* to blame America, the whole country in perpetuity, the North and the South and the states that didn't exist till after 1865 like Alaska and Hawaii, for slavery or one aspect of slavery! Also, the Bible does not forbid slavery and commands slaves to respect and obey their masters. Although by modern standards slavery, child labor, etc., are wrong, please note that the Bible does not say slavery is a sin.

Joseph Forbes—PITTSBURGH, PA.

**You are right in the fact that the Bible sanctions certain types of slavery. However, the biblical laws surrounding slavery are intended almost entirely to safeguard the rights of those who have the misfortune to fall into such a state. The Bible is absolutely against the mistreatment so routinely associated with the practice. Also, if you study the means by which the law permitted people to become enslaved to other people, it is also clear that God does not see it as a favorable state. You can also see this reflected in passages such as 1 Corinthians 7:21-23. It is our firm belief that in the future, when God's Kingdom is set up on Earth, the enslavement of human beings to other human beings will end.**

## Correction

Our August issue (page 21) stated that George Galloway is a minister of the British Parliament. It should instead have said that he is a "member" of the British Parliament. The *Trumpet* regrets the error.

## Comments?

**letters@theTrumpet.com**  
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# We Are What We Appear

A simple, vital truth too many have gotten sloppy with **BY RON FRASER**

IT'S ALWAYS INTERESTING TO WATCH OLD FOOTAGE OF SPORTS meetings—you know, the clips from the old black-and-white 16-millimeter newsreels. The pleasure comes not only from viewing sport generally played in a more gentlemanly and sportsmanlike manner, but also from noting the *elegance of the dress* of the spectators.

There was a time when the British peoples were admired and copied by other nations in their form of dress. It was, as Luigi Barzini commented, “a spontaneous homage, a flattering imitation” (*The Europeans*). Barzini observes that the typical English gentleman of the 19th century was “well-educated, well-behaved”—largely attributable to “good upbringing.” Aldous Huxley said that what made the typical English gents of the time so admired as models for the rest of the world was “their confidence, their ease ... their prestige which the other people would like to deny but can’t” (*Antic Hay*).

It’s no coincidence that the time of the well-dressed, well-mannered, well-educated English gentleman coincided with the time of British greatness. We simply are what we appear. Just as “out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34), so the image we project of ourselves and the social or national group to which we belong will be reflected in our outward appearance.

There is such a thing as a right type of pride. Not that ugly, self-centered expression of ego so often seen in our so-called celebrities. But a natural, humble pride vested in a real confidence stemming from knowing truly who and what we are and what is our true destiny in life. If we know that we are the progeny of a far higher Power (rather than believing that we are descended from dumb apes), children of a more supreme Intelligence, created in His image, after His likeness, and we apprehend—to the degree that a human is able—the revelation of the brilliance of that Creator’s appearance, we shall do all in our power to dress ourselves so as to reflect a degree of elegance after that image.

Unfortunately, as Stanley Marcus wrote even a couple of decades ago, the age of elegance is long dead. That demise of elegance has coincided with the post-World War II breaking of our national pride, even as it was prophesied by Almighty God (Leviticus 26:19).

In her timely book *The Death of the Grown-Up*, columnist Diana West refers to the baby-boomer generation as “chucking maturity for eternal youth,” creating a “culture of perpetual adolescence.” West is astute enough to make the connection between *state of mind* and *state of dress*. She observes that the post-World War II baby boomers are now “grown-ups who haven’t left childhood.” Consequently, “father and son dress more or less alike, ...

both equally at ease in the baggy rumple of eternal summer camp. In the mature male, these trappings of adolescence ... reveal a state of mind, a reflection of personality that hasn’t fully developed, and doesn’t want to—or worse, doesn’t know how.”

To judge by the speed with which the population has taken to the standard of the ugly, the slatternly and the downright unkempt, few there be indeed who are enlightened sufficiently to make the connection between how we appear in public (and for that matter, in private) and the state of the nation. Hence, it is a joy for those who do care to see the matter taken up in an article from *American Thinker* by Steve Amoia and Andrew Durham. They made the same connection as Diana West between the way we dress and the broken moral fiber of the nation. “In the United States, there is a general lack of respect and civility for other people. We convey that by how we dress. Sadly, the standard has declined in massive proportions” (July 6).

The authors pointed to the trashy example of “adult men wearing baseball caps backwards and indoors, failure to comb their hair properly, and wearing dress shirts outside of their trousers. Adult women showing inappropriate bare skin, undergarments, tattoos in an office setting or in public.”

In parallel with the descent of general standards of manners and dress to street level, there is no doubt that the institution of the American presidency has been subject to a deliberate process of denigration over the past 15 years. This is the chief office of the nation that, of all Anglo-Saxon nations, has exemplified the pride and prestige of the English-speaking world since World War II. The deference that we show

to the office of commander in chief of the world’s once most powerful nation is a reflection of our degree of national pride.

Amoia and Durham give one example of our loss of pride in that office: a championship women’s college lacrosse team visiting the White House in 2005—many *wearing flip flops*. The authors rightly pose the question, “Is it too much trouble to teach them to show the president of the United States a modicum of respect?”

Broken pride, broken morals, broken will, all go together. We are what we appear.

Are we too inured to reality that we still cannot see Isaiah’s great prophecy for these times slamming us in the face? “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” (Isaiah 3:4-5).

**Request our free book *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision* to study this prophecy in greater depth.**





# Is America cursed?

**T**he unprecedented natural disasters afflicting America today have many people asking this urgent question. The Bible reveals the sobering answer. Yes, God is cursing America because of its sins.

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