

COMING PLAGUE

Our dangerous susceptibility
to disease pandemics

HOPING FOR PEACE

Middle East observers are cautiously optimistic.
Is a solution to the Arab-Jew conflict within reach at last?

MYSTERY BOOK

It's the world's best seller,
yet few know it!

MARCH-APRIL 2005

THE PHILADELPHIA

WWW.THETRUMPET.COM

TRUMPET



Germany in CRISIS

Schröder's government is in hot water.
Here's why—and why it should matter to you.



5



10

22

30

WORLD

COVER

4 Germany in Crisis

The postwar miracle of rapid recovery and aggressive development that built the German welfare state has devolved into an internal economic and political malaise, increasing social unrest. Which way is Germany headed—boom or bust?

7 Pinning the Blame

8 Freedom Marches Out of Europe

Democracy seems to be on the march in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Ukraine, Georgia, Indonesia and Malaysia. But what about *Europe*?

DEPARTMENTS

36 Letters

38 Key of David Television Listings

WORLD

1 From the Editor: Churchill's Warning for Today

The worst tragedy of World War II was not "peace in our time" in 1939. It is ignorance in ours.

10 New Hope in the Peace Process?

Is Israel's long and dark fight for survival as a nation finally headed for sunlit uplands of peace?

11 Sharon's War on (Jewish) Extremism

12 With Friends Like These ...

14 China's Military Muscle

Chinese economic power is being converted into another more vigorous type.

18 WORLDWATCH

MIDDLE EAST Iraq Elections: The Real Winner ■ Assassination Points to Iran's Influence ■ Excuse for Nuke ■ **GERMANY** Immigration Law Charts Chilling Course ■ **ECONOMY** Shifting From Dollar to Euro ■ Boeing Loses Altitude ■ **ITALY** Echoes of Mussolini ■ **ASIA** When It Was "Just Talk," We Said "Listen" ■ **SCIENCE** Of Mice and Men: Scientists Blur the Line

37 Commentary: Freedom's March

Elections in the Middle East leave many with a warm feeling, but when will this world receive true freedom?

SOCIETY

22 Disease Pandemics Are Coming

World news headlines and God's prophecy about the state of health in our time.

23 Only the Strong Survive

25 A New Superbug

26 The Hunger Myth

Why starvation has little to do with a lack of food.

34 SOCIETYWATCH

TEENAGERS The STD Map ■ **HEALTH** Sexually Transmitted Death ■ Ritalin: More Depressing Stats ■ **FAMILY** Rearing Charm ■ Mom Madness

RELIGION

30 The Book Only a Few Know

Billions claim to follow the teachings of an ancient collection of Hebrew books. How well do *you* know the Bible?

For a free subscription in the U.S. or Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

COVER German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. Reuters photo (digitally enhanced by Trumpet staff).

STAFF Publisher and Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry Executive Editor Stephen Flurry News Editor Ron Fraser Senior Editor Dennis Leap Managing Editor Joel Hilliker Assistant Managing Editor Ryan Malone Contributing Editors Mark Jenkins, Brad Macdonald Contributors Fred Dattolo, Andrew Hessong, Gary Rethford Associate Editors Donna Grieves, Philip Nice Production Assistant Michael Dattolo Research Assistants Lisa Godeaux, David Vejil Photo Research Aubrey Mercado Prepress Production Ryan Malone Circulation Mark Jenkins International Editions Editor Wik Heerma French, Italian Daniel Frendo German Hans Schmidl Spanish Edition Editor Carlos Heyer

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March-April and September-October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2005 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The Trumpet has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

CONTACT US Please notify us of any change in your address; include your old mailing label and the new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit any letter for clarity or space. **Website** www.theTrumpet.com **E-mail** letters@theTrumpet.com; subscription or literature requests request@theTrumpet.com **Phone** U.S., Canada: 1-800-772-8577; Australia: 1-800-22-333-0; New Zealand: 0-800-500-512. Contributions, letters or requests may be sent to our office nearest you: **United States** P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083 **Canada** P.O. Box 315, Milton, ON L9T 4T9 **Caribbean** P.O. Box 2237, Chaguuanas, Trinidad, W.I. **Britain, Europe, Middle East** P.O. Box 9000, Daventry, NN11 5TA, England **Africa** P.O. Box 2969, Durbanville, 7551, South Africa **India, Sri Lanka** P.O. Box 13, Kandana, Sri Lanka **Australia, Pacific Isles** P.O. Box 6626, Upper Mount Gravatt, QLD 4122, Australia **New Zealand** P.O. Box 38-424, Howick, Auckland, 1730 **Philippines** P.O. Box 1372, Q.C. Central Post Office, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1100 **Latin America** Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, U.S.



FROM THE EDITOR

Gerald Flury

Churchill's Warning for Today

Many authorities say that World War II was the greatest tragedy of the 20th century.

But an even worse tragedy was that we failed to learn from Winston Churchill's warning before that war.

Future events will prove this statement true.

DURING THE 1930s, WINSTON CHURCHILL WARNED Britain and the Western world about the dangers of Adolf Hitler and Germany. It was the strongest warning ever by a politician! Still, that warning was ignored.

Nobody was more contemptuous of his warning than the British Parliament. Hitler was conquering some of Europe and seriously threatening the rest. *Less than one month* before World War II began, Parliament went on a two-month vacation!

Here is what Martin Gilbert wrote in his massive biography of Winston Churchill: "In discussing the government's policy, Churchill told [General Edward] Spears that [Prime Minister Neville] Chamberlain's decision to adjourn Parliament from August 4 to October 3 [1939] was a GRAVE ERROR OF JUDGMENT, which could only encourage the Germans to believe that Britain would not take decisive action when the crisis came, and would also convince the Russians that Britain was not in earnest about an alliance. Churchill had decided to speak against this two-month adjournment, and read Spears a draft of the speech which he intended to deliver on August 2, asking for Parliament to be recalled on August 22 or 25" (emphasis mine throughout).

During the debate itself, Churchill said, "Abroad, THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IS COUNTED, AND ESPECIALLY IN DICTATOR COUNTRIES, AS A MOST FORMIDABLE EXPRESSION OF THE BRITISH NATIONAL WILL and an instrument of that *will* in resistance to aggression."

His speech continued, "This is an odd moment for the House to declare that it will go on a two months' holiday. ... Is this, then, the moment that we should separate and declare that we separate until the 3rd October? Who can doubt that there is going to be A SUPREME TRIAL OF WILL POWER, IF NOT INDEED A SUPREME TRIAL OF ARMS." Britain declared war on September 3 of that year.

He added, "At this moment in its long history, it would be disastrous, it would be pathetic, it would be shameful for the House of Commons to write itself off as an effective and potent

factor in the situation, or reduce whatever strength it can offer to the firm front which the nation will make against aggression."

Churchill then concluded, "It is a very hard thing, and I hope it will not be said, for the government to say to the House, 'Begone! Run off and play. Take your masks with you. Do not worry about public affairs.'"

This gives a deeply disturbing insight into how Britain rejected Winston Churchill's warning. Like little children, Par-

liament tried to hide from the brutal reality. According to several historians, Britain and the Western world came dangerously close to being conquered by Adolf Hitler.

Churchill was used to keep Western civilization from dying! Why do we continue to ignore or hide from his warning message? His warning should be a flashing red light in our memory today. What price will we have to pay for *forgetting*?

America Warned Mr. Churchill *often* warned America of the dangers of Nazism. Martin Gilbert's biography quoted from his 15-minute broadcast to the United States on Aug. 8, 1939, in which Churchill told his American listeners:

"Holiday time, ladies and gentlemen! Holiday time, my friends across the Atlantic! Holiday time, when the summer calls the toilers of all countries for an all-too-brief

spell from the offices and mills and stiff routine of daily life and bread-winning, and sends them to seek if not rest, at least change in new surroundings, to return refreshed and keep the myriad wheels of civilized society on the move.

"Let me look back—let me see. How did we spend our summer holidays 25 years ago? Why, those were the very days when the German advance guards were breaking into Belgium and trampling down its people on their march toward Paris! Those were the days when Prussian militarism was—to quote its own phrase—'hacking its way through the small, weak, neighbor country' whose neutrality and independence they had sworn not merely to respect but to defend."



WATCHMAN Winston Churchill is gone, but his words of warning should be more alive to us now than ever.

Churchill then spoke about a hush “hanging over Europe.” “Alas! it is the hush of suspense, and in many lands it is the hush of fear. Listen! No, listen carefully; I think I hear something—yes, there it was quite clear. Don’t you hear it? It is the tramp of armies crunching the gravel of the parade grounds, splashing through rain-soaked fields, the tramp of 2 million German soldiers and more than a million Italians—‘going on maneuvers’—yes, only on maneuvers!

“Of course it’s only maneuvers—just like last year. After all, the dictators must train their soldiers. They could scarcely do less in common prudence, when *the Danes, the Dutch, the Swiss, the Albanians—and of course the Jews—may leap out upon them at any moment and rob them of their living-space, and make them sign another paper to say who began it.*

“Besides, these German and Italian armies may have another work of liberation to perform. It was only last year they LIBERATED AUSTRIA FROM THE HORRORS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. It was only in March they FREED THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC FROM THE MISERY OF INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE. It is only two years ago that Signor Mussolini gave the ancient kingdom of Abyssinia its Magna Charta. It is only two months ago that little Albania got its writ of Habeas Corpus. ...

“No wonder the armies are tramping on when there is so much liberation to be done, and no wonder there is a HUSH AMONG ALL THE NEIGHBORS OF GERMANY AND ITALY WHILE THEY ARE WONDERING WHICH ONE IS GOING TO BE ‘LIBERATED’ NEXT” (ibid.).



FREE UPON REQUEST

We must not forget that Germany started both world wars. That dreadful history demands that we carefully watch Germany’s actions today. (It is not politically correct to do so—which is a bad sign.)

Are the Germans ashamed of their bloody past? Are they really seeking a democratic government today? Or are they bullying Europe and the world once again?

You soon will be shocked if you don’t know what is happening inside Germany today. (Request our free booklet *The Rising Beast*.)

Broken Will Many think this tragic story ended with World War II. It did not. Sadly, Britain and America soon began to drift back into their pacifist dream.

MOST OF THE WESTERN WORLD’S POLITICIANS, MEDIA AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS HAVE BEEN HIDING FROM CHURCHILL’S WARNING SINCE THE WAR. They do so for two reasons. First, they are intensely embarrassed and severely corrected by their nations’ failure to heed his warning until it was almost too late. Second, by hiding from that frightening reality, they can continue in their pacifist world of fantasy.

The same disastrous failure of *will* that Churchill had to fight against still plagues Britain and America today. That is because we did *not* learn a lesson from his civilization-saving message!

America and Britain lacked the *will* to fight the tyrants before World War II. Our nations had to suffer through a world war to learn the lesson—temporarily.

According to Winston Churchill, World War II could have been avoided if we had confronted Hitler in the mid-1930s.

Today, Iran and Syria use terrorists to attack America, Britain and Israel; however, we lack the *will* to hold them accountable for these acts of war! That is a deadly sign that our nations lack the will to win the war against terrorism. It also shows us that America is not a true superpower.

“Smooth Things” On Nov. 17, 1932, Churchill wrote in the *Daily Mail*, “Do not delude yourselves. Do not let His Majesty’s government believe—I am sure they do believe—that all that Germany is asking for is equal status. I believe the refined term now is equal qualitative status by indefinitely deferred stages. That is not what Germany is seeking. All these bands of sturdy Teutonic youths, marching through the streets and roads of Germany, with the light of desire in the eyes to suffer for their Fatherland, are not looking for status. They are looking for weapons, and, when they have the weapons, believe me they will then ask for the return of lost territories and lost colonies, and when that demand is made it cannot fail to shake and possibly shatter to their foundations every one of the countries I have mentioned, and some other countries I have not mentioned” (ibid.).

Martin Gilbert wrote, “The dangers were too acute to be hidden behind bland platitudes” (ibid.). He then quoted Churchill as saying, “I cannot recall at any time when the gap between the kind of words which statesmen used and what was actually happening in many countries was so great as it is now. The habit of saying SMOOTH THINGS and uttering pious platitudes and sentiments to gain applause, without relation to the underlying facts, is more pronounced now than it has ever been in my experience.”

Churchill pleaded for leaders to speak the *truth* to the people, not “smooth things.” He even used a Bible expression to get their attention. That expression is included in a prophecy for this end time, so I think it is appropriate to include it here.

“Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever” (Isaiah 30:8). The expression “time to come” in the original Hebrew means “the latter day.” So these prophecies were written in a book for the time we are living in now. “That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, SPEAK UNTO US SMOOTH THINGS, PROPHECY DECEITS” (verses 9-10). This was prophesied for God’s spiritual and national leaders today. First it is to God’s own people. They wanted “deceits” in order to make it easy to rebel against God’s law. They knew God’s *truth* and *prophecy*. Then they rejected true prophecy and wanted “smooth things” from their leaders. They didn’t want a true watchman to warn them or the world.

Leaders like Winston Churchill refused to “prophecy deceits.” That is the mark of a great leader! They tell the truth, no matter how hard it is to accept! Throughout history, our people have desired a *smooth, deceitful* message! The same is true today.

Churchill had to battle pacifist statesmen from every quarter. And Isaiah prophesied that we would have even worse leadership today than what Churchill battled against!

We were entering into “the latter days” even when Churchill was on the scene. He was fighting against Israel’s end-time attitude of wanting to hear “smooth things.”

We have been proving and teaching for over 50 years that biblical Israel is primarily America and Britain. Churchill was fighting against this condition that was prophesied—and it’s going to get even worse! So expect physical and spiritual Israel to clamor for “smooth things” as they head for destruction—unless people turn from their evil ways. But who can conceive of that happening before World War III?

Hostile Educators On Jan. 30, 1933, Hitler became Germany’s chancellor. On February 17, Churchill spoke at the 25th anniversary meeting of the Anti-Socialist and Anti-Communist Union.

Commenting on the recent debate in the Oxford Union, at which a majority of the undergraduates present had approved the motion “that this House refuses in any circumstances to fight for king and country,” Churchill declared: “That abject, squalid, shameless avowal was made last week by 275 votes to 153 in the debating society of our most famous university. We are told we ought not to treat it seriously. The *Times* talks of the Children’s Hour. I disagree. It is a very disquieting and disgusting symptom”—and he proceeded to explain why it troubled him.

“My mind turns across the narrow waters of Channel and the North Sea, where great nations stand determined to defend their national glories or national existence with their lives. I think of Germany, with its splendid ancient songs, DEMANDING TO BE CONSCRIPTED INTO AN ARMY; eagerly seeking the most terrible weapons of war; BURNING TO SUFFER AND DIE FOR THEIR FATHERLAND. I think of Italy, with her ardent Fascisti, her renowned chief, and stern sense of national duty. ...

“One can almost feel the curl of contempt upon the lips of the manhood of all these peoples when they read this message sent out by Oxford University in the name of young England” (ibid.).

That was the shameful view of Britain’s future leaders. Churchill’s views were met with almost total hostility at Oxford. Britain’s most famous university was the leader of the pacifists. Most other colleges and universities in America and Britain also had *defeatist* views. Have our educational institutions learned a lesson from the Hitler experience? No they have not! Neither have our political leaders, nor the media.

As Churchill said, *mankind is unteachable*. They refuse to learn. As a result, HISTORY KEEPS REPEATING ITSELF IN ENDLESS CATASTROPHES! Being so wrong about one of the worst crimes and criminals in history is no small error. “By their fruits you shall know them.”

Events surrounding Churchill and World War II should have taught educators, then and today, that something is dangerously wrong with higher education. But no lesson was learned.

That means we have educators who are eager to teach while they refuse to be taught—even from the worst disaster on this planet!

Educators are a big part of the problem. They should be giving us solutions.

Hostile Parliament After Churchill, Anthony Eden was one of the strongest members in Parliament; however, even he gave little support to Mr. Churchill, who was virtually *alone*. Here is how Mr. Eden (who later became prime minister) rebuked Churchill in a 1933 session of Parliament, as described by Martin Gilbert: “As for Germany, they did not wish to double her army, but to change the system ‘which was imposed on her at Versailles,’ replacing a small long-service army by a larger, but short-service militia.

“The House of Commons cheered Eden’s rebukes. On the following morning the press were strongly censorious. ‘The House was enraged in an ugly mood—toward Mr. Churchill,’ declared the *Daily Dispatch*; and the *Northern Echo* called Churchill’s speech ‘vitriolic,’ ‘a furious onslaught’ and ‘one of the most audacious he has delivered’” (ibid.).

That didn’t deter Churchill from his warning. On July 9, 1933, he wrote in the *Daily Mail*: “I look with wonder upon our thoughtless crowds disporting themselves in the summer sun-

shine, and upon this unheeding House of Commons, which seems to have no higher function than to cheer a minister”—and all the while, across the North Sea, “A TERRIBLE PROCESS IS ASTIR. GERMANY IS ARMING!” (ibid.).

Hitler continued to grow in power during 1934. On June 30, most of his Nazi Party rivals were killed. It was a night of bloody butchery. Still, most of the people in America and Britain continued to praise Hitler or refuse to take a stand against him. It was a despicable time in our history.

The Germans continued to build a strong military as they violated the Versailles Treaty. Churchill said, “Germany’s ILLEGAL air force was rapidly approaching equality with our own.” He continued, “So far I have dealt with what I believe is the known, but beyond the known there is also the unknown. We hear from all sides of an air development in Germany far in excess of anything which I have stated today. As to that all I would say is, ‘BEWARE!’ GERMANY IS A COUNTRY FERTILE IN MILITARY SURPRISES” (ibid.).

Still, critics in Parliament discussed Churchill’s “scaremongering speech” or his “mad policy proposals” toward Germany.

Winston Churchill asked some hard questions. It was not just a concern about foreign policy. He discussed ISSUES UPON WHICH BRITAIN’S WHOLE EXISTENCE DEPENDED! We ought to be asking some hard questions today.

On April 11, 1934, Churchill wrote to his wife: “My statements about the air last November are being proved true, and

Events surrounding Churchill and World War II should have taught educators, then and today, that something is dangerously wrong with higher education.

Baldwin’s contradictions are completely falsified. There is no doubt that the Germans are already substantially superior to us in the air, and that they are manufacturing at such a rate that we cannot catch them. ... How discreditable for the government to have been misled, and to have misled Parliament UPON A MATTER INVOLVING THE SAFETY OF THE COUNTRY” (ibid.).

In a letter to her two days later, he said, “It is a shocking thing when a government openly commits itself to statements on a matter affecting the public safety which are bound to be flagrantly disproved by events. ...

“On the whole, since you have been away the only great thing that has happened has been that Germany is now the greatest armed power in Europe. [Germany is by far the greatest economic power in Europe today. Also, its military is becoming the strongest in the European Union. How history repeats itself!] But I think the Allies are all banking up against her and then I hope she will be kept in her place and not attempt to plunge into a terrible contest.

“Rothermere rings me up every day. His anxiety is pitiful. He thinks the Germans are all-powerful and that the French are corrupt and useless, and the English hopeless and doomed. HE PROPOSES TO MEET THIS SITUATION BY GROVELLING TO GERMANY. ‘DEAR GERMANY, DO DESTROY US LAST!’ I ENDEAVOR TO INCULCATE A MORE ROBUST ATTITUDE” (ibid.).

As the danger worsened, the leaders and Parliament kept reassuring the public with false statements. Being self-deceived, they deceived the people. The leaders were too weak to face the hard truth. They lacked the *will* to fight and even survive—much less to conquer Hitler!

See **CHURCHILL** page 17 ▶

UNREST

At an October 2004 rally, tens of thousands of Germans protest unpopular labor and welfare reforms of their government.



GERMANY IN CRISIS

THE GOOD TIMES ARE OVER for Germany. The postwar miracle of rapid recovery and aggressive development that built the German welfare state has devolved into an internal economic and political malaise, increasing social unrest. Which way is Germany headed—boom or bust?

BY RON FRASER

WHAT'S HAPPENING in Germany? Fifteen years ago, euphoria reigned there as the Berlin Wall, symbolic of a Germany divided since its World War II defeat, was rent apart. Former Communist-controlled East Germany joined with free-market, capitalistic and prosperous West Germany. A bright new future was predicted for the newly united nation, which declared its determination to build upon the reputation gained already by West Germany as the powerhouse of Europe.

A decade and a half later, that vision has clouded. Germany has yet again become a worried, psychologically disturbed, restless—even angry—divided nation.

Though there is no wall dividing Germany, it now suffers from a dangerous *political* schism. The majority of Germans are not happy, and when the German people are unhappy, it is time for the world to take notice.

The late Luigi Barzini once observed, “[I]t is once again important to keep an eye on the German proteus in an attempt to fathom the probable shape of things to come. ... Its stability and glowing health in good times, or its despondency, internal strife, and emotional storms in bad times, can spread like rings in water over the whole Continent. Its decisions could once again overwhelm Europe and the world” (*The Europeans*). That’s a powerful observation about a powerful people. Barzini saw the German mood of the moment as being crucial to trends in world affairs—particularly European affairs. “What is the German mood? Are they happy, as happy as human beings can reasonably be? (It is when they are disconcerted and fretful that they can be most dangerous)” (*ibid.*).

Today the Germans are fretful. Today they are disconcerted. Today Germans are *not* happy!

Three prime catalysts are operating within today's Germany to cause this collective national mood change: 1) economic slough; 2) Muslim immigration and Islamic terrorism; and 3) reviving national socialism. Germany's continuing economic recession provides the climate. The continuing migration of Muslims into Germany—with the overtone of Islamic terror having struck close to home in France and Spain, and cells of Islamic extremists being discovered on its own turf—provides a reason for a heightened sense of nationalism and a more defensive posture. Resurgent national socialism provides the ideology.

Economic Woes The strong euro, which raises costs of operation for German industry and prices of goods for domestic consumption, creates continuing difficulty for the German economy. The huge added costs resulting from attempts to absorb East German infrastructure into the German economy as a whole has taken its toll on the German national economy. Added to this, with the German welfare state literally broke, it has fallen to Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to become the sacrificial lamb who may well destroy his political career on the altar of a well-overdue restructuring of Germany's bloated social welfare system.

This merging of negative impacts on the German economy has hit employment particularly hard.

German unemployment has risen to its worst levels since the moribund Weimar Republic of the 1930s (see sidebar, page 6). "This is the end of the Germany that I grew up with," said Martin Bongards, an unemployed sociologist and activist in the town of Marburg. "This country I knew no longer exists." ... The stickers and posters pasted in train stations and on bus stops all over Germany these days tell the furious reaction of a population weaned on cradle-to-grave security and comfort

"It's a very disgruntled mood, even aggressive at times," said Harald Rein, a counselor at the Frankfurt Center for the Unemployed, a city-financed advice office" (*International Herald Tribune*, Dec. 29, 2004).

The *International Herald Tribune* quotes one Herr Schmidt, a computer specialist, who "excoriates Schröder's

government" for its approach to cutting welfare benefits, "which he regards as a real betrayal: He voted for the Social Democrats in 2003. ... 'It's going to be like San Francisco, where you look out your window and see people living in cardboard boxes,' he said. 'It's coming.'"

Is it coming? Is it really possible that the great German *Wirtschaftswunder*, the dramatic postwar economic reviving of Germany out of the rubble of World War II to the position of leading export economy in the world, could reach the stage this year of seeing many of its qualified workforce begging, penniless, on the streets? And what of the elderly and socially dependant, whose welfare benefits also face cutback?

That "furious reaction," that "aggressive mood" of the German public, is finding an outlet for its negative energy in some disturbing ways.

Gelsenkirchen is a former coal-mining town of 270,000 in the Ruhr region with joblessness at 18 percent, the highest in western Germany. As winter set in there, locals claimed that Chancellor Schröder's welfare reforms would only add to the misery that they were already experiencing due to economic recession. "Recently I've been seeing old women rummaging in dustbins for half-eaten sausages," said Peter Schrimpf, 59,

warned of attacks on staff. There have already been several bomb threats against job centers and assaults on staff by irate jobseekers faced with benefit cuts" (*ibid.*; emphasis mine).

The rallies came and went during winter, with less intensity than anticipated, indicating that many who are being hit by reduced unemployment and other social welfare payments may feel



A crowd funnels into a public labor office in Berlin.

German unemployment has risen to its worst levels since the moribund Weimar Republic of the 1930s.

an unemployed engineer who tops up his benefit by selling chocolate Santas in the town center. 'People don't have any money to spend and the reforms will make it worse. That's why this place looks the way it does'" (*Sunday Times*, London, Dec. 26, 2004).

Following autumn street rallies by the unemployed, disgruntled Germans again went marching as the northern winter started to bite. Anticipating trouble, job centers around Germany began "hiring security guards, sending staff on self-defense courses and installing alarm systems ahead of benefit cuts being introduced on January 1 that constitute *the most radical overhaul of the country's generous welfare system since the Second World War*. Konrad Freiberg, head of the police union, has

resigned to their fate. *Die Welt* newspaper cited Klaus-Peter Schöppner, head of opinion researcher TNS Emnid, as stating that "Germans are more worried than ever about the future after new statistics showed that joblessness rose to a postwar record. ... Eighty-five percent of Germans are 'worried about their personal future,' 65 percent said they've lost faith that economic growth can create jobs and 37 percent are concerned about losing their jobs" (Bloomberg, February 3).

In the short term, Germany's domestic economic picture looks bleak indeed. Economist Ulrich Blum, president of the Halle Institute for Economic Research, claims that the real figure is not the official government statistic of 5.037 million un-

employed. "The real figure is that a good 9 million people are looking for work in Germany," he said (*Die Welt*, February 3). Throughout 2004, the German economy continued to destroy those jobs that pay into social security. With 1,200 jobs being lost daily and the German government's projected growth for 2005 barely 1.6 percent, the outlook appears quite bleak for Germany's unemployed.

Immigration and Islamic Terror During Germany's period of reconstruction and rapid growth, the nation welcomed the immigration of foreign workers to its soil to fill employment needs. Thousands migrated from Turkey to take on work in Germany. Many hailed from Islamic backgrounds.

These immigrants have produced a second generation, born in Germany but not acculturated into German ways,

who are still Islamic at heart. The trouble is, many of this generation have proved wide open to influence by Islamic extremism (see "Cracking Down on Muslims," page 19).

On the opposite side of the coin is a generation of Germans who have not known the privations of economic depression and world war. They have been nurtured by the welfare state that grew out of Ludwig Erhard's free-market policies in 1948 and built powerhouse Germany over the ensuing 40 years. They are now faced with economic deprivation for the first time in their lives, and they are looking for scapegoats. Right-wing extremists of this generation roam city streets seeking out the migrant minorities upon which to vent their hatred. Jews are being targeted once again.

Neo-Nazi politics, encouraged by numerous movements sympathetic to the cause of national socialism (once used as the ideology to drive German economic

revival in not dissimilar circumstances), gains an increasing membership.

Paul Gottfried, professor of humanities at Elizabethtown College, sees Muslim immigration throughout Europe as galvanizing a revival of nationalist socialist parties on the Continent. In Belgium, France, Italy, Austria and Scandinavia, national socialist parties are rising up on political platforms with anti-immigrationist main planks. On the anti-immigration idea that underpins these movements, Gottfried reported, "It is the catalyst for electoral organization, a vehicle for other grievances [such as unemployment], and by now the presupposition for a right-wing European movement. Parties that have built on this theme are enjoying increasing prominence in European politics" (*American Conservative*, January 31). Professor Gottfried points to the singular issue at the heart of the rising popularity of right-wing extremism in Europe: "[A]nti-immigrationism is

Pinning the Blame

GERMAN UNEMPLOYMENT figures hit a 73-year high last month when the number of jobless passed the 5 million mark. This figure, together with other economic and immigration problems facing the nation, is leading many to draw the obvious comparison between today's Germany and conditions existing within the Weimar Republic, which saw Hitler's rise to power in the 1930s. "The last time Germany posted such high unemployment numbers was in 1932, when the country collapsed, and Germany marched on Europe just seven years later" (Stratfor, February 4).

This "psychologically important" unemployment figure of over 5 million has been seized upon by right-wing opposition parties—specifically Edmund Stoiber's Christian Social Union and Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union—to advance their own cause (BBC News, February 2). In the most hostile attack on the government for some

time, Bavarian Premier Stoiber blamed Gerhard Schröder's center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) not only for the huge number of unemployed, but for the



UNPRODUCTIVE
The jobless wait outside a Berlin employment office.

increasing popularity of far-right-wing groups in parts of Germany. "We are in a situation that Germany has not experienced since 1932," he told the German newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* on February 6. "The economic failure of the government

... is laying the groundwork for extremists who are using people's despair to undermine democracy" (*Financial Times*, February 8).

It does not take much imagination to see that Stoiber is setting himself up as the one to provide the solution to the nation's economic woes—and as one who will calm down increasingly vocal right-wing extremists. It is all part of his ploy to appeal to a right-leaning, restless and fearful populace: place all blame on the government—thereby exonerating the neo-Nazi parties and far-right-wing voters.

As premier of the most economically vibrant state in Germany and an ultra-conservative who has stronger views on what Germany's place in Europe should be, Stoiber could be just the leader that disgruntled voters seek.

Chancellor Schröder's eight-month reprieve in the opinion polls could well be over. His economic reforms, which include social welfare cuts, are highly unpopular

and are not showing results. The German minister for employment has said he expects joblessness to rise still further (*European Foundation Intelligence Digest*, February 3).

With Schröder's SPD holding only a slight majority in the Bundestag, it "faces the serious threat of losing its majority status in 2006"—which would also mean Schröder would lose his office as chancellor (Stratfor, op. cit.).

Editor in chief Gerald Flurry's words from May 2002, referring to the economic weakness of Germany—and particularly its unemployment problem—apply even more today: "This crisis is apt to get worse before it gets better. If it does, Mr. Stoiber will be much more attractive to voters.

"He is a man we all should watch."

For more, see Mr. Flurry's May 2002 and November 2002 articles on Edmund Stoiber under "Issue Archives" on www.theTrumpet.com.

gathering strength as an electoral issue, and one evident reason is the growing preponderance of Muslims—who bring with them an alien culture and social problems—among the recent immigrants” (ibid.).

In Germany, this rise in Muslim immigration, with its threats of penetration by extremist Islamic terror cells, has produced another sinister phenomenon.

Concern grows that Germany is being used as a prime training ground for Islamic terrorist cells. It is a well-known fact that the 9/11 hijackers were based in Hamburg. German security officers recently raided the financial control center of an Islamic terror group based in Germany. The heavy involvement of German business in the design and building of much of the infrastructure for the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and Iran is starting to backlash on the German nation as Iran’s true goal of leading a huge Islamic superpower begins to emerge.

The Bush administration’s post-9/11 initiation of preemptive warfare was all the excuse the German government needed to change its defense and security posture from home defense (as it had since rearming after World War II) to a policy of deploying its forces, anywhere on the planet, under a revived German high command. More recently, Germany has used 9/11, terrorist bombings in Europe and the rise in Muslim immigration to justify the revival of *centralized secret services*, something not seen in Germany since the days of the dreaded, black-uniformed SS.

Resurrecting the Right Wing The prospect of a popular political movement building on the current wave of concern—similar to what occurred during the only other time when German society was similarly rattled—is of deepest concern to watchers of the German scene.

“The German minister for employment, Wolfgang Clement, has said that he expects joblessness to rise even further following the news that it had broken a postwar record and topped 5 million in January. ... [He] warned against ‘hysterical reactions,’ by which he meant comparisons with the Weimar Republic; it is often said that Hitler’s rise to power was facilitated by the collapse of employment in pre-1933 Germany. One opposition member of the Bundestag, Markus Söder, had warned of ‘Weimar conditions’ in the Federal Republic”

(*European Foundation Intelligence Digest*, February 3).

Could it happen again? A betting person would not want to lay odds against it, given German reactions under similar economic, social and political conditions in the past.

The signs are that an awakening is beginning, similar to that of 70 years ago. This is the same people that reacted to a demagogue who promised to rescue the nation from Weimar’s failure in the 1930s. The same talented, clever, innately indus-

ment is the National Democratic Party (NPD). The word *democratic* in the name is just a disguise: This party, similar to the European Union, within whose maw it has been spawned, is anything but democratic. It is *nationalist* and *socialist* through and through! Its politics are as bold as they are brazen. Seizing the very time when the nation is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of the Nazi death camps, this new wave in the German political arena has gained much



UNASHAMED

At an NPD rally, a man holds a sign proclaiming his pride in his father, a WWII Nazi soldier.

The NPD is an extremist right-wing political party with neo-Nazi tendencies. Unemployed workers are drifting daily toward membership in its ranks.

trious folk who get frustrated when they have no work with which to occupy themselves. The same people with the same xenophobic tendencies. These are the children of those who readily rallied to a nationalist socialist cause with *religious fervor* just 70 years ago, who, deep down, *ache* for a *strong leader* whom they can respect and follow—one who really *delivers* on political promises! One who *awakens* in them a feeling of self worth and *cohesive national identity* with their beloved *Fatherland!* This is the same nation that still sings *Deutschland Über Alles* at right-wing rallies, with real fervor and longing.

A little over half a century after the defeat of Germany’s Third Reich, a resurrected extreme right-wing element has jumped to center stage in German politics. The foremost party within this ele-

free publicity which, far from destroying its credibility, appears to be actually contributing to its membership.

“Sixty years after the Third Reich’s defeat, German leaders seem at a loss to counter a tightly organized rightist party which is exploiting the Holocaust in a brazen bid to expand its power. ... Much of Germany is aghast over the NPD, which won 9.2 percent, or 190,000 votes, last September in economically depressed Saxony” (Expatica, February 2005).

The NPD is an extremist right-wing political party with neo-Nazi tendencies. Unemployed workers are drifting daily toward membership in its ranks. The extent of its impact in Germany may be judged by the reaction of German leaders. “Germany’s establishment politicians have been locked in furious

REUTERS

debate since January when the extremist National Democratic Party (NPD) marred sombre commemoration of Auschwitz death camp's liberation by comparing the Holocaust to the 1945 Allied firebombing of Dresden" (ibid.).

The situation has stepped up opposition attacks on the German government. "Turning up the political heating in the debate about the extreme right and the NPD, Bavaria's conservative premier, Edmund Stoiber, accused Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrat-led

government for causing the 'economic failure' that was fueling extremist parties. ... Germany's tough-minded interior minister, Otto Schily, is furious. ... Leaders in Berlin are arguing over a possible new bid to ban the NPD—but many are warning this might spark even more support for rightists" (ibid.).

Eckhard Jesse, political extremism expert of the Technical University of Chemnitz, says banning has not worked in the past and warns that there is now an *intellectual right-wing extremism in Germany*.

The newsweekly *Der Spiegel* reported recently that *neo-Nazis have managed to establish themselves in the mainstream*. The NPD has found fertile ground by focusing on East German anger over cuts to unemployment benefits, thus broadening its appeal by seeking to be both a *nationalist* and a *socialist* party.

These facts ought to send shivers up and down the spines of Western democracies. Yet, apart from this magazine, few organizations are highlighting this resurrecting German National Social-

Freedom Marches **OUT** of Europe

One might make a case for freedom being "on the march" in the Middle East. The story is entirely different elsewhere in the world. BY RYAN MALONE

IN HIS SECOND INAUGURAL, AMERICAN PRESIDENT George Bush declared: "We go forward with complete confidence in the eventual triumph of freedom." His ultimate goal, as his inaugural speech proclaimed: "ending tyranny in our world."

The slogan of the Bush presidency is, "Freedom is on the march." Survey some of the world's hotspots, and it appears Mr. Bush has cause to be optimistic. As columnist Charles Krauthammer wrote, the president's "great project"—the "strengthening and spread of democracy"—is "enjoying considerable success" (January 21). He pointed to the Ukraine presidential election and the break from authoritarianism in Georgia—two former Soviet republics. Islamic parties were soundly defeated in Indonesia's and Malaysia's most recent elections. Then of course, there were the democratic elections in Afghanistan, among the Palestinians, and in Iraq.

From all this, one might assume that democracy—a term President Bush equates with freedom—is taking over the world.

But there is great danger in being lulled by that thinking. Two places in the world, in particular, point to just the opposite. One is in Russia, where, as we have reported in the *Trumpet*, President Vladimir Putin's consolidation of power has infused many with pessimism about democracy's staying power. This is perhaps the most obvious of the two. The other, more hidden and ultimately far more dangerous area where freedom is NOT on the march is EUROPE.

Stunning reports emerging from the Continent demonstrate that the only march freedom is doing is marching *out*.

Constitution Politics Take European leaders' approach to the new constitution as a frightening example.

A newly published Eurobarometer poll found that only 11 percent of Europeans feel they know the contents of the proposed constitution of the European Union. Conversely, fully 33 percent *have never heard of it*. In individual nations, the numbers are even more startling: 50 percent of Britons, 45 percent of Irish and 39 percent of Portuguese are unaware of the constitutional treaty.

These statistics have Eurocrats reeling. It's time to educate

the public, they say. After all, nine of the 25 countries are set to have referenda over whether they ratify the constitution. Members of European Parliament (MEPs) called for an "information campaign," but recent reports suggest that this is but a palatable modern term for good old-fashioned propaganda. The European Commission has agreed to pump €8 million (US\$10.4 million) into these campaigns.

In the Netherlands, the government has already agreed to divide €1 million (US\$1.3 million) equally between the "yes" and "no" campaigns. But in case the campaign against the constitution does particularly well, the Dutch cabinet has set aside €1.5 million (US\$1.96 million) to fight it. Though the cabinet is receiving flak for how much money it wants to put into the "yes" campaign, it shows that Europhiles are willing to spare no expense to ensure the European Union constitution does NOT fail.

In Belgium, in fact, they are so determined the public not reject the constitution that they've actually *cancelled the referendum*—afraid a conservative political party might sway people against the charter.

In Spain, however—where 80 percent of the citizens think favorably of the EU—leaders were sure the public's acceptance of the constitution would send a strong message. No surprise, then, that they had a referendum there.

The constitution must be ratified by all 25 member states before it can come into effect. Some nations have chosen to accept the constitution via parliamentary vote—Lithuania, Hungary and Slovenia already have. Italy is close.

Now, to further "educate" the masses, the EU has another splendid idea that will send freedom marching out of Europe. The European Parliament is setting up a "rapid reaction force"—a group of eight MEPs who battle any "lies" that are spread about the EU constitution. No one is defending the new constitution, they argue. So members of Parliament will "pick up" any information about the constitution they consider to be a lie and pass it back to this "force"—consisting of MEPs rabidly supportive of the constitution. The force will surely dress up the constitution in a manner it sees fit for public consumption.

Didn't these types of shenanigans perish with Hitler and his spin-doctor Goebbels? Apparently not. As a Danish Euroskeptical MEP said, "You can't have a rapid reaction force with taxpayers' money and represent only one view—it's a totalitarian tendency" (*Times*, London, January 21).

This rapid-reaction-force concept is largely a reaction to

ism (Nazism) on the eastern side of the Atlantic. In Britain, which once stood alone against the Nazi onslaught under the matchless leadership of Sir Winston Churchill—unbelievable as it seems to the sound-minded realist given the present socio-economic climate—voices are actually being raised in support of a *nuclear-armed German military!*

Core Europe—Back in Business! Writing for the British *Spectator* magazine,

Stephen Haseler declared, “Franco-German ‘Core Europe’—‘Charlemagna’—is back in business. ... Franco-Germany virtually amounts to a superpower itself ...” (Sept. 4, 2004).

Commenting on the European Union’s deliberate policy of playing the U.S. and NATO for suckers by drawing them into supplying the manpower and matériel to fight Europe’s wars since the end of the Cold War, Haseler then propounds a view that has long been held by Anglo-Ameri-

can politicians seemingly ignorant of German history. Haseler opines that EU politicians “need to start a serious campaign to secure public support for defense. The war on terror may help here” (ibid.). What Haseler does not realize is that he’s stumbled across the very strategy of those who seek a resurrection of imperial Germany into a Fourth Reich. In this, they have learned from Hitler’s history.

Hitler was elected by public franchise—he was *voted* into office by the *public*. Those Nazis who went underground at the close of World War II and who trained another generation of German bureau-

See **GERMANY** page 29 ▶



UNSURE

Though Eurocrats are pushing the European constitution—and other initiatives—many citizens are unknowledgeable, hesitant, or outright opposed.

the British press, which has now been accused of being unfair in its coverage of the EU. Britain’s media giant, the BBC, was criticized for its “unintentional bias and ignorance in its coverage of EU affairs” (www.EUobserver.com, January 28). A report by an “independent agency,” unnamed by EUobserver, found that the BBC had “an institutional mindset, a tendency to polarize and oversimplify issues” and also was guilty of “a failure to report issues that ought to be reported, perhaps out of belief they are not sufficiently entertaining” (ibid.).

Might they be lodging these accusations just because the British media aren’t as gung-ho about the Union as the Eurocrats would like? We can now see how the British press, somewhat skeptical of the EU, is starting to clash with the propaganda/spin-driven European press.

Ominous Initiatives Another example of Europe’s march toward totalitarianism is the new legislation being floated threatening certain “freedoms” that Mr. Bush would consider universal. Remember the recent outcry in Europe when Prince Harry wore a swastika to a party? Well, legislators started talking about *banning* the swastika, among other symbols. Now, in Germany particularly—where, in Febru-

ary, neo-Nazis audaciously held rallies commemorating the 60th anniversary of Dresden’s bombing by Allied forces—parliament is discussing altering the “right of assembly.”

Both these actions, however practical or likely, show a *dangerous* trend. The world may not likely see it that way—after all, the Germans are doing it to squash Nazi sentiment—but let’s not be deceived! If they ban the swastika, what other symbols or expressions might they ban? If they limit the right of assembly for neo-Nazi rallies, who’s to say that these precedents couldn’t be used to ban the Jews’ or Muslims’ right of assembly? As Winston Churchill would say, “It’s not the *thing*, it’s the *kind* of thing.”

Berlin’s move to limit the right of assembly is particularly ominous. In an effort to restrict rallies that glorify Adolf

Hitler, Berlin ironically is resorting to *the same methods Hitler used*. Even Germany’s *Deutsche Welle* noted: “In an attempt to stem the swell of popularity for the neo-Nazis, it is considering a move that was last initiated by Adolf Hitler himself after he was made chancellor in January 1933. After the burning of the Reichstag in February of that year, Hitler suspended parts of the Weimar Constitution which included Article 123—the right of assembly. ... In its efforts to combat the rise of the far-right, Germany’s government could find itself in danger of curbing civil rights in a way National Socialism’s founding fathers achieved over 70 years ago” (February 15).

Something is marching in Europe—but, despite President Bush’s optimism, it certainly isn’t freedom or democratic ideals. The cheers for democracy’s spread to once-tyrannized states will soon be overtaken by alarm of outright *totalitarianism* now taking hold on the Continent. An enemy far more perilous is strengthening—under the guise of democracy—and will prove to be America’s number-one nemesis in just a few short years!

For more information on where events in Europe are heading, you are welcome to request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.





GETTY IMAGES

New Hope in the Peace Process?

TRYING AGAIN

Ariel Sharon (left) and Mahmoud Abbas shake hands at a February 8 meeting in Egypt.

Israel's eagerness to sacrifice for peace fulfills a devastating biblical prophecy. BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE PRESSURE ON AN ISRAELI prime minister is crushing. Pressure to *give in for the sake of peace*.

Of course there is international pressure—and not just from Israel's Islamic neighbors, countries whose populations collectively outnumber Israel's Jewish citizens by over 60 to 1 and who overwhelmingly eye the Jews as unwelcome occupiers of Muslim land. Peoples and politicians on every continent pressure Israel over a litany of perceived errors by which it puts peace out of reach.

But there is also internal pressure.

Israel has had to fight to exist since the day of its birth. Generations of Israelis have aged and died in the shadow of violence, terrorism and war. Most are resigned to the deadening sense that their children's lives will be plagued with more violence than their own. They want—they hope, with a hope ground thin and hollow—to live in peace.

Oh, how an Israeli prime minister would love to give it to them.

This pressure brought Yitzhak Rabin to shake hands with Yasser Arafat despite giving his word he'd never negotiate with the Palestinian Liberation Organization. This pressure convinced Benjamin Netanyahu to cede the Golan Heights to Syria, a plan that, if enacted, would have smashed one of his own campaign prom-

ises. This pressure coerced Ehud Barak to offer much of eastern Jerusalem to the Palestinian Authority after vowing to keep the city united under Jewish rule forever (*New York Sun*, June 29, 2004).

Looking at the climate in which Israel's leader must govern, it's easy to see why the men in that office have tended to take such risks. But that doesn't change the reality that these risks have never paid off, producing only more violence and making the promise of peace that much more elusive.

Now the pressure is mounting on Ariel Sharon, Israel's present prime minister. Since September 2000, just months before Sharon was elected, terrorists have launched over 500 suicide attacks against Israel, more than a hundred of which found their target—murdering a thousand Israelis. Sharon's government has responded strongly, killing over 3,500 Palestinians, including several high-profile terrorist leaders.

But Sharon's position has been shifting, as did those of his predecessors. Over the course of his term in office he has pushed increasingly daring measures to try to break the deadlock with the Palestinians: building a security wall to separate the Jews from the Arabs; releasing Arab prisoners from Israeli jails; proposing evacuations of Jewish settlements. (He's had to fight hard for each proposal—being forced to piece together shifting political alliances within Israel's parliament as other parties peel away from him, suffering through repeated

no-confidence motions, having to increase his personal protection to avoid the fate of Rabin.)

In the last couple months, these efforts have become much more intense.

Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, died in December. The Palestinians then hosted their first free elections. The newly elected president, Mahmoud Abbas, is telling terror groups to stop attacking Israel. Abbas and Sharon, who called this moment a possible "historic breakthrough," have already met and agreed to a package of conciliatory actions. Attacks against Israel have noticeably dropped.

To many, the signs look good. Much of the world is hailing a new prospect for peace. Even a number of hardened Middle East observers are allowing themselves some cautious optimism.

Truly, for Sharon, the pressure is peaking: *Don't squander this moment. Give in for the sake of peace.*

Here is the unhappy truth of the matter, according to Bible prophecy: *Any sacrifices the prime minister makes will prove only to strengthen his enemies and weaken his country.*

This is a pivotal moment for Israel. The more impatient Sharon gets—the more eager to make his mark on history—the more devastating it will be for the Jewish state.

These events are worthy of our closest scrutiny. They presage the fulfillment of a biblical prophecy the *Trumpet* has been informing its readers of for almost a decade—a prophecy of Israel becoming so desperate for an end to its woes that it runs for salvation into the arms of its greatest enemy.

Open-eyed honesty is required in order to evaluate the real odds of peace being the outcome of the present circumstances.

The Real Abbas The renewed air of hope regarding the Middle East essentially swept in with the new Palestinian leadership. Whereas Arafat was a notorious terrorist who made no secret of his murderous intentions toward Israel, Abbas presents a much more believable image as a peacemaker. (When a president earns points for not being a terrorist, it's a good indication of how desperate the situation is.)

But is Abbas really the reasonable partner that politicians and commentators—and many Israelis—are willing themselves to believe?

Looking at the situation in terms of pure negotiating power, Abbas is at a disadvantage. To constructively negotiate for peace or even the pretense of it, a leader must represent his people and have their backing to follow through on commitments made. Sure, Abbas can say the words and make the promises, but can he gain the support of his own people?

At its root, the task Abbas faces is impossible: to reconcile Palestinian aims with the peaceful, permanent existence of Israel. Even if he had the best of intentions, Abbas simply cannot maintain a leadership role unless he accommodates the spirit of the overwhelming majority of Palestinians who reject Israel's existence.

As it turns out, evidence suggests that, despite his moderate persona, this is really not too hard for Abbas. "Abu Mazen [the popular name for Abbas among Palestinians] was an Arafat crony and comes from the Palestinian elite. He has consistently held the hardline anti-Israel agenda since his years as a student. His doctoral dissertation was a full-blown foray into Holocaust denial and aimed to prove that Zionism and Nazism are branches of the same tree. . . . Abu Mazen may wear a suit while Arafat wore fatigues but *much of their world view is still the same—the destruction of Israel remains on the 'to-do' list*" (*Philadelphia Daily News*, January 8; emphasis mine throughout).

Far from denouncing his terrorist

predecessor, Abbas actually draws on Arafat's legacy to gain extra authority. In his pre-election campaign speeches, he called for the same "right of return" that Arafat espoused, which, as the *New York Sun* termed it, is "code for the destruction of the Jewish state" (Dec. 31, 2004).

Abbas has received kudos for his attempts to coerce terrorist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad into curbing their lethal violence. Many have been willing to dismiss his public anti-Israel rhetoric and expressions of solidarity with terrorists as mere politics. Some conservative observers, however, rather view the *ceasefire* he pulled off as mere politics. Why? Their conclusions are worthy of note.

Charles Krauthammer asks, "What of Abbas's vaunted opposition to violence? On January 2 he tells Hamas terrorists firing rockets that maim and kill Jewish villagers within Israel, 'This is *not the time* for this kind of act.' This is an interesting 'renunciation' of terrorism: Not today, boys; perhaps later, when the time is right" (*Washington Post*, January 7).

Daniel Pipes comments, "Mr. Abbas shows tactical flexibility. Unlike Arafat, who could never let go of the terrorist tool that had brought him wealth, power and glory, Mr. Abbas sees the situation more cogently. If stopping the violence against Israel best serves his goal of eliminating the sovereign Jewish state, that is his program. He no more accepts what he so charmingly the other day called the 'Zionist enemy' than Arafat did (or Hamas, or Palestinian Islamic Jihad), but

he is open to a multiplicity of means to destroy it" (*New York Sun*, January 11).

Is that assessment really true? Time will certainly tell. But a clue as to the answer has come in the method Abbas has taken to rein in the terrorists—not by cracking down on them, but by tempting them to become politicians.

On February 16, Abbas announced that, in the words of Stratfor, "he supports sharing national leadership with Hamas, jihad organizations, and public and democratic fronts if it can be arranged by election time"—speaking of the Palestinian legislative elections scheduled for July. Abbas voiced optimism that Hamas will actually hold the *majority* of seats in the Palestinian National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile.

Hamas and other *jihad* groups openly base their existence on war against Israel. They are precisely the source of the problem.

It appears Abbas is sympathetic to their views. Even if he isn't, their popularity puts strong pressure on him to accommodate them—even draw them into Palestinian politics, helping to transform these terrorist groups into genuine political parties.

The bottom line is, *there will be no peace in the Middle East as long as there are groups agitating for Israel's destruction*. It should be self-evident that for a two-state peace to be an option, the Palestinians must accept the legitimacy of the Israeli state. This clearly has not happened.

No Real Change Optimistic analysts and commentators suppose the Palestinians have simply become tired of using vio-

Sharon's War on (Jewish) Extremism

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Ariel Sharon has taken some drastic steps to get the peace process moving—and not everyone is happy about it.

On one hand are Arabs who say they don't go far enough, as well as those who regard any deal as illegitimate and try to undo it using violence. On the other hand are Jews—the "politically powerful and outspoken Israeli minority," in the words of the *Washington Post*—who are bitterly opposed to any territorial concessions (February 9).



These Jews are incensed at Sharon. They feel he is betraying their country. Some have responded with civil disobedience—slashing tires of government officials, vowing not to evacuate their homes; even sending death threats (a danger that cannot be ignored, considering

the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in 1995).

Sharon is employing a zero-tolerance policy toward these dissenters. Every proposal his government has floated accounts for the likelihood of massive Israeli resistance to its implementation—including defiance from *within the armed forces*, which have been increasingly influenced by Orthodox Jews. Astoundingly, Israeli police are being trained by behavioral scientists to "cope with possibly harming fellow citizens in a cause many

may believe in themselves" (*Christian Science Monitor*, Dec. 22, 2004).

The *Monitor* put it well: In taking these conciliatory steps with the Palestinians, "Israel appears to be preparing for open conflict with itself . . ." (*ibid.*).

Sharon tells the angry settlers to get over their "Messianic complex"—their belief that they have a religious right to the land. Would he be so bold as to make the same demand of the *Muslims* who, on religious grounds, seek to evict his race from their soil?

lence; they have realized Arafat's strategy got them nowhere.

This naive impression was proven false in January's municipal elections in the Gaza Strip. Voters sent a clear message, electing by overwhelming majorities several candidates from a new power party in Palestinian politics: Hamas.

With 80 percent voter turnout, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) received 75 out of 118 local council seats in Gaza. What does this mean? That this terrorist organization is softening its strategy—ready now to enact change in Israel through ballots rather than bombs? One Hamas leader explained the election result: "This means that the people believe in the armed resistance as the only option." Considering Hamas's history, this is not an unfair evaluation.

In January, leaders from Hamas and Hezbollah met in Beirut and reaffirmed their mutual commitment to continue the war against Israel, explicitly rejecting calls for a ceasefire. In a statement after the meeting, Hezbollah said the participants "agreed that the option of resistance and steadfastness was the only choice to confront the current situation" (Middle East Newline, February 2).

It's true that, following the ceasefire agreement signed by Sharon and Abbas on February 8, there have been fewer attacks against Israelis. But it is stupidity to assume this indicates a new commitment to peace. It would be more fair to

interpret it as a time-out to regroup and prepare for the next round.

Before Hamas could ever be trusted, it would have to repent of its basic reason for being: to clear Israel off the map.

This is the bottom-line question that must be satisfactorily, thoroughly answered and that we must continually come back to—pessimistic as it may seem; repetitive and wearisome as it may be.

Hamas's intentions are spelled out in its August 1988 charter. The land of Palestine, this foundational document states, belongs to Islam: "[N]o one can renounce it or part of it, or abandon it or part of it. ... Nothing is loftier or deeper in nationalism than waging *jihad* against the enemy and confronting him when he sets foot on the land of the Muslims." Later the charter says explicitly: "[Peace] initiatives, the so-called peaceful solutions, and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem are all contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas]. For renouncing any part of Palestine means renouncing part of the religion; the nationalism of [Hamas] is part of its faith, [and] the movement educates its members to adhere to its principles and to raise the banner of Allah over their homeland as they fight their *jihad*. ... There is no solution to the Palestinian problem except by *jihad*." You can be sure that such convictions don't fade with an electoral landslide and new political power!

Hamas sets itself up as "the spearhead

and the avant-garde" in the conflict with global Zionism. Its charter is filled with the vilest of anti-Semitism, accusing the Jews of being Nazi-like, heartless oppressors, and giving detailed accusations of how they are covertly trying to take over the world. "[T]hey stood behind World War I, so as to wipe out the Islamic caliphate," the document asserts. And an even more twisted assertion: "They also stood behind World War II, where they collected immense benefits from trading with war materials and prepared for the establishment of their state."

This is the *charter document* for this organization! These are the elemental principles governing this fledgling, and explosively popular, political party.

Though socially active in helping the Palestinian people, Hamas, because of its institutionalized hatred and its commitment to using "martyrdom" as a political tool, represents the worst that Palestinians have to offer. In the past, it has voted against Israel principally with the blood of its suicide bombers.

Nevertheless, it appears that Israel, if it continues on the track it is traveling, will have to come to grips with Hamas—not as a target for assassinations but as a partner in politics.

That is a sure path to peace—in a fool's world.

Walking Into a Trap Yes, the pressure on Sharon is crushing. Pressure to *give in* and "make peace." And Sharon, with determination, is doing just that.

With Friends Like These ...

AFTER SIMMERING THE issue on the back burner for some time, America is again pushing for the creation of a Palestinian state—specifically, renewing pressure on the Jewish government to make concessions. The U.S. is making it clear that it wants another Islamic nation in the Middle East—and soon.

Last November, President Bush said he wants to see a Palestinian state before he leaves office in four years. On her first overseas trip as secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice followed up: "I don't think any of us doubt that without a Palestinian state ... that can meet the

aspirations of the Palestinian people, that there really isn't going to be a peace for either the Palestinian people or the Israelis" (Associated Press, January 31).

London's *Sunday Times* reports, "The Israelis are worried that Bush is succumbing to European pressure for a new approach to the Middle East. They fear that Bush's need for support in Iraq has made mending fences with Europe a higher priority than support for Israel" (February 6; emphasis mine). This "new approach" clearly includes romancing the Palestinians.

Following the February summit in Egypt, President

Bush invited both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to Washington this spring. Impressed with Abbas's early efforts, Congress passed a resolution describing Abbas as "a credible leader," and the U.S. promised \$350 million in aid to the Palestinian government.

This \$350 million aid package includes an astonishing offer: TO PAY PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS FOR NOT ATTACKING ISRAEL.

According to Middle East Newline, "Officials said that under the proposal, the United States would guarantee \$100 per month to any

insurgent who surrenders his weapon and renounces violence" (February 8).

It is hard to fathom how anyone could consider this a good idea—paying the schoolyard bully your lunch money in order to secure his "protection." Can anyone actually imagine a terrorist being persuaded to change his ways because he is on the payroll of the "Great Satan"?

Even if this doesn't happen, that fact that it is being seriously considered demonstrates the emptiness in what America has to offer as a peacemaker. Israel soon will be forced to look elsewhere for help. Watch for it.

After meeting with President Abbas in February, Sharon's administration made a strong gesture of confidence in the new Palestinian government with a raft of concessions. It released 500 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails; allowed a large handful of Palestinian terrorists who had been expelled from the West Bank to return to their homes; agreed to stop chasing fugitives who give up their weapons and pledge not to attack anymore; promised to stop assassinating terrorist leaders and bulldozing terrorists' homes; and agreed to gradually hand over five West Bank towns to Palestinian control.

Also, within two weeks of the meeting, preparations for drawing down Israeli settlements proceeded in earnest. The cabinet voted 17-5 to, later this year, pull out all Israeli soldiers and the 8,200 settlers situated in 21 settlements in the Gaza Strip, as well as 500 settlers and attendant soldiers from the northern part of the West Bank—a plan Sharon has pushed for over a year. This will be Israel's first complete territorial withdrawal since it turned over the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1982. Statements from Israeli officials have indicated that much larger evacuations from the West Bank will be forthcoming.

All this in exchange for practically nothing. All this with absolutely *no retreat* by Hamas and other such groups from their commitment to violence. Astonishing.

Will any of these sacrifices *change the minds* of those who seek Israel's demise? Will the Palestinians now be more content to coexist with Israel?

If history is any guide, the answer is a resounding no.

Example: Israel *first* gave the Sinai to Egypt in 1957 after the Suez War; a decade later, that very soil became the launch point for an Egyptian attack on Israel. Another example: Previous releases of Arab prisoners—such as Sharon's Jan. 26, 2004, deal to cough up 429 Hezbollah convicts—have not only validated the effectiveness of terrorist tactics, they have been proven to have put terrorists back into action. Another example: Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in 2000, rather than salving the relationship with Hezbollah, marked the beginning of more aggressive efforts by that terrorist group to infiltrate Israel; attacks increased; some say the withdrawal helped spark the Palestinian in-



The commander of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (left) greets Palestinian prisoners released in Jenin, February 21.

tifada a few months later by fueling hope that terrorism could persuade Israel to give up Gaza and the West Bank.

Not to say that there are no Palestinians who would sincerely accept a two-state solution. But think about it for a moment: How could any Arab engaged in, or even sympathetic to, Palestinian terrorism over the past several decades not interpret the handover of the Gaza Strip as a vindication of that approach? How could any Palestinian who has lost a friend or family member in the *intifada*—a “martyr” for the cause—not consider Sharon's concessions a stirring victory?

More importantly, *how could many of them not be emboldened to push for the NEXT STEP in the elimination of the Jewish state?*

“Judah's Wound” So much of the world is pushing for Israel to seize the moment for peace. But the truth is, the enemies of Israel don't seek peace. Rather than accepting the Jewish state, they are repositioning themselves to annihilate it. Any faith Sharon and the Israelis place in them, and any concessions they make to them, will prove shortly to have only endangered the Jews all the more.

In other words, THE INTIFADA IS HAVING ITS INTENDED EFFECT. The Jews don't want to fight any longer. They are getting more desperate for an end to the problem at whatever cost.

That kind of thinking will destroy the nation!

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has written extensively on the bibli-

cally prophesied collapse of WILL in modern-day Israel. The nation that was born and sustained in a hostile climate by miraculous protection has since turned on the God who made possible its existence. Like the ancient, biblical nation of Israel, it has taken to trusting in men—even, to its own peril, enemy nations—rather than the all-powerful God.

This faithlessness is the CAUSE for Israel's trust in the impotent, vain and terribly misnamed peace process. It has obliged Israel to give up site after biblically significant site to the Palestinians.

Ultimately, ALL OF ISRAEL'S HOPES are pinned on a negotiation policy that has

proved to be an utter catastrophe!

Read the chapter on “Israel's Deadly Wound” in our booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy* to understand the lethal trap Israel is walking into in the peace process.

All the concessions Israel makes will fail to bring peace. The situation will drag on, and Israelis will grow in despair. Despair will give way to recklessness.

As Israel's sacrifices prove inadequate, the Jews will become so weak, so desperate, there will come a point—now very soon—that they will end up looking to Germany as a savior.

Biblical prophecy illuminates Israel's deplorable posture. As Mr. Flurry has explained, the Bible refers to the present nation of Israel as “Judah” (hence the name Jew). Hosea 5:13 reveals the true nature of the peace process by calling it Judah's “wound.” “When ... Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to THE ASSYRIAN [the biblical name for modern Germany], and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.” Judah's wound is incurable—and it takes the nation, by way of Britain, right into the waiting arms of Germany.

This move will prove to be suicidal. Bible prophecy spells out Israel's demise at the hands of a European superpower.

Watch what happens in Israel. Watch Israel's prime ministers continue to buckle under the pressure. And know, based on the sure word of Bible prophecy, that the pressure will increase beyond the breaking point—until the Jews learn that, to guarantee peace and security, they are only able to trust the great God. ■

THE BREAKNECK SPEED AT which China is becoming a global economic powerhouse is leaving the world in awe. With all the hoopla surrounding Beijing's economic revival, most are oblivious to the fundamental and foreboding changes unfolding inside China's military establishment. A widely unrecognized and under-reported military *revolution* is underway in China.

China's military reconfiguration and expansion is a direct result of Beijing's recent economic development. Generally speaking, a nation's military capability reflects its economic condition: the higher its gross domestic product (GDP), the more it can spend on its military.

China's recent economic revival has fueled its military acquisitions and development. In fact, it has long been China's grand strategy to build a strong military on the back of a strong economy. In the late 1970s, Deng Xiaoping deliberately purposed to achieve military greatness through economic reform. Deng believed that the foundation to a strong military was a solid and stable economy, so he strategically prioritized economic reform above military modernization (*Indian Express*, January 26). During the

1980s and early 1990s, this meant that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was forced to operate with few resources and little growth. In just two decades, however, Deng's grand strategy has paid off: China is quickly becoming a global powerhouse wielding the mighty two-edged sword of a powerful economy and an increasingly advanced military.

China's GDP has increased an average of about 8.5 percent per year for the past 10 years. Matching pace, China's military budget has increased by more than 10 percent nearly every year during the same period. Today, China's defense budget is estimated at \$80 billion, making it the third-biggest after the U.S. and Russia, and almost double that of Asia's next-largest defense spender, Japan (*Korea Herald*, February 5).

China, as would any other nation, claims that its military expansion is being undertaken for peaceful purposes—securing and protecting the nation's interests. Are these its real motives? Or is China preparing to “protect its interests” through war?

Personnel Changes Vast manpower, not technological innovation or intelligence and administrative capabilities, has his-

torically defined the Chinese military. This trend, however, is being reversed under China's new strategy. Thousands of Chinese soldiers are being dropped from the Army, while officers are rapidly being recruited. “Between 1997 and 2000, the number of PLA servicemen was reduced by 16 percent (from 3 to 2.5 million). ... Concomitantly, there was a qualitative upgrading of PLA servicemen. The number of PLA officers with a university-equivalent education increased dramatically, as did the share of petty officers and privates with a 12-year high school education” (Jamestown Foundation, *China Brief*, June 24, 2004). Don't think that the Chinese Army will miss a few hundred thousand foot soldiers. The *leadership* of the PLA is what really matters, and it is improving in both *quality* and *numbers*.

Gen. George Patten Jr. noted the importance of quality military staff when he stated, “Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men.” A nation's military is only as great as the men that comprise it. Quality soldiers are a product of quality leadership. China is refining and restructuring its entire military leadership—right up to the highest offices and decision-making bodies.

The appointment of new command-

MAN AND MACHINE

Always the population powerhouse, China is now becoming an economic and military hardware force to be reckoned and/or compromised with.



China's widely reported economic boom has spawned a widely under-reported military boom. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

China's Military Muscle

ers to China's Central Military Commission (CMC) in September last year expanded the nation's top military decision-making body from 8 to 11. These men were appointed by the new chairman of the CMC—Chinese President Hu Jintao, who the same month replaced Jiang Zemin. Hu's appointment places, for the first time in history, the leadership of the Chinese government *and* military under the *same* man. The CMC is in command of the PLA, which includes the armed forces, Navy, Air Force and artillery forces. Thus, the highest decision-making body in the Chinese military has been expanded and empowered.

The reorganization of Chinese military personnel paves the path to speedier, more efficient management of the nation's 2 million man army. Major changes are occurring at every level of the Chinese Army. The ratio of officers and men is being re-balanced. Command chains are being tightened. Logistical support systems are being refined and updated. Military educational institutions are being reorganized and expanded. President Hu's government has placed the *entire* structure of the Chinese military under a microscope and is rapidly reforming it to be a stronger, more efficient, combat-ready, technologically advanced force.

Navy The most significant and ominous changes in the Chinese military have occurred within the nation's navy and coast guard.

In July 2004, two experienced and respected commanders became deputy chiefs of staff for the PLA General Staff Department. Think-tank Stratfor commented, "[B]ecause of the commanders' expertise and previous experience, the appointments are alarming" (Aug. 11, 2004). The point to note about the appointment of these men is that both specialize in *naval warfare*. Given China's overt moves throughout the past decade to exert control over the world's major sea gates, this move is alarming indeed!

"China is embarking on a \$10 billion submarine acquisition and upgrade program and is buying destroyers and frigates and equipping them with modern antiship cruise missiles..." (*International Herald Tribune*, Dec. 30, 2004). China has purchased eight diesel-electric submarines from Russia and plans to buy more. Concurrent with these purchases, Beijing is constructing a number of its own diesel-electric and nuclear-powered submarines. The number of submarines

in China's navy has increased massively, and it is set to increase by more than a third over the next few years.

"Developments in China's naval forces are raising eyebrows and catching headlines," Stratfor reported. Citing a *Washington Times* article, it went on to reveal that "U.S. defense and intelligence officials did not realize [the new Type 094 submarine] was under construction" (op. cit.). The fact that China has constructed a highly sophisticated nuclear submarine is alarming. Even more alarming, however, is the fact that America's intelligence departments (reputedly the best in the world) had no clue that this submarine was even under construction. How many other secret weapons might China be constructing?

China's new 094-class nuclear-powered submarine was released last year and is the first to carry the nation's new DF-31 missile. The Type 094 is China's first *inter-continental* strategic nuclear submarine. More are under construction. The 094 also gives the Chinese Navy the ability to silently traverse the oceans of the world.

Around the same time, China also launched the 093 attack submarine. Adding to this, according to a recent *Washington Times* article, U.S. agencies were surprised again last year when China disclosed a *third* new type of submarine, a diesel-electric attack submarine (Dec. 4, 2004). At the rate that China is constructing submarines, one would think China is already involved in a war!

Commenting on China's warship-building capabilities, the *Japan Times* wrote, "China, which has become the world's third-largest shipbuilder, has produced about 100 amphibious ships, and four tank-landing ships are under construction—thus belying the U.S. Navy joke that, because the Chinese lacked amphibious ships, the only way they could invade Taiwan is by swimming" (February 7). The sheer pace at which China is updating and expanding its naval capacity is virtually unprecedented.

The purpose of tank-landing ships is to transport tanks and other military hardware across the ocean to the shores of other nations. Where could China be planning to transport its increasing number of tanks?

Note the tone of alarm behind the following comment by retired U.S. Navy Adm. Eric McVadon. "The Chinese are converting their surface navy into a truly modern antiship cruise-missile surface navy," the East Asia security consultant

said. "*The modernization of their navy has taken a great leap forward. Their nuclear sub program has taken off like wildfire*" (*International Herald Tribune*, op. cit.; emphasis mine throughout). A quote from the *Washington Post* stated it more simply: "These people are building ships like nobody's business," a military attaché in Beijing said. "*It's mind-boggling*" (March 20, 2004).

It's clear that China is empowering its fleets like no nation on Earth, but why is that so critical? Because a nation builds up its navy when it is switching its foreign policy from *defensive* to *offensive*!

China's naval developments are clearly motivated by a number of factors. These include protecting the sea lanes along which Beijing's oil travels, protecting the nation's globe-girdling economic interests, ensuring Taiwan does not gain total independence, and building its reputation as a military powerhouse.

"China is building strategic relationships along the sea lanes from the Middle East to the South China Sea in ways that suggest defensive and *offensive* positioning to protect China's energy interests, but also to serve broad security objectives," according to a report prepared for U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld (*Washington Times*, January 18). China is not only building and acquiring vessels to travel the great oceans of the world, it is systematically gaining control of the world's most **STRATEGIC** sea lanes.

He who controls the seas can hold the world to ransom! Most of the world's most vital energy asset, oil, is transported by sea. China is moving toward strategic control of the world's seaways.

China now has significant influence or control over the seas around Bangladesh, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Pakistan, Panama, and the Caribbean islands—some of the most important sea lanes in the world. "The Pentagon report said China, by militarily controlling oil-shiping sea lanes, could threaten ships, 'thereby creating a climate of uncertainty about the safety of all ships on the high seas'" (ibid.). Lasting peace *cannot* exist in a "climate of uncertainty"!

Air Force and Artillery China is also updating and expanding its artillery and air force. Note the developments taking place within these facets of the Chinese military.

In recent years, China has acquired state-of-the-art Russian-made surface-to-air missiles and is developing anti-

radiation surface-to-air missiles. It has four types of antiship cruise missiles.

“China’s missile force, called the Second Artillery, had been deploying 50 to 75 short-range missiles a year; that has increased to more than 100 and, in 2006, Second Artillery will have 800 aimed at Taiwan. Accuracy has been doubled so that most missiles would hit within 60 to 90 feet of their targets. Moreover, the missiles have been made mobile to make them less of a target.

... Land-based and air-launched cruise missiles, which are flying torpedoes with stubby wings and advanced navigational devices, have been added to the Chinese inventory to add to their ability to stand off and fire at targets on Taiwan or at U.S. warships at sea” (*Korea Herald*, op. cit.).

China has purchased numerous fighter planes from Russia, including more than 100 SU-27 fighters, and S-300 and TOR-M1 air-defense missile systems. At a press conference in January, the commander of the Russian Air Force, Gen. Vladimir Mikhailov, even talked of the possibility of selling strategic bombers—the TU-22M3 and TU-95—to China.

China is also expanding its military capabilities in space. Concurrent with Beijing’s own rapidly advancing space program, the nation is said to be acquiring a variety of foreign technologies. Reports indicate that China is developing a “jammer” device which could be used against America’s Global Positioning System (GPS). Chinese engineers are also building technology to jam radar devices.

As China continues to swim in surplus cash earned from its immense exports, watch for the nation to maintain its momentum in the acquirement and construction of military hardware. Russia is China’s primary weapons supplier. It will remain this way as Moscow seeks greater Chinese investment and Beijing remains in the hunt for Russian oil and weaponry. The development of Sino-Russian relations is one of the most important trends you could watch for in the coming months and years.

Later on this year, Russia and China will conduct joint military exercises for the first time in history. This will be the

greatest milestone in Sino-Russian relations in decades!

Global Response The speed with which China has refined and expanded its military potential has shocked many analysts. “Where many American and Asian analysts said before that China would be able to mount a credible threat between 2010 and 2015, now they are saying it will come earlier, perhaps by 2006 and cer-



LOOKING GOOD China launches another submarine within its \$10 billion fleet upgrade program.

REUTERS

tainly by 2012” (*Japan Times*, op. cit.).

A key question comes to mind when reviewing China’s recent military growth: How will other nations and power blocs respond to China’s newfound military preponderance?

While some news reports might reveal partial answers to this question, absolute answers can only come from the greatest book about international relations and world events that has ever been written: the Holy Bible.

It is evident that the United States is carefully monitoring China’s military changes. Some even believe that a clash is coming between these two great powers. While specific prophetic details concerning Sino-American relations are not provided, it is clear that there will be no significant military clash between these nations. Even the current state of the U.S. military, which is already stretched too thin, indicates that America will avoid conflict with China. It is questionable whether the U.S. economy could finance another war. But more importantly, Bible prophecy tells us that the U.S.’s WILL to fight is being broken. America’s moral, cultural and spiritual decline is steadily sapping its national pride (Leviticus 26:19). A war with China is not in the future of America.

This doesn’t imply a rosy future for Sino-American relations, however.

Read the entire chapter of Deuteronomy 28 in your Bible. Curses upon America and the other nations comprising biblical Israel (including Britain and Australia) will result in tragic calamities coming upon these nations. Verse 52 of this chapter reveals that the U.S. will be besieged by its enemies: “And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee.” Other prophecies tell us that the enemy that besieges the modern nations of Israel will be a German-led European Union (Habakkuk 1:6-17).

Besiege in the above verse means to shut up or tie up, or to be cramped. Europe will lead the world in shutting America and its allies out of global trade. Prophecy tells us that America will be “cramped in” to the point where its food no longer reaches its shores. Because, by that point, America’s domestic food production will have already failed, people will starve to death because of European besiegement.

For Europe to besiege the United States successfully as prophecy says it will, a temporary alliance between Europe and China will likely form. German-led Europe will need access to these key sea gates and sea lanes, which increasingly are coming under China’s control. It could even require the assistance of the Chinese Navy. China will have to stop supplying goods to America.

With this prophecy in mind, don’t expect Europe to be too upset over China’s military buildup. In fact, in order to offset present American power and cash in on China’s surplus savings, watch for Europe to even contribute to China’s military expansion. Even now, the EU is considering lifting its arms embargo against China, thereby opening the possibility of supplying weapons and military hardware to Beijing.

For now, many Asian nations will retain their alliance with America, whose military is the primary stabilizing factor in the region. Over time, however,

watch for a change in this trend. As the United States' ability to police the region declines and China's military aggrandizement continues, be on the lookout for Asian nations to rally more intensely around this Asian hegemon.

Japan is extremely concerned about China's military buildup. Tensions between these two will probably continue for a short while. As long as America's military might exceeds that of China, Japan will align with the U.S. But as the American economy and military weaken, watch for Japan to sever its ties with the U.S. and form a strong alliance with Russia and China.

The Bible passages of Ezekiel 38, Daniel 11 and Jeremiah 50 tell us that this massive Russo-Asian alliance will form. It is called the "kings of the east" in Revelation 16. (To learn more, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.)

Prophecies of Hope As you read the tragic prophecies of America's demise, God intends that you be struck by their terrifying magnitude. It is important, however, that we see the *positive hope* in these prophecies. They are a witness to the power of God. The fact that these events written about in the Bible over 2,000 years ago are now coming to pass PROVES that the Scriptures were inspired by a power higher than man. As time rolls on and the prophecies you have read continue to unfold, ask yourself how the Bible could have discussed these events so long ago? The only logical answer is that it was written by a great supernatural Being with understanding and foresight beyond our comprehension! The supreme Creator of mankind is revealing Himself through fulfilled biblical prophecy.

You are being warned about the terrifying events that are rapidly approaching. This means that you can do something to ESCAPE them! God is warning this world by explaining His prophecies to mankind. You can escape the coming calamity! To learn how, request now your free copy of *Repentance Toward God*.

Bible prophecy is one of the greatest blessings that God has given to mankind. It is testimony to His loving compassion and mercy. Not only does He use it to warn people of future world events in the hope of bringing people to repentance, God uses prophecy to reveal Himself to mankind. Strive to see God behind these wonderful, hope-filled prophecies. ■



And so do our leaders today.

Many political leaders in Britain and America are trying to force our military to leave Iraq now—when the only way to win the war against terrorism would be to force Syria and Iran to stop sponsoring terrorism. Iran is the head of the terrorist snake, and the whole world knows it.

If you think it is bad now, wait until Iran—the number-one terrorist-sponsoring nation in the world—gets the nuclear bomb!

THE PROBLEMS WINSTON CHURCHILL FACED ARE MILD COMPARED TO WHAT WE FACE TODAY. America and Britain have far more power today but still lack the *will* to win against *rock-hard* terrorists.

Learning From History Winston Churchill was always highly conscious of and urgent about time. Britain could not afford to waste any time.

Here are more of his profound words: "When the situation was manageable it was neglected, and now that it is thoroughly out of hand we apply too late the remedies which then might have effected a cure.

"There is nothing new in the story. It is as old as the sibylline books. It falls into that long, dismal catalog of the fruitlessness of experience and the CONFIRMED UNTEACHABILITY OF MANKIND. Want of foresight, unwillingness to act when action would be simple and effective, lack of clear thinking, confusion of counsel until the emergency comes, until self-preservation strikes its jarring gong—THESE ARE THE FEATURES WHICH CONSTITUTE THE ENDLESS REPETITION OF HISTORY" (ibid.).

What an utterly condemning statement! We haven't learned from history—even recent history of Churchill and World War II! Now we are just waiting for the "jarring gong" to awaken us.

If mankind is unteachable, it's not just ignorance. It's REFUSING TO FACE THE TRUTH. Man naturally hates and rebels against God's law and even his own laws much of the time. Human nature is the first enemy we must conquer. Then we can be taught.

We didn't denazify Germany after World War II, and it is back on the world scene with power. The ugly factions are about to get control again. Already they are throwing their weight around—after the world has seen their grisly past in living color! What gall! That should be enough to teach those who learn from history that we are going to have to deal

with yet another militant Germany.

It has already caused two world wars. And according to Bible prophecy, it is destined to start a third! (Request a free copy of our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.) As Churchill said, it is "the endless repetition of history."

The Western world's media, politicians and religious leaders have proved to be unteachable about Winston Churchill's warnings (and just about everything else). Then isn't it logical that the hard mindset of the Germans would be unteachable when it comes to their causing two world wars? Especially when you consider that we didn't even try to teach them a better philosophy after what they did in World War II!

What does that portend for the two nations that were Germany's main enemies in World War II? We need to think deeply about that question!

As Churchill said, "Germany is a country fertile in military surprises."

IT'S AS IF OUR MEDIA AND POLITICIANS TODAY HAVE NO MEMORY. In 1979, they virtually forced an ally, the Shah of Iran, out of office. Then Iran became the number-one terrorist nation in the world. Our political elites forced a white government and strong ally from South Africa and helped usher in Nelson Mandela. South Africa is now a close friend of Iran and Syria, the greatest terrorist nations in the world. The same story is being played out in Israel.

The "endless repetition" of our foreign-policy weakness plagues us. We fail to REMEMBER history, and we get lost in the present.

As we make nation-destroying mistakes, the press and people remain *indifferent*—just as we did before World War II.

We learn nothing from history. The "endless repetition" of catastrophes will continue until we become *victims*. That is what happens to *dupes*!

History and Churchill should have taught us powerful lessons. Instead, that history condemns us!

Thankfully, this is all leading directly to a peaceful and happy civilization. "It is darkest just before the dawn." Thank God the sun is about to rise in this dark and evil world. ■

This future civilization is explained in Herbert W. Armstrong's inspiring book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*. Request your free copy.





ANDREW PANSOUSA/PAPELTY IMAGES

INFLUENCE Iraqis vote on January 30 in Iraq's first free elections, the results of which heavily favored Shiite candidates.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqi Elections: The Real Winner

SHIITES WON IRAQ'S January 30 elections with 48 percent of the vote, bringing closer the reality of a Shiite-dominated government in alliance with Iran.

The Shia United Iraqi Alliance has been allocated 140 seats in Iraq's 275-seat transitional National Assembly—almost twice as many as its closest challenger, the Kurds, who won 75 seats. The current interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's party has 40 seats, with the remainder going to eight other groups.

This body is now charged with choosing a president and two vice presidents, who will then decide on a new prime minister—the most important post in the government—and the cabinet. The present favorite for prime minister looks to be current interim Vice President Ibrahim al Jaafari, head of the deeply religious Islamic Dawa Party.

Although holding a majority of seats, the Shiites must form a coalition, which will most likely be with the Kurds, in order to gain the two-thirds majority needed to pass legislation and approve a constitution.

That the new government—and constitution—will

be Islamic is a given; the only question is *how* Islamic it will be. Though Shiite politicians—in order to prevent any secular backlash and to satisfy the United States—have said publicly that Iraq will not have a theocracy like Iran and that the clerics won't rule directly, in reality the religious scholars already hold the real power. The clerics, specifically Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, wield

enormous behind-the-scenes influence, with the Shiite parties almost being their puppets. These clerics will be the major influence in shaping Iraq's new constitution, which will be the National Assembly's main task along with preparing for full-term elections in December.

It is the *Shiite clerical establishment* of Iraq that is the real winner in Iraq's elections. It was Sistani who insisted that elections be held on time—knowing that they would bring the Shiites to power, with the insurgency keeping many in Sunni areas away from polling stations. And already, regardless of the political leadership of the country, on the ground the clerics and various Islamic militias are more-or-less imposing Islamic law in many Shiite areas of Iraq.

Watch for a new Shiite-dominated Iraqi government to draw closer to Iran in ideology and politics. For more on this, request our free booklet *The King of the South*.

Excuse for Nuke

OFFICIALLY, IRAN INSISTS that its nuclear program is benign. But a leading Iranian scientist recently put the lie to this story.

"Iran has quietly deemed Saudi Arabia a nuclear state" (Middle East Newline, Nov. 28, 2004). Iranian sources say the Saudis have an agreement with Pakistan in order to gain nuclear weapons and delivery systems.

In a Nov. 9, 2004, address, a leading Iranian scientist claimed that *Iran required a nuclear weapon* "in wake of the acquisition of atomic bombs by neighboring Pakistan and Saudi Arabia."

Quotable

"All the people of Iran are united against any attack and any threats. Any invader will find Iran to be a burning hell for them."

President Mohammad Khatami at a February 10 anniversary rally for Iran's 1979 revolution

Assassination Up-Ends Region

WE MAY BE DEALING WITH THE fallout for some time. On February 14, former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri was assassinated by a suicide bomber. Suspicion immediately fell on Syria, with the aid of Iranian-funded terrorist group Hezbollah.

For over a decade, Lebanon has been virtually a puppet state of Syria, which has 40,000 troops and secret agents in Lebanon and heavy influence over Lebanese politics.

Recently, Lebanon's anti-Syria movement has gained strong momentum, much to Damascus' chagrin. The latest addition to the opposition was Hariri, who recently supported a bold call for Syrian troops to withdraw from Lebanon. It seems this outspokenness prompted his assassination.

Both Lebanon and Syria are useful tools for Iran, and a free and sovereign Lebanon is not on Tehran's agenda. Iran, to support Syria and retain the status quo in Lebanon, likely gave the go-ahead for Hezbollah to

knock out Syria's latest problem. If so, it is a measure of the brutality Iran's leaders will employ in order to achieve their goals.



REUTERS

HARIRI

Shortly afterward, Syria and Iran announced strategic alliance to counter threats to either state.

But it appears the assassination may actually have a *destabilizing* effect. Anger over Hariri's murder, both among the Lebanese and worldwide, was overwhelming—and almost entirely aimed at Syria. In the face of relentless public protests,

the pro-Syrian Lebanese prime minister resigned and dissolved his government.

Syria is far from leaving Lebanon alone, but a confluence of events is putting enormous pressure on Damascus. We may be witnessing the beginning of considerable political change within the Middle East.

We can expect Iran to emerge the victor, but Bible prophecy is inconclusive about the role Syria may play in coming events. It is a situation we must carefully monitor.

Immigration Law Charts Chilling Course

AFTER MUCH POLITICAL wrangling, Germany's first immigration law came into effect January 1. The new policy is not necessarily anti-immigration—after all, Germany's population is growing old, and the birth rate is dropping; completely halting immigration would be demographic suicide.

At the same time, Berlin considered that immigrants shouldn't be allowed simply to take jobs when over 5 million Germans are now out of work. Thus came a policy, according to Germany's *Deutsche Welle*, where non-EU immigrants will be “denied access to simple jobs” and only be allowed to work on a contractual basis—in temporary or seasonal jobs.

The concern about immigrants is not just limited to employment issues, but also how the immigrants *fit in* to German society. “Drawing lessons from the past, lawmakers also instilled in the regulation measures meant to improve integration in the face of widespread beliefs that a large number of the roughly 7.3 million foreigners living in Germany have not adjusted socially to their adopted country.

“Starting next year, new immigrants will have the right to participate in state-funded German language classes and receive an introduction to the country's justice system, culture and history” (ibid.; emphasis ours throughout). They will “have the right.” Sounds very democratic. But notice: “The authorities may also force foreigners already living in Germany to participate in the courses or forfeit their residence permits or social handouts” (ibid.). The German government will get

tough if it has to.

The law, according to DW, is also intended to keep terrorists out of the country. Germany's intelligence agency will run background checks on each applicant before permanent residency is granted. The law also makes it easier to deport anyone considered to have terrorist connections.

This is all occurring as German nationalism rises. Young people are more often

singing along to pop songs that honor the Fatherland. Germans are increasingly sick of hearing reminders about Nazi atrocities. Right-wing extremists are gaining seats in regional parliaments—some of whom recently walked out on a moment of silence for victims of



JOHANNES SIMON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
REFORMED New laws are meant to attract skilled foreigners and drive out extremists.

the Jewish Holocaust. And two major far-right-wing parties officially joined forces mid-January to present a unified front at the 2006 general elections.

For a nation to be proud, and to some degree protective, of its culture is only natural. But when *Germany* heads in this direction, it strikes an ominous, historic cord. It was the pride in the Fatherland, along with distrust and eventual hatred toward foreigners, that brought the Nazis to power in the 1930s.

Back then, it was hatred toward non-Aryans—mainly Jews. Today, Germany's xenophobic inclinations are surfacing as anti-terrorist sentiment.

But Jews are not off the hook. Part of Germany's immigration reform is a response to the huge numbers of Eastern European Jews moving to Germany since the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the past three years, more Jews have immigrated to Germany than to Israel. Germany has the third-largest population of Eastern European Jews after Israel and the United States (ibid., January 11). Some German states have already begun drawing up legislation designed to tighten laws on Jews immigrating from the former Soviet Union.

Watch for a dramatic rise in nationalism in Germany, and for increased regulation on immigration and for foreigners already living in the country.

Cracking Down on Muslims

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT has worked diligently the last four months to crack down on one of its biggest domestic security problems: an international terrorist support network. Not only were the perpetrators of 9/11 and the 2004 Madrid bombing linked to Germany, but according to security experts, radical Muslims in Germany are using increasingly sophisticated methods to fund, recruit and prepare for attacks in foreign countries—unacceptably linking Germany to global terrorism.

Security authorities predict that close to 4,000 Islamists living in Germany are ready to fight (among 30,000 Muslim fundamentalists total), including some 400 terrorists with military training. Currently, about 100 Islamists from Germany fight as “warriors of God” in Iraq, according to German ZDF TV (February 6).

In order to fight the threat, Berlin established an anti-terrorism command headquarters last December, consolidating the efforts of the nation's security offices, including the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation and the German Border Police. In addition, effective January 1, a new law made it possible to detain people suspected of belonging to foreign terrorist organizations. Hundreds of alleged Islamists are expected to be deported.

Authorities have already conducted several successful raids and arrests, preventing at least one assassination attempt and thwarting bombing plans and an enriched uranium purchase. “We have now set up a dense web against the terrorist network, and we were successful with it,” stated an intelligence service official (BBC News, January 31).

Germany is being presented with a solid reason to discriminate against foreigners, particularly Muslims. Germany's reaction shows that it is prepared for drastic measures. Watch for this situation to develop into a much more hostile confrontation with Islam in the future.



AP/WIDEWORLD
ON GUARD Security tightens at the Frankfurt airport.



KIM JAE-HWAN/AP/GETTY IMAGES

HITTING THE FAN Central banks in Asia are beginning to shy away from the ailing dollar and are switching to burgeoning euro.

ECONOMY

Shifting From Dollar to Euro

THE WORLD RELIES ON A universally accepted currency to be able to transact business on a global scale smoothly. In the 19th century, the British pound sterling served the purpose. After World War II, since the U.S. was the world's biggest economy and the only major power whose industrial base was not damaged by the war, its dollar gradually replaced the pound as the currency of choice. The world's central banks still hold most of their reserves in U.S. dollars—that's why the greenback is known as the world's *reserve* currency. But that is starting to change.

According to a survey of 65 central banks conducted by Central Banking Publications from September to December of 2004, an obvious change in attitude toward the dollar occurred since the last time the survey was made, in November 2002.

During the past two years, about 70 percent of central banks *increased their euro holdings*, while ALMOST HALF cut back on dollar reserves. The majority of bank managers polled feel that investing in eurozone debt and money

markets is just as attractive as investing in the U.S. Consequently, not a single one intends to increase his or her proportion of dollar reserves.

This means it will become increasingly difficult for the U.S. to finance its *growing* current account deficit—the

difference between the amounts of money going out of the country and that coming in (mostly due to trade imbalances).

One reason the U.S. has been able to carry such a large current account deficit is that it owns the world's reserve currency and nations have been eager to hold it in their vaults. But look for world events to nudge central bank managers toward the euro even more than they already have, and for the euro to increasingly rival the dollar as the world's reserve currency.

As that status shifts, so too will strategic power in the global markets. That in turn will weaken the power of the U.S., which will no longer enjoy the many advantages of owning the world's reserve currency.

It happened to Great Britain. It's going to happen to the U.S. too. It's just a matter of time.

ITALY

Echoes of Mussolini

WILL ITALY RETURN to its fascist past? It seems to be heading in that direction. At the end of January, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi announced to the public that it was his "grand political dream" to combine Italy's middle-right parties into a single stable party (*Die Welt*, February 1).

Included in this single party would be the National Alliance (the fascist party Benito Mussolini once led) and the Catholic-dominated Union of Christian and Center Democrats. The combined party would be based on the coalition Berlusconi formed 11 years ago and would be united in a common cause against its opposition.

"With a common program and common values,

Boeing Loses Altitude

IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2004, Boeing's earnings were down 84 percent; in dollars, that's \$186 million this quarter compared with \$1.13 billion in the same period a year before! The *Chicago Tribune* attributed this to the collapse of a tanker contract with the Pentagon and the closing of the 717 production line (February 3). In response to this downturn, Boeing made a tremendous effort to wax eloquent about how positive things have been this year and about its high expectations for next year. Curiously, the media jumped on board.

These negative numbers were then offset by press releases about Boeing's new deals for plane orders from Japan Airlines. There were also a couple of rosy pieces about renaming the 7E7 Dreamliner the 787 Dreamliner (the impact this will have on sales is incalculable). Even Ethiopia chipped in with a commitment to purchase up to 10 7something7s.

If we believe the spin we are reading, Boeing's profit woes this quarter were caused by a unique set of circumstances that won't be easily duplicated; therefore, Boeing



GETTY IMAGES

NEMESIS Boeing's main competitor is Airbus—its new A380 model shown here.

is on the way up. Of course, anyone who has followed Boeing closely over the last decade knows the problem is more fundamental than one tanker contract or a single production line outliving its usefulness. The reality is this: Boeing isn't on top anymore.

A decade ago, Boeing's main competitor, Airbus, controlled 18 percent of the global market for commercial jets; today, it is triple that—54 percent. Boeing, once clearly the juggernaut of the aeronautics industry, has tumbled in the worldwide market.

On the positive side though, Boeing's public relations division seems to be doing quite well.

For more on the edge Europe is gaining over the U.S. technologically, see our December 2003 article "Space Wars!" under "Issue Archives" at www.theTrumpet.com.



REUTERS (2)

BERLUSCONI

FINI

a single middle-right party would be neither impossible nor unimaginable,” said Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini, leader of the National Alliance (ibid.).

What those common values were was not specifically stated, but it is well known that Berlusconi, leader of the Forza Italia party, downplayed Mussolini’s actions. In an interview published in the *Spectator* on Sept. 13, 2003, Berlusconi stated, “Mussolini did not murder anyone. Mussolini sent people on holiday to confine them [to small islands].” (He failed to mention that Mussolini also sent Italian Jews to Hitler’s concentration camps.)

Though facing corruption charges, Berlusconi uses his ruthless grip over the media to reinforce his political power. The billionaire and richest man in Italy controls 90 percent of Italy’s free-to-air television and has used the media to his advantage by dominating air time during elections and even canceling the shows of his harshest critics.

As opposition parties grow in influence, watch the right-wing parties band together to maintain their power. With their media influence, it would not be hard for the fascist-leaning parties to maintain control in Italy’s government and return Italy to fascist values.

For more on this, visit www.theTrumpet.com and see our two-part article series “Fascism Revives!” in the June and July 2000 issues under “Issue Archives.”

When It Was “Just Talk,” We Said “Listen”

A FRIGHTENING SCENARIO is forming in the Far East. We are not surprised by this news. And if you have been reading the *Trumpet* for a while, nor will you be.

For over a decade the *Trumpet* has warned that a great Asian alliance is forming, and at the center of that alliance will be Russia and China. A revealing analysis from one of the world’s premier analytical services confirms our forecasts.

In February, Stratfor acknowledged the reality of this Sino-Russian strategic alliance. Two telling moves—increased delivery of Russian oil to China and

the creation of a mechanism for bilateral security consultation—“could help create a *nightmare scenario for Washington*, which up to now has considered a Moscow-Beijing alliance only talk” (February 15).

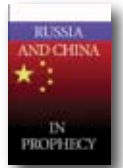
The article explained that “Russia and China both know that, separately, neither country will be able to challenge Washington in the foreseeable future,” and that the only way to respond to the unilateral power of America is to form a strategic alliance.

The article also reported other developments between the two countries which indicate a growing alli-

ance—including the fact that Russia and China are about to conduct their first-ever joint military exercises.

Stratfor concluded, “New, bolder more dramatic steps must follow for the world to see a genuine alliance between Russia and China ...”

Actually the alliance between Russia and China is *already* genuine. “New,” “bolder” and “more dramatic” steps are *certain* to continue between these two nations. For more, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.



Of Mice and Men: Scientists Blur the Line

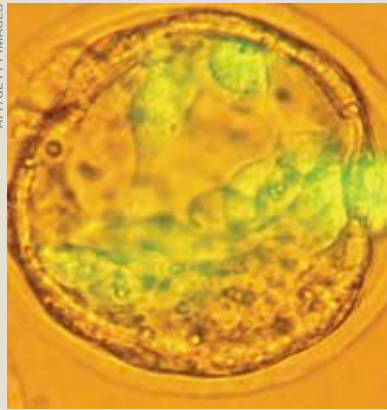
IN RECENT MONTHS, scientists have taken the first steps toward creating chimeras: a hybrid of human and animal.

The first successful test was conducted in 2003 when Chinese scientists fused human cells with rabbit eggs, allowing them to develop for several days before destroying the embryos and harvesting the stem cells. Last year, researchers at the Mayo Clinic produced pigs with human blood.

Now, Stanford biologist Irving Weissman has received the go-ahead to engineer a mouse with 100 percent human brain cells. He has already produced mice with about 1 percent human brain cells.

“Biotechnology is becoming dangerously close to raging out of control,” wrote Wesley J. Smith of the Discovery Institute in the conservative *Weekly Standard* (February 1).

The question, of course, is why any scientist would want to combine humans and animals. Much like stem-cell research,



HU-MOUSE After scientists transplanted human stem cells into female mice, baby mice were born carrying human stem cells.

cloning and many of the other ethically challenged scientific pursuits, the answer is all about curing human disease.

How far is mankind willing to go to avert a disease without looking for its actual cause? (Deuteronomy 28:58-61). Rather than looking to the God of the universe, Creator of both man and animals, scientists made of dirt are looking to animals that are also made of dirt for solutions.

Not surprisingly, not one human disease has

ever been cured by tinkering with animals genetically; to date, no one’s diseases are being treated as a result of this experimentation. And when they die, both the scientists and the animals will again become dirt (Genesis 3:19), while God will remain the all-powerful, all-knowing God who can heal all of our diseases (Psalms 103:3).

To understand the godly perspective on mankind’s attempts to circumvent law, see our January 2003 article “Skirting the Law” under “Issue Archives” at www.theTrumpet.com.


WORRIED SICK

Asia has seen a number of disease scares, such as last year's SARS outbreak. But conditions are ripe for similar diseases to spread much further and intensify in scope.

Disease Pandemics Are Coming

It's unpleasant to think about, but the Bible's prophetic warnings are clear. Will they affect you?

BY FRED DATTOLO

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN you think of “the four horsemen of the apocalypse”? A far-fetched fantasy? Biblical imagery that no one could possibly understand? Something that shouldn't concern us for a long time to come?

The truth is, the galloping hoof beats of the four horses are getting ever louder and closer, because their riders are fast approaching the culmination of their ride!

The four horsemen are depicted in the book of Revelation chapter 6 as the first four of seven “seals.” These seals are benchmarks of end-time events leading up to and including the return of Jesus Christ. John witnessed these vivid events in a vision sent by God the Father to Jesus Christ, who gave it to an angel to reveal to John (Revelation 1:1). Then John, as he was instructed, recorded what he saw (verse 19) in brilliant prophetic imagery.

Together, these legendary horsemen are prophesied “to kill with sword [warfare], with hunger [famine], with death [pestilence and disease], and by the beasts of the earth” to the extent that one fourth of mankind will be slain! (Revelation 6:8,

New King James Version throughout). That's a *minimum* of 1.6 billion people who will not escape the stampede!

We can understand this vision because the Bible interprets itself. The seven seals are interpreted in the most important prophecy Jesus Christ delivered while He was on Earth—the Olivet prophecy, found in Matthew 24 (with parallel accounts in Mark 13 and Luke 21). The meaning of the first *four* of these seals—the four horsemen—is revealed in Matthew 24:3-8.

The first horseman rides the white horse and represents *religious deception*. This horseman is NOT, as many believe, Jesus Christ, but in fact *Satan the devil*, DISGUISED HIMSELF as Christ (Matthew 24:5; read also 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). That's why multiple millions of people are deceived by false Christianity! The second horseman, riding the red horse, pictures *worldwide warfare* (Matthew 24:6 and verse 7, first part). The horseman riding the black horse signifies *famine*.

Widespread *disease epidemics and pandemics* are symbolized by the fourth horseman, which rides the pale, or pallid green, horse. (The Greek word translated as “pale” in Revelation 6:8 is *chloros*, and it is usually translated as “green.”) In this article we assess the dire, unprecedented and *imminent* threat that the fourth horseman poses!

HIV/AIDS Less than 30 years ago, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) was generally unheard of and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) was not in our vocabulary. Today, according to numerous sources, about one out of every 100 people on the planet is infected with HIV/AIDS. It has already claimed 25 million lives, and each year is adding about 3 million to that total. The disease has plagued Africa most of all, especially sub-Saharan Africa, where life expectancy has plunged from 62 to 47 years. Now it is rapidly spreading in the rest of the world.

Dr. Richard Feachem, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, stressed that in India, AIDS is developing into a “catastrophic epidemic” and that “the Indian epidemic is rapidly becoming the largest epidemic in the world” (Agence France Presse, May 11, 2004). AIDS is also raging in China and Russia. Since the average time from HIV infection to actual symptoms of AIDS is 10 years, the pandemic currently spreading may be from infection rates of 10 years ago. In the near future, this killer disease is set to explode onto the scene in other nations too.

AIDS is a result, primarily, of fornication and adultery (whether homosexual or heterosexual); sin always has *consequences* sooner or later (see Galatians 6:7). Being promiscuous is playing with

REUTERS

Only the Strong Survive

fire! The HIV virus is extremely durable and, like other viruses, mutates to fight and defeat the drugs that are launched against it. Dr. Martin S. Hirsch, director of clinical AIDS research at Massachusetts General Hospital, stressed that “the unruly AIDS virus has succeeded at evolving and mutating every time scientists and drug makers have attempted to outwit it” (*Contra Costa Times*, California, Aug. 9, 2002).

Barring widespread repentance, the fourth horseman will continue to wreak havoc through HIV/AIDS, which will most likely intensify. Yet this is just one of the horseman’s weapons. He is soon to unleash a deadly arsenal of devastating diseases that are already germinating, for example, in the animal kingdom.

“By the Beasts of the Earth” Notice that the “beasts of the earth” will have a part to play (Revelation 6:8). This refers to animals literally attacking humans for food. On the heels of warfare and famine, food will be scarce for animals too. Moreover, animals such as rats and skunks that become weak and diseased could spread rabies, for example, to household pets, further endangering humans.

In the original Greek, the phrase “by the beasts of the earth” can also refer to *animal-borne* disease that passes on to humans. Thus, the pale horse spreads its deadly curse through yet another phenomenon.

The mad cow disease scare started in Britain in the late 1980s. The disease is more accurately known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) because it destroys brain tissue (encephalopathy means disease of the brain) and causes the brain to look like a sponge. Scientists generally agree that the disease is caused by infectious forms of prions (a type of protein).

These deformed prions are extant in other animal populations as well. Consequently, various forms of spongiform encephalopathies could soon become endemic. In deer and elk, the disease is known as chronic wasting disease. In sheep, it’s called scrapie. Other animals, such as monkeys and cats, can also be affected by prion diseases. In humans, defective prions are thought to cause Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)—a devastating illness resulting in progressive dementia, loss of coordination and sometimes blindness or loss of speech.

One way to contract a “variant” form of CJD is to eat beef infected with BSE. Al-

Disease germs, bacteria and viruses have built up an amazing *resistance* to many antibiotics by adapting and mutating when attacked by modern drugs. Bacteria have individual characteristics, just as human beings do. In the presence of an antibiotic, the weaker bacteria will be killed, but the strong may survive. When the surviving bacteria regenerate and occasionally mutate, they have a greater resistance to the antibiotic than before.

While bacteria are getting stronger, our bodies are becoming more vulnerable. One of the side effects of overusing antibiotics is that beneficial flora in the human intestine are destroyed. These “good” bacteria form a barrier against infective organisms and are vital to the body’s defense mechanism. The more we depend on antibiotics to cure disease, the more we compromise our bodies’ ability to fight the invaders.

We also have genetically modified food to be concerned with. This is food that contains genetically modified (GM) organisms, including plants that have *animal* genes! A full 85 percent of soybeans and 45 percent of corn now planted by farmers in the United States are genetically modified. Some estimate that 70 percent of all foodstuffs in U.S. grocery stores include GM products! The long-term effects of tampering with creation by mixing genes among different species are completely unknown. Because many GM foods have antibiotic-resistant genes in them, this too could hamper our bodies’ ability to fight infection.

In addition to these threats, our bodies are more degenerate than ever. The necessities of good health—clean air and water, wholesome food—have all been polluted or poisoned. Millions breathe dirty air and drink contaminated water. And man is infamous for depleting and ruining the soil out of which his food must grow, resulting in foods that are leached of minerals and laden with pesticides—and insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, herbicides, flavor enhancers and artificial preservatives. This bombardment of dangerous chemicals has measurably weakened our bodies.

The overall trend is stronger viruses and weaker bodies. Add to the mix burgeoning population centers—rural folks moving to the urban sprawls, where the jobs are. Huge concentrations of population are ready-made tinderboxes of potential disease: Crowding means a pandemic can spread from person to person like wildfire.

though CJD is relatively rare to this point, the incubation period (time it takes to become ill after eating the infected beef) is thought to be about 12 years, although some doctors have maintained it could take up to 50 years. It has only been about 16 years since the *first* major outbreak of BSE in Britain. In any case, CJD may be misdiagnosed as Alzheimer’s disease or various other types of brain diseases. Scientists also admit that there is the possibility of *shorter* incubation periods with different strains of spongiform encephalopathies that may yet emerge.

Since infectious prions can accumulate in the brain and spinal cord, many countries require these and other select parts to be removed from slaughtered animals. But a troubling report out of Switzerland recently published in the journal *Science* disclosed that the diseased prions can travel to other organs as well. “This [means] that cows and sheep infected with prions could harbor [mad cow] disease in ANY inflamed or-



CORBIS RF

gan” (*New York Times*, January 21; emphasis mine throughout).

So while the number of *confirmed* CJD cases is still relatively small, there are several reasons to be concerned—not the least of which is this prophecy directed to the disobedient descendants of Israel (primarily Britain and the U.S.): “Cursed shall be ... the increase of your cattle ...” (Deuteronomy 28:18). This prophecy, along with that of the fourth horseman inflicting animal diseases onto humans, indicates that mad cow disease and CJD—which is *always* fatal—will yet cause many more deaths.

Recently, another animal-borne disease in the news has caused quite a stir. Let’s understand why.

Air Attack The virus identified as H5N1 first emerged in 1997 in Hong Kong. Since then it has spread primarily through poultry in Vietnam, Thailand and other Asian countries. It is popularly known as the avian virus or bird flu.

Last year, the Medical Research Council in London revealed that the deadly Spanish flu of 1918 *started in birds*. What has caught the attention of infectious-disease experts around the world is that the bird flu virus is evolving in much the same way as did the Spanish flu virus, which, according to some, infected half of the world's population at the time! Estimates vary, but that flu felled between 20 and 50 million people—roughly two to five times as many as perished in World War I.

Historically, global flu pandemics rage every 25 years or so. There were three such influenza outbreaks in the 20th century—the last of which occurred in 1968. The fact that we are noticeably overdue for another one, plus the striking similarities of the bird flu to the Spanish flu, has many infectious-disease specialists alarmed. Densely populated countries where millions live close to farm animals, combined with the extensive travel propensities of our modern age, have many talking about a pandemic threat that could be *deadlier* than the Spanish flu.

Despite valiant efforts to cull diseased and nearby poultry (some *100 million* birds were destroyed), the bird flu has now spread to wild birds and ducks and has also infected pigs, cats and other mammals. Since ducks and some migratory birds can carry the virus without being affected and don't show any symptoms, "hope of stamping out this largest avian flu outbreak in history has dimmed" (ScientificAmerican.com, January 10).

So far, those who have died from the bird flu have been infected through poultry or other animals. According to most experts, however, it is highly probable that the bird flu virus will mix with a human flu virus by exchanging genetic material and mutate into a new strain that is transmissible between humans. This exchange could happen inside an infectious animal that is susceptible to both the human flu and bird flu, like the pig. Or it could occur in a child with human flu whose healthy-looking pet duck gives him the bird flu virus. Either way, as Dr. Klaus Stohr, global influenza program coordinator for the World Health Organization (WHO), states, "We have never

been as close to pandemic as we are now; that's the generic assessment of all the experts and also the assessment of the WHO" (*Herald Sun*, Melbourne, Sept. 24, 2004).

It's not a matter of *if* it strikes, but of *how soon* and *how bad* it will be once it is easily transmissible between humans. Compared to SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), which has been successfully contained for now, the bird flu is much more contagious, has a short incubation period and can be transmitted *prior* to the onset of symptoms. Moreover, SARS killed only about 10 percent of its victims, whereas about *75 percent* of those infected with the bird flu have died. And the disease does not respect the healthy. Most of the victims were children and young adults in previously good health.

The WHO forecasts a death toll from the bird flu of up to 7 million people in a *best-case* scenario and significantly more if the new flu bug is very potent. Tommy Thompson, outgoing U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services, has said it could kill 30 to 70 million people. The *low* end of that estimate is equivalent to virtually the whole population of Canada! University of Minnesota infectious-disease epidemiologist Michael Osterholm prognosticates that "[e]ven with moderate transmission and fatality rates, this could do in less than a year what HIV took 30 years to do" (*Forbes*, January 31). That really puts the potential devastation of the bird flu in context!

What about a vaccine? some might ask. Like all vaccines, it must be custom-made to the virus. Since no one knows yet what the bird flu virus will look like once it adapts to human transmission, a vaccine cannot be manufactured in advance. Furthermore, the *normal* method of making human flu vaccines is to grow the virus inside embryonated chicken eggs, from which the vaccine is produced. Since the bird flu is lethal to chickens, it would kill the chick embryos before the virus could grow. For this reason, a genetically engineered vaccine would need to be prepared, which is even more time-consuming than the traditional method. Millions could be infected before a

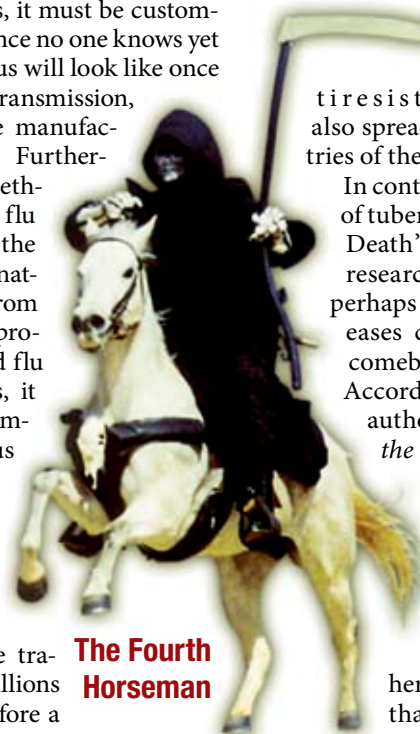
vaccine became available. According to Osterholm, "We have yawned at influenza year after year. We are going to have a rude awakening" (*ibid.*).

Return of the Plagues Animal-borne diseases are just part of the story. The fourth horseman is not limited to that tactic. While bird flu captures the headlines, tuberculosis (TB), for example, has been relentless and continues to be a formidable killer. It has killed more people than any other disease in history. Still today, about 2 million succumb to it each year. Let's put that in some perspective.

The Asian tsunami of December 2004 claimed almost 300,000 lives, including those missing and presumed dead. TB slaughters the equivalent of *seven tsunamis* annually. Put another way, *every two months*, on average more people die from TB than the death toll from the Asian tsunami. To make matters worse, multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) is on the rise. The cure rate for MDR-TB is only about 50 percent, and it's estimated that 50 million people are currently infected with MDR-TB! In parts of Russia, resistance to the most common drug treatment for TB is nearing 100 percent.

A book titled *The Return of the White Plague: Global Poverty and the "New" Tuberculosis* addresses the re-emergence of the TB pandemic. It supports a statement of the WHO estimating that "between 2002 and 2020, approximately 1,000 million [1 billion] people will be newly infected [with tuberculosis]" These new multi-resistant strains of TB could also spread through the rich countries of the world.

In contrast to the "white plague" of tuberculosis stands the "Black Death" of the Middle Ages. New research shows that even this perhaps most dreaded of all diseases could make a terrifying comeback in the near future. According to Dr. Susan Scott, author of the book *Return of the Black Death*, this great killer was not a form of bubonic plague, but a life-threatening virus that was spread from person to person. After extensive historical research, she and her colleagues determined that the Black Death is ly-



The Fourth Horseman

A New Superbug

The number of known antibiotic-resistant genes has climbed to at least 89, up from just 15 in 1991. These genes have led to the reemergence of diseases like tuberculosis. Now, an old hospital bug, methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), is making an alarming comeback as a *superbug*. It's one example of how bacteria can mutate into a drug-resistant form and become more aggressive. MRSA is a type of staph infection that's been making headlines in the United Kingdom, where the rate of hospital infections has been rising dramatically.

In the United States, a *different* strain of MRSA than that found in hospitals has also developed. It is circulating through communities around the nation, affecting younger people in particular who "do not have predisposing risk factors" (*Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, December 2004). Dr. Francoise Perdreau-Remington, an infectious-disease specialist at the University of California in San Francisco, claims it is "now spreading all over California" (*San Jose Mercury News*, California, January 26). Dr. Daniel Skiest, an infectious-disease specialist at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, admits, "We never thought it would get out of control like this" (*Dallas Morning News*, Dec. 12, 2004). In fact, "The numbers of MRSA are rising exponentially nationwide," said Dr. Marion Kainer of the Tennessee Department of Health (*Tennessean*, Dec. 29, 2004).

Moreover, in Ireland, the superbug has been found in animals (cats, dogs, horses, rabbits and even a seal) for the first time, which implies that it can be transmitted between humans and animals. As biology Professor Hatch Stokes of Macquarie University suggests, "The rise and spread of antibiotic resistance can only continue" (*Daily Telegraph*, Sydney, Dec. 7, 2004).



DRUG-PROOF
Several genes are developing a significant degree of antibiotic resistance.

ing dormant, most likely in the animal population of the Third World—and that it could reemerge at ANY TIME! Because it probably has an infectious period of three weeks when no symptoms occur, "[t]heir study reveals a new outbreak would spread quickly around the globe causing MASSIVE DEVASTATION" (*Liverpool Daily Echo*, May 24, 2004).

Such scenarios frighten medical authorities because they are NOT mere science fiction. With the tremendous intercontinental air and sea traffic of our age, plus the crumbling infrastructures of metropolitan inner cities and increasing numbers of fleeing international refugees, such diseases could be spread around the world very quickly. In today's global society, an outbreak could be on the other side of the world within 24 hours.

Not only that, but we also have to contend with the very real prospect of disease that could be *imposed* upon us by terrorists!

Biological Terrorism Living bacterial and viral organisms, or the toxins they produce, can be used as biological weapons.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified seven biological agents that are the highest threat to the nation: anthrax, botulinus toxin, plague, ricin, smallpox, tularemia and viral hemorrhagic fevers (such as Ebola). Let's look briefly at just the first two.

During World War II, when there was widespread fear that the Axis powers might use germ warfare, Britain conducted limited biological weapons tests. In one test, Gruinard, a remote island off the northwest coast of Scotland, was sprayed with anthrax bacteria in 1942. The targets were sheep, and they began dying within days. Then another problem surfaced. Most biological agents rapidly deteriorate, but not so for dry agents such as anthrax. The anthrax bacteria were so durable that the tiny island was declared unsafe and quarantined. Not until 1986 did efforts to decontaminate it

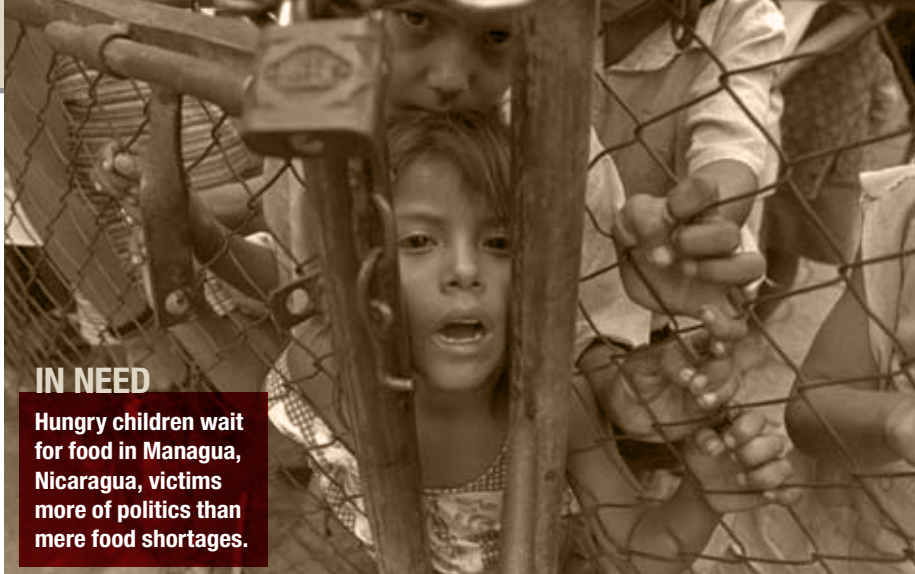
successfully begin. After removing topsoil, flooding the island with a formaldehyde solution and returning sheep to it that subsequently remained healthy, the island was finally declared safe in 1990.

While anthrax poisoning is not contagious, exposure to anthrax spores can kill within three days after the onset of fever, cough, respiratory distress and shock. It would take only about 200 pounds, released into the wind, for a terrorist to murder up to 3 million people in Washington, D.C., for example! The lives lost would be horrendous enough, but the enduring aftereffects would also devastate the region.

The tiny microscopic organism botulinus is in plentiful supply because it is found naturally in the soil and in low-acid foods that spoil. The poison it produces is lethal. In concentrated form, it's called botulinus toxin and is the deadliest of all naturally occurring biotoxins. Specifically, it is a neurotoxin, which means it destroys nerve cells. After general symptoms such as weakness, dizziness, blurred vision and difficulty swallowing and speaking, there is paralysis, respiratory failure and death—usually within about a week of becoming infected. If an anti-toxin is administered soon enough, the progress of the disease can be stopped—but the physical damage caused by the destruction of nerve cells is irreversible.

Just how dangerous is botulinus toxin? It only takes two-hundredths of a milligram absorbed through the skin, lungs, eyes or mucous membranes to kill an adult! That means that just 1 gallon of pure botulinus toxin can kill over 180 million people. How hard is it to produce a gallon? After the Gulf War of 1991, United Nations inspectors found and destroyed 130,000 gallons of botulinus toxin in Iraq! And how easy is it to use? The toxin "can be delivered from rifle grenades, mortar rounds, artillery rounds, bombs, air-to-ground rockets (e.g., from helicopters), from Scud warheads, from land mines, from sprayers, sprinklers, and aerosol equipment, and from harmless-looking booby traps of various kinds" (Cyberlab Computer Forensics, Feb. 27, 1998). The launch of one Scud missile filled with botulinus toxin could affect an area of at least 1,400 square miles.

There's also the very real possibility that our food supply could be poisoned with biological agents. Tommy Thompson said, "I cannot understand why the



IN NEED

Hungry children wait for food in Managua, Nicaragua, victims more of politics than mere food shortages.

terrorists have not attacked our food supply because it is so easy to do. ... We are importing a lot of food from the Middle East and it would be easy to tamper with that” (*New York Times*, Dec. 4, 2004). He admitted he worried about threats to the food supply every night!

Can we begin to see the very real danger that mankind faces from biological terrorism? Not only are biological weapons in some ways more dangerous than nuclear weapons, they are far less expensive to produce. Never before could such a few people, with limited means, pose such great devastation.

Protection Promised In this article we have highlighted just a FEW of the horrifying pandemics that could explode onto the world scene in *very* short order. In addition to the specter of biological terrorism and the *reemergence* of dreaded pandemics, researchers have identified *more than* 30 NEW untreatable diseases just since 1980. And who knows what other frightening ailments may yet emerge. Conditions are ripe. Major worldwide pandemics are on the verge of breaking through! Exactly how they will form and spread may not be known in great detail, but one thing is sure: The fourth horseman of the apocalypse is not a far-fetched fantasy but a sobering REALITY that will soon savage *hundreds of millions* of people.

“So I looked, and behold, a pale [sickly green] horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades [the grave] followed with him” (Revelation 6:8). Not too far away on the horizon, the image of the fourth horseman is clearly visible. The horse is galloping hard, and the rider looks like a living corpse lifted from the grave. He’s coming your way, and it won’t be long before he’s staring you in the face!

Do you *truly* understand the times you live in? Are you prepared for unparalleled devastation from disease such as the world has never seen? To those who faithfully obey God, He promises that “You shall not be afraid ... of the pestilence A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; *But it shall not come near you*” (Psalms 91:5-7). Will you be able to claim that promise, really? Do you have that kind of faith? Don’t be too sure. Request our free booklet *What is Faith?* You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.



The Hunger Myth

BY GARY RETHFORD

TODAY, FAMINE RAGES OVER THE Earth. Southern Africa is notoriously affected, but the world’s attention has recently been focused on the Darfur region of Sudan, northeast Africa, where a United Nations World Food Program (WFP) survey of western Sudan residents revealed that “almost 22 percent of children under the age of 5 are malnourished and almost half of all families do not have enough food” (WFP news release, Oct. 26, 2004). The WFP fed more than 1.3 million people in the Darfur region in September last year. In addition, the same organization says the inhabitants of Haiti, Afghanistan, North Korea, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Bangladesh are all suffering intensely from hunger.

From ThinkQuest come the following facts illustrating the world hunger problem: “In the Asian, African and Latin American countries, well over 500 million people are living in what the World Bank has called ‘absolute poverty.’ Every year 15 million children die of hunger. ... The Indian subcontinent has nearly half the world’s hungry people. Africa and the rest of Asia together have approximately 40 percent, and the remaining hungry people are found in Latin America and other parts of the world” (“An End to World Hunger: Hope for the Future”).

That hunger continues. Why? Simply because there is a lack of food? No!

Myths About Hunger It is a popular notion that the main cause for world hunger is a lack of food. That thought contains a basket of truth, but a bushel of

deception. Of course hunger and famine are the result of not getting enough volume or quality of food to support life, but that is not a foundational reason for the problem.

The myths about hunger are well documented in several sources. In his article “The Famine Myth,” Dr. Leslie Jermyn of GlobalAware.org wrote, “Famine is a situation of chronic lack of food leading to eventual starvation and death for thousands or millions depending on the scale. It is not the result of singular causes like low rainfall or too many mouths to feed but results from a *long series of social, political and economic processes and policies*” (Dec. 5, 2002; emphasis mine). In that article, Dr. Jermyn lists three mythical causes for hunger: not enough food, too many people, and bad weather.

Peter Rosset, executive director of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, co-authored a book in 1998 titled *World Hunger: Twelve Myths*. “The true source of world hunger is not scarcity but policy; not inevitability but politics,” said Rosset. “The real culprits are economies that fail to offer everyone opportunities, and societies that place economic efficiency over compassion.”

An *Institute for Food and Development Policy Backgrounder*, based on the book, stated, “Abundance, not scarcity, best describes the world’s food supply. Enough wheat, rice and other grains are produced to provide every human being with 3,500 calories a day. That doesn’t even count many other commonly eaten foods—vegetables, beans, nuts, root crops, fruits, grass-fed meats, and fish. Enough food is available to provide at

least 4.3 pounds of food per person a day worldwide: 2½ pounds of grain, beans and nuts, about a pound of fruits and vegetables, and nearly another pound of meat, milk and eggs—enough to make most people fat! The problem is that many people are too poor to buy readily available food. Even most ‘hungry countries’ have enough food for all their people right now. Many are net exporters of food and other agricultural products” (Summer 1998).

To prove the point, India, which has been identified as home to almost half of the world’s hungry, is Asia’s second-greatest producer of wheat after China, according to the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). “This year’s Indian wheat output [2003], while revised downward, still shows a sharp increase over last year and the 2004 wheat area and output are estimated to be above last year and above the five-year average” (Environment News Service, June 1, 2004). India exports about 2 million metric tons of wheat per year.

The Politics of Food “As the FAO states, ‘There is no lack of knowledge about how to fight hunger’ Economic policies, trade rules and corporate market power that sharply deepen the inequality between rich and poor are at the root of hunger” (“Challenging the Rules: Global Hunger and the Politics of Food,” *www.oxfam.ca*).

Economic policies are one of the main causes of world hunger. Look at the wealthy and powerful of any nation whose people are starving. Are the elite starving? No—in fact, they are often grossly overweight. Why? *Because only the poor and disenfranchised of a nation starve.* That is the direct result of denying a nation’s inhabitants the opportunity to own land for producing their food, or to seek gainful employment so they can purchase the food they need.

On occasion, even homeless people in America starve to death. That isn’t because America doesn’t have enough food; it has a superabundance. It’s because, for one reason or another, some American citizens live on the streets of the richest nation on Earth and exist on handouts from others.

Increasing international food production, called the “Green Revolution,” was supposed to solve the problem of world hunger. It has failed because of the politics of food.

“[T]he ‘Green Revolution’ sponsored

by international support organs increased grain production significantly. Still, the book [*World Hunger: Twelve Myths*] notes that ‘in several of the biggest Green Revolution successes—India, Mexico and the Philippines for example—grain production and in some cases exports, have climbed while hunger has persisted” (*www.psrast.org*). *Poverty* is a main cause of hunger: Only those who have funds can afford to buy food; only those who own land can grow food. “As the rural poor are increasingly pushed from land, they are less and less able to demand for food on the market” (ibid.).

International Trade Policies Reducing world hunger by international trade agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Free Trade Area of the Americas, was based on the belief that greater trade in food would result in greater food security. The opposite is true. Feeding the world’s hungry by promoting free trade has proven to be a colossal failure. As Oxfam Canada points out, exporting produce has caused greater insecurity because food has become a profitable commodity. Simply put, it’s more profitable for a nation to sell at premium export prices than to sell at base price to the peasantry. In addition, the small farmer does not participate in these major trade agreements, so his interests and livelihood are not supported by them.

“For example, in 1999 wealthy OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] countries spent \$360 billion on agricultural subsidies, while total revenues for all developing nations from agricultural exports was only \$170 billion. In other words, rich countries spent more than double the amount in subsidies that developing countries actually earned! Heavily subsidized agribusinesses produce more than is needed domestically. This cheap oversupply is then ‘dumped’ onto the markets of poor countries at prices less than the actual costs of production” (*www.oxfam.ca*, op. cit.).

“Dumping” undermines local economies because it artificially forces the market price down, and local farmers cannot compete. Therefore, because the developing nations lack international protections against these trade rules, economic policies, and the sheer power of major developed nations, they and their people fall victim to this practice.

The truth is, even in the category of trade, the world is divided into those who have and those who have not.

Wars and Rumors of Wars The greatest fundamental cause of world hunger, far outstripping weather or any other single cause, is internal political and social unrest and conflict.

Of the major nations suffering famine, Haiti, Sudan, Afghanistan, Colombia and the Congo have been hit as the direct result of civil war and conflict that has driven populations from their homes and farms. In Zimbabwe, President Robert Mugabe urged that producing white farmers be forcibly evicted from their farms, promoting massive crop loss in the country. Civil war has been the single greatest contributor to world poverty and the death of its civilians. Sub-Saharan Africa is a prime example of this fact. In Sudan alone, it is estimated that 2 million inhabitants have been affected. The war in Afghanistan has dragged on for 22 years; civil war in Colombia has continued for 40 years. In the Congo at least 3.4 million people have been internally displaced by civil conflict.

In North Korea, the extreme shortage of food has been made worse by the government choosing to spend its money on feeding the army and military issues rather than obtaining food to feed its people. Andrew Natsios, former vice president of World Vision United States, wrote, “Former President Ronald Reagan stated our tradition best when he said: ‘A hungry child knows no politics.’ While every famine is complicated by politics, it is fair to say that the North Korean famine is the most complicated politically I have witnessed in more than 15 years. Politics is killing people. Literally” (“The Silent Famine in North Korea,” World Vision).

Ethiopia is another nation that repeatedly suffers from famine. Today, it is once again on the verge of disaster, as reported by Stephanie Kriner of Disaster Relief. “As Ethiopia faces a possible repeat of the 1984-85 famine when at least 1 million people died, relief officials are scrambling for aid. At least 8 million Ethiopians are likely to face hunger or starvation this year, the United Nations said. And the warning signs that appeared in 1984 are showing up once again” (Oct. 8, 2004).

In her article, Kriner mentioned food shortages caused by drought over much of the last decade as the reason for shortage of food. In addition, distribution of food that has been donated by international relief organizations is impeded by “poor transportation and a lack of warehouses and distribution centers.”

True, when analyzing causes of hun-

ger and famine, weather conditions are a factor. But it tends to be a factor at the end of a long chain of events, not at the beginning. In the history of Ethiopia, the beginning cause of famine can be highlighted clearly.

Dr. Seyoum Hameso, author of several books, relates that in Ethiopia, the Great Famine of 1896 was the direct result of war conducted by Emperor Menelik, and became so intense that some form of cannibalism was practiced. The famine of 1973-74 was the result of Emperor Haile Selassie's war with Ogaden and Eritrea. In 1984, the famine was caused by the military regime of Mengistu Hailemariam, who conducted "war with Ogaden, war with Eritrea and Tigray, war with other oppressed nations, war within the establishment, and the red terror [of communism] against opposition groups. Mengistu's atrocities did not end there. ... For millions of people whose voices are crushed and repressed, the place has been a hell for nearly a century" (Oromia Online).

Hameso lists wars continuing during the last decade between Ethiopia, and Somalia, Kenya and Eritrea. He includes the existing political corruption as a factor causing the loss of productive citizens, which has also continued the hunger problem. In addition, Ethiopia is one of the leading nations suffering from HIV/

causes the most suffering by far! He goes forth 'conquering, and to conquer.' ... The first horseman conquers BY DECEIVING! The other three horsemen, on the surface, would appear to cause far more serious catastrophes. But in truth, the *first* horseman *causes* most of the gruesome events of the other three! These catastrophes occur because men are deceived. The first and most deadly horseman is *religious deception!*" (*The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*; request your free copy).

The first horseman leads directly to the second—the red horse: WAR. This horseman rides *with* the first, because so often throughout history war has been driven *by religion*. The history of mankind is a history written in the blood spilled by war. That history is about to be written by a river of blood: Mankind has not learned the lesson that every weapon designed by man has ultimately been *used* by man—and we are now living in a nuclear world!

The horsemen of religious deception and war are then followed by the black and pale horsemen—famine and pestilence. "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in

will be the most gut-wrenching famine this world has ever seen, preceded by colossal religious deception and war!

Satan the devil is the ultimate deceiver on the white horse—he is the cause of the world's suffering. "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9). SATAN IS THE CAUSE OF DECEPTION, WAR, FAMINE AND PESTILENCE—and famine following nuclear war is looming just over the horizon! BEWARE THE BLACK HORSE!



Global Abundance Ahead! Unerring Bible prophecy declares that World War III is inevitable! The world is arming for Armageddon right now. The geopolitical consequences will be seismic! Along with the coming nuclear destruction will come massive famines. It will mean death or captivity for modern Israel.

This world's suffering is caused by immutable spiritual laws being broken. God's perfect law of love is about to put an end to that. Beyond the destruction pictured by those four horsemen, the Bible describes a world of glorious health and superabundance underpinned by the law of God. Christ is returning to stop the suffering of the nations. He is returning as King of kings and Lord of lords. His government is going to replace all the failed governments of mankind.

Global war will be stopped, Satan will be locked up—unable to tempt the nations any longer—and there will be peace on Earth—finally! Along with that peace, God will bless the Earth with rain in due season. Fields will be planted, and the harvest will be abundant. Hunger will be eliminated globally: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt" (Amos 9:13).

Those who are left of the nations of Israel and Judah shall return from their captivity to their former glory: "Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first" (Jeremiah 33:6-7). At that time, modern Israel—America and Britain—will lead the nations into a time of abundance and prosperity known as the wonderful World Tomorrow. ■

Famine and hunger are not primarily caused by a lack of food or disastrous weather. They are primarily caused by war and by corrupt, deceitful government.

AIDS, further decimating the male population available for food production.

Famine and hunger are not primarily caused by a lack of food or disastrous weather. They are primarily caused by war and by corrupt, deceitful government. If we don't learn this lesson soon, it's going to get much worse! The hunger and famine experienced by the world to date has certainly been disastrous enough, but THE FAMINE AHEAD WILL BE HORRENDOUS BEYOND ANYTHING WE COULD IMAGINE!

The Horsemen The four horsemen of the apocalypse graphically illustrate the causes for all the world's suffering, including famine and hunger. First, the white horse (Revelation 6:1-2)—whose horseman is often mistaken for Christ. It is actually Satan disguising himself as Christ—religious deception. Notice: "The first horseman is *first* because he

his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine" (verses 5-6).

As human populations have grown over the past 2,000 years, famines have increased in size and scope accordingly. Global famines are now a common occurrence, and are becoming worse. But the black horse of Revelation 6 represents famine erupting on an epidemic scale on the Earth *in our day*, just prior to Christ's return.

"The prophecies symbolized by the four horsemen began to be fulfilled at Christ's first coming. The evils continue until His Second Coming. By far, the most intense suffering is *just before* Christ's Second Coming" (ibid.). Famine and disease epidemics always ride together! The black horse of Revelation

crats and technocrats for Germany's next attempt at global hegemony learned the lesson that initiating a blitzkrieg war was not the way to go about it.

Although German politicians know they must have the support of the German people—the *Volk*—to meet their domestic agendas, they have learned from Britain's experience that first you must establish your trading outposts before you have an excuse to build a force to defend them on foreign soil. Thus, the idea of building a united European trading economy revived shortly after World War II. This has since evolved to reveal its true nature as a gigantic superpower—a United States of Europe in the making—currently only lacking the defensive capability of the U.S.

But this Teutonic idea of a resurrected *Charlamagna* is already flexing its political muscle on the world stage.

Referring to Chancellor Schröder's *Nein!* to President George W. Bush's request for assistance in the war on Iraq, journalist Haseler wrote, "When Jacques Chirac decided to back Germany, and Vladimir Putin joined in too, it looked as though a new global alliance (potentially as powerful as the U.S.) was about to be born." As Haseler pointed out, this was "the first time since 1947, and the era of global American leadership, two major 'allies' were defying the leader of the West—and getting clean away with it. [T]hey were actually campaigning against the U.S. around the globe" (*ibid.*).

Having gotten away with that, Germany has since deliberately thumbed its nose at the U.S. in a host of foreign-policy areas. In respect of Latin America, German policy is aimed at bringing "German influence to bear in Latin America ... to weaken the U.S. supremacy" (www.german-foreign-policy.com, January 20). Regarding North Africa and the Middle East, the same source reported, "Because of the threatening U.S. politics, relevant German economic circles fear damage to German interests in natural resources and, thus, refuse linking Berlin's positions with those of Washington" (February 8). Building on this theme, the *International Herald Tribune* reported the "EU's willingness to engage where the United States has pulled back ... reflects a global trend" The effect of its policies "is to draw the EU closer to many countries that the United States considers its enemies or holds in low regard" (February 11).

Imagine the potential that such an anti-American political power would

have to reinforce its stand against American foreign policy if it possessed equal and opposite *nuclear* armaments. Yet that is *exactly* what Haseler propounds! "Europe needs a militarily strong Germany. And—let's not be bashful about it, Europe needs the Bomb" (*op. cit.*). That's tantamount to saying that Europe needs a strong, nuclear-armed Germany! And *that*—given the history of that nation—is utter, unadulterated *craziness!*

Equipping Germany with nukes is simply inviting a third global tragedy even worse than the last! Who is to say that, during World War II, the Third Reich's grab for global power and Hitler's 1,000 years of world rule wouldn't have been realized if not for the Allied forces nipping the developing Nazi weapons of mass destruction program in the bud before it could prevail?

Awakening Yes, today's Germany is unhappy. But even more so, today's Germany is cantankerous—willfully going out of its way to make the point that in foreign policy, it paddles its own canoe. It has finally detached itself from its American protector and is busy building itself into a giant superpower *deliberately* at odds with its old World War II enemy and postwar benefactor.

Perhaps we should have listened to Luigi Barzini, whose words ring true now, even as they did before he descended into the grave, warning us two decades ago that the German people, even then, had the desire "to see Germany once more decide its own future and Europe's and the world's with an authority

proportionate to its economic and cultural weight ..." (*op. cit.*).

Forget your fairy-tale, politically correct, revisionist history. We deal with *reality* here. A reality built upon the time-worn, provable facts of history. A reality which, it seems, too few of our politicians and observers of the world scene wish to admit into their minds. The outcome of that which is building right now in Germany is simply too horrific to contemplate. It genuinely is the repetition of German history—yet again! This conjures up an image too terrible to bear. So the world dreams on—until the terrible *awakening!* For the awakening will come, and much sooner than you think!

We confidently predict that the German situation will, following a dramatically critical event, perhaps the future collapse of the dollar, rise from bust to boom—a *boom* that will *reverberate globally*, economically and *militarily!*

You need to come to grips with this emerging reality, which is destined to shake the nations (Isaiah 14:16). Write now for our free booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!* and come to grips with the reality of that which is even now building in Germany's heartland toward *the most explosive release of political and military might this world has ever witnessed!* This explosion of pent-up energy will finally end in the war to end all wars, and usher in, not a millennial, enslaving Teutonic Reich, but an unsurpassed era of genuine freedom, peace and plenty—under the King of kings, Jesus Christ—such as this world has never witnessed, yet has always craved. ■

Your favorite monthly magazine ... **every week!**



The reporting, the commentary, the analysis—everything you have come to expect from the *Trumpet* each month—is now being offered online with fresh articles delivered each Monday morning. Stay on top of what is happening in your world, with the in-depth perspective that only the *Trumpet* offers. **Log on to the new ...**

the **TRUMPET**.com

The Book Only a Few Know

The Bible consistently tops the list of bestselling books. Yet few know it.
It is time to take a fresh look at the Book of books. BY DENNIS LEAP

IT IS THE GREATEST BESTSELLER OF all time and the most popular book in the world. In the last 200 years, 2.5 billion copies have sold. Tens of millions of people purchase copies of the Bible annually. Men and women have labored painstakingly to get it out to the masses: The whole Bible has been translated into over 300 languages, and 2,062 languages have translations of at least one book of the Bible. One international religious organization has placed the book free of charge into millions of hotel rooms worldwide; they claim to place and give away 112 Bibles per minute—a million a week.

Considering all these amazing facts, it is hard to imagine that Bible ignorance is at an all-time high. Yet, surveys prove that people know very little about the Bible and even less of what is inside the Bible.

The Bible is worth knowing—all of it. Few do. This is truly one of the paradoxes of our times!

Bible Confusion The lack of Bible knowledge is not new. In 1926, Bruce Barton wrote a book about the Bible titled *The Book Nobody Knows*. What he wrote then is still true today. Barton recognized a trend that has only gotten worse. The Bible is a book that *only a few know*. You may not agree with that statement. Well, let us say something even bolder: Even the very religious don't know their Bibles. Many people have a Bible in their home as a matter of superstitious necessity. Few actually read it. And those who do will generally admit they don't understand what they read.

One church numbering in the multiple millions worldwide does not believe that the Bible is *sufficient* for doctrine. Most Protestant, evangelical and fundamentalist denominations only follow the New Testament, which represents only about one third of the Bible. Religious Jews only accept the Old Testament. Religion is confused about the Bible.

What about the well-educated? How do they view the Bible? The seemingly

most-educated minds wholly reject the Bible. The scholarly malign and criticize this book more than any other. No other book in history—not even Shakespeare's work—is subject to as much scrutiny. Placed under the microscope of scholarly criticism, many view it as *unusable* in the 21st century. Influenced by evolutionary philosophy, the highly educated say, *How can the ancient writings of the Jewish people have any relevance*



PHOTOSPIN

to modern life? Put off by the childish sentimentality of some religious people, most of the *educated* consider it *uneducated* to read, study or obey the Bible.

Should you bother to get to know the Bible? Is it relevant to your personal life? Is the book *usable* as an accurate guide for daily living? You *need* to search out the answers to these questions.

What Is the Bible? The Bible is an astonishing book. It is extraordinary. Our English word *bible* comes from the Greek expression *ta biblia* meaning *the books*. That is precisely what the Bible is—a collection of books—a mini library. It is best named the *Holy Bible*. Why? It is not merely a book of human wisdom or Jewish folklore. The Apostle Paul instructed the Evangelist Timothy: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God

may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The word *inspiration* comes from the Greek word *theopneustos*, meaning *God-breathed*. This means that God *personally* coordinated the Bible's development and directly inspired its writing. The Bible is the *authoritative* Word of God in print. *It is supernatural*.

These facts are easily provable to an *unprejudiced* mind. Let's look at a few exciting examples.

God instructed Moses, the author of the first five books of the Bible, to write history, laws and religious instructions into books and preserve them for future generations. Early in Israel's history, when the Amalekites attacked the Israelites at Rephidim, God told Moses: “Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua ...” (Exodus 17:14). After the establishment of the Old Covenant, the giving of the Ten Commandments and the judgments, the Bible states, “And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord ...” (Exodus 24:7). Just after Israel's treacherous sin with the golden calf, God instructed Moses, “Write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel” (Exodus 34:27). Certainly, these statements should give great weight to what Moses wrote. Let's not be guilty of ignoring the first five books of the Bible.

Moses's books were not the only ones coordinated by God. Remember, Paul said God inspired *all Scripture*. This most certainly includes the Old Testament prophetic books. Paul tells us in Hebrews, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets” (Hebrews 1:1). God spoke through His prophets. Their messages are God-breathed.

Some may say, *Okay—we accept that, but prophecy is outdated*. Is it? Some believe that the Old Testament prophecies have failed. Have they? Did you know that it is for *our time* that God ensured the prophetic books were preserved? God commanded the Prophet Isaiah,

“Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever” (Isaiah 30:8). The expression “for the time to come” is better translated as *the latter days*—or our time now! God directed Jeremiah and others to do the same (Jeremiah 30:2).

This is astounding knowledge. The Old Testament prophetic books were meant to be understood by us—today. Recognize that the true Church—true Christianity—is founded on the prophets (Ephesians 2:20). No other *supposed* sacred book, such as the Koran or Bhagavad-Gita, makes such claims. The Bible is unique in the history of man!

Special Revelation In his book *Mystery of the Ages*, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote this about the Bible: “God reveals Himself in His Word the Holy Bible, yet almost none has understood it. ... The Bible itself is the basic mystery that reveals all other mysteries.”

The Bible unveils God’s answers to the great questions surrounding human life. The Bible *alone* gives the truth on the subject of *origins*. Mr. Armstrong often referred to the Bible as “the Maker’s instruction manual.” It explains how the human creation is to operate. It explains why God created man. It lays bare man’s incredible human potential. It also shows the way to achieve it. The Bible explains the way to human peace, happiness and success. In other words, the Bible contains special *revealed* knowledge that man cannot come to know using his five senses—observation and experimentation. Its knowledge is spiritual.

The Bible is like no other book. Mr. Armstrong explained in *Mystery of the Ages*: “If one begins reading the Bible continuously from beginning to end, one becomes bewildered. The Bible simply cannot be read like any other book. It is a mystery because it is a coded book. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, with perhaps thousands of various pieces of different forms and shapes that can be fitted together in only one precise pattern.” What fantastic knowledge. The Bible is written in code. It must be decoded. This is the key to understanding the Bible. Few hold this key!

God must unlock the truths of the Bible for each individual. Even this fact is discussed in the Bible. Isaiah wrote,

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little” (Isaiah 28:9-10). Understanding the Bible comes as a miracle from God.

Why does God unlock the Bible for some and not for others? The answer is plain. God is looking for those individuals willing to be instructed and corrected by the Bible.

Mr. Armstrong commented, “The truths of the Bible are revealed here a little, there a little, scattered from beginning to end, and revealed only through the Holy Spirit within those surrendered and yielded to God, willing to have confessed error and wrongdoing, and yielding to BELIEVE Christ



The Bible is written in code. It must be decoded. This is the key to understanding the Bible. Few hold this key!

the Word of God. Jesus was the Word in person. The Bible is the same Word in print” (ibid.). Bible understanding is only given to those willing to read it with a right attitude—a willingness to be corrected by it—and to those willing to believe what they read.

Through Isaiah, God states, “[T]o this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word” (Isaiah 66:2). The English word *trembleth* is taken from the Hebrew word *chared* meaning *reverential*. It is a matter of simple logic—only those who hold great respect for it will ever understand the Bible.

True Education In the Bible God reveals Himself not only as the Creator, but also as *the Educator*.

Immediately after Adam and Eve were given physical life, God educated them in their purpose and the way to achieve it. Study Genesis 1 through 3. These chapters contain the knowledge every human being most needs to know.

The Bible is all about education—God’s education—true education. Of course, the Bible does not contain *all* knowledge. God planned the Bible to be the FOUNDATION of all knowledge. The Bible forms the basis by which all other

knowledge can be evaluated. History, science, sociology, psychology, philosophy, economics and politics cannot be *properly* understood without the Bible. This flies in the face of modern education, because the whole system has been built without the Bible. Modern education has been built on the *unprovable* theory of evolution—the notion of a creation without a creator. What are the fruits? We can send men into outer space, but we cannot solve our tragic human problems. We live daily with the specter of human annihilation. Why? We have educated ourselves on the wrong foundation.

The Bible is the only reliable authority on human behavior. William Lyon Phelps, a prolific writer and professor of English literature at Yale University in the early 20th century, wrote this about the Bible and education: “I thoroughly believe in a university education for both men and women; but I believe a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without the Bible. For in the Bible we have profound thought beautifully expressed; we have the nature of boys and girls, of men and women, more accurately charted than in the work of any modern novelist or playwright. You can learn more about human nature by reading the Bible than by living in New York.” Can you imagine any 21st-century university instructors making such a statement? They would be laughed off campus. Yet, Phelps’ thoughts reflect the real truth about the Bible.

This holy library explains the real cause of world evils. It explains what sin is. The Bible outlines clearly what is normal and what is deviant behavior. The Bible alone explains the incredible meaning behind the cycles in human history. It explains the course of nations. The Bible shows us clearly what is just ahead for mankind. Will humanity survive? Only the Bible gives the astounding answer. In fact, only the Bible can give us the proper world view.

Decoded for Our Time Mr. Armstrong taught that the Bible was not meant to be understood until our time. In fact, he believed that the Bible was specifically preserved for God’s end-time Church. One specific example of this fact is Daniel’s book. Did you know that God did not give Daniel understanding of the prophecies he wrote down? God

sent the angel Gabriel to deliver a message to Daniel about world events that are taking shape as you read this article. But Daniel couldn't understand the message. What is most intriguing here is that Gabriel didn't give him the understanding either. Notice these verses: "And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Daniel 12:8-9). Study that scripture again. Be sure you understand it thoroughly. The understanding of the vision Daniel saw was not to be given until this time—the time of the end—when the events are actually taking place. The Bible is not a dull, drab impractical book. It has its fingers on the pulse of present events.

The Apostle Paul confirmed this little-known truth about the Bible. He taught the Romans, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

God has a purpose that He is working out on this Earth. We do not have to be confused about what God is doing. He controls human history to fit His purpose. We are the people living at the apex of a great change coming in human civilization. A loving God has seen fit to record for us centuries in advance what He is working out before our very eyes.

There are many spiritual lessons we must learn in this final generation of man's rule over man. Only the Bible can teach us those lessons. Paul taught the Corinthians, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:11). Step by step and little by little, God has seen fit to record the histories of normal men and women who have been drafted into His service—for our direct benefit. Through their lives, God has revealed His master plan of salvation. The good and the bad of God's servants are openly discussed. Why? So we can be even better servants by not repeating the mistakes of the past. We must work in the most difficult of times—yet the most exciting of times. Jesus Christ is returning very soon to rule this Earth and give it everlasting peace and happiness. In the Bible, God

has given us all the instruction and encouragement to successfully complete our mission. We must learn to study it and apply it faithfully!

Beware False Prophets Jesus Christ told His disciples that one of the signs of our times would be rampant religious deceit. He warned, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4-5). There is a certain reality we must face. Many religious leaders, claiming to represent Christ, have misused the Bible and deceived millions. Dishonest men, feigning spirituality and lusting for power, have twisted the Scriptures to their own benefit. They have exploited the masses of people due to widespread Bible ignorance. You must learn to *prove* your religious leaders.

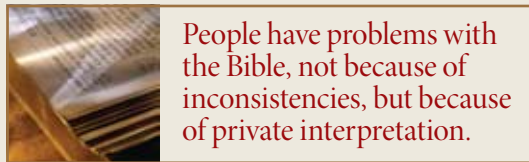
The massive problem we see in religion today began in the first-century Church. Peter wrote to the Church, "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do

stroyed the faith of millions. No inconsistencies exist. Jesus Christ—the Word of God in person—said emphatically, "[T]he scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Granted, the Bible has some poorly translated verses. Some unscrupulous men have tampered with the Scriptures, adding uninspired lines and words. But when you consider the fact that God used over 40 different writers from many different walks of life—some were kings, shepherds, farmers and fishermen—over a period of 1,600 years—the Bible stands alone in its harmony and agreement. The Bible is a truly remarkable book.

People have problems with the Bible, not because of inconsistencies, but because of *private interpretation*. The Apostle Peter warned, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy [Spirit]" (2 Peter 1:20-21). Men must never attempt to interpret what the Bible means. Unfortunately, many do. God designed the Bible to interpret itself.

The best example of this fact is found in Revelation. This book appears to many as the most mysterious in the Bible. It is rich in symbolism. Yet, its symbols are explained.

John writes, "And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" (Revelation 1:12-16). Here John is given a vision of the resurrected Christ as a spirit being. John is being prepared to receive incredible revelation from God the Father concerning end-time events (verse 1). Some of what John sees is full of mystery. God desired that John understand. Christ explains the meaning. He told John, "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and



People have problems with the Bible, not because of inconsistencies, but because of private interpretation.

also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:15-16). Here Peter *canonizes* Paul's letters as Scripture. He shows that there were *unlearned* and *unstable* men twisting Paul's letters—*God-breathed* scriptures. The English word *wrest* is taken from the Greek word *streblo* meaning to *wrench*. Men with little knowledge of the Bible were distorting and misrepresenting what God had inspired. In the process, they destroyed their own and others' spiritual lives. Recognize that men (and women) are still twisting the letters of Paul today. Many religious leaders and people reject what Paul taught about marriage, family and the role of women in the Church, for example—*unto their own destruction*.

Many religious leaders today talk much about supposed Bible inconsistencies. These individuals have de-

the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches" (verses 19-20). In the Bible, stars represent angels or human messengers. The candlesticks here represent the seven churches in Asia Minor at the close of the first century—as well as the seven successive Church eras of the Church age. Any interpretation by a man is not acceptable.

Read the Book You must learn to protect yourself from religious error. The first thing you must do to protect yourself is to *find the men Christ is using*. These men will be well-educated in true Bible knowledge. Today, God uses His ministers to impart Bible understanding. Paul wrote: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:14-15). If you truly desire to know the truth of the Bible, God will put you in touch with the men who are able to teach you. You must be teachable. Study the wonderful example of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. He

wanted to understand the book of Isaiah. He recognized that he needed some man to guide him. God sent the Evangelist Philip to help him.

When listening to Bible instruction, be sure to check it out carefully. Paul taught the Thessalonians, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21). When it comes to understanding the Bible, never take a



Christ was able to speak simply, profoundly and authoritatively because He knew all the Word of God.

man's word for it—prove what the man says. Paul praised the Bereans for their positive attitude toward Bible study. He wrote, "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:10-11). The Bereans heard Paul preach about the Kingdom of God. Then they studied the Scriptures to prove what Paul said. Notice that Paul called them *noble* for their approach to the Bible.

The second thing you must do to protect yourself from religious error is simply to *study the Bible*. You must fall in love with the Bible. Spend ample time daily reading *the Book*.

Jesus Christ had to continually deal with doctrinal error in His day. He recognized the cause: People just didn't study the Scriptures. Here is one example. Divorce was rampant at the time of Christ. People were confused on the truth of the matter. To deal with the problem, Christ said, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6). To clear up all the confusion, Christ took the people back to Genesis 2. He directly quoted verse 24 to prove that what God has joined together should not be separated. He was able to speak simply, profoundly and authoritatively because He knew all the Word of God.

What about you? Do you know the Bible? How often do you study your Bible? Is it the solid foundation of your religious beliefs? To help you discover your Bible, we will feature a series of articles about the Bible in the coming months. Prepare for some very exciting study. And prepare to be changed in the process. Paul taught the Hebrews, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). ■

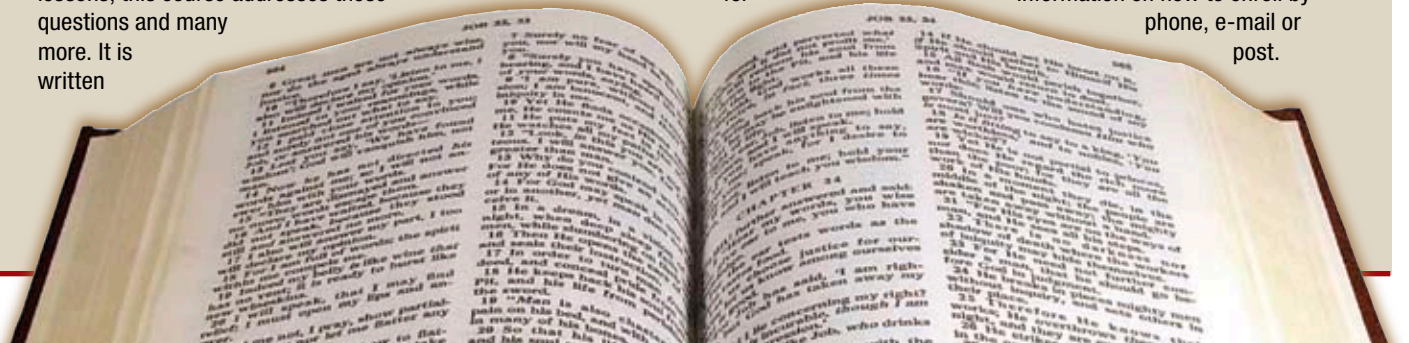
The Answers!

TO MANY, THE BIBLE IS A MYSTERY. A patchwork of ancient writings that is at once profound and puzzling, it can be distant and frustrating to those who read and study it. But it need not be!

The **Imperial College Bible Correspondence Course** offers in-depth understanding into the most profound book on Earth. Is the Bible true? Does it apply to today's daily living? In its monthly lessons, this course addresses these questions and many more. It is written

in a dynamic question-and-answer format that requires you to read the Scriptures and dig out the answers from your own Bible! You will really come to *know* the awesome Book of books as never before.

The Trumpet is offering this THREE-YEAR COURSE to you ABSOLUTELY FREE—no catch! Enroll in the **Imperial College Bible Correspondence Course** today. See the back cover of this magazine for information on how to enroll by phone, e-mail or post.





ARTVILLE

a nation, we can be proud of these encouraging trends.”

While it might be true that the teen birth rate has gone down in recent years, mainly because of the widespread availability and knowledge of contraceptives, this worldly wisdom has done nothing to slow the alarming spread of STDs. In fact, as Mary Eberstadt brings out in her book *Home-Alone America*, “The very contraceptives that have made the teenage birth rate go down have also made casual sex easier than ever, thus making the STD rate simultaneously rocket up.”

She points out in her book that of the top 10 reported diseases in the U.S., five of them are STDs. And of the 18 million or so new cases of STD infection reported each year, *half come from those in the 15-to-24 age bracket.*



DREAMSTIME

Ritalin: More Depressing Stats

THE JANUARY 25 *WALL Street Journal* warned of overdiagnosing ADHD based on new research about the long-term effects of Ritalin and other drugs used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. About 12 percent of American children have been diagnosed with it.

Now researchers have found that methylphenidate (the generic name for Ritalin) “may permanently alter the brain and may lead to depression in adulthood”—based on studies with lab rats. “While the studies have limits—a rat’s brain is obviously very different than a child’s—the research nonetheless highlights the need to be sure of an ADHD diagnosis before putting a child on medication.”

This disorder is one in which the criteria are highly subjective and describe many normal children (not listening when spoken directly to, not following instructions, being easily distracted, fidgeting or squirming).

Like most medicines, Ritalin treats the *effects* of this disorder (which is why many are quick to make the diagnosis and secure the subsequent quick fix). But until we learn how to pinpoint the causes (like poor diet or absence of parental discipline) and *prevent* the same, the medical industry will continue to push its “healing” POISONS that have their own set of consequences.

TEENAGERS

The STD Map

AN 18-MONTH STUDY THAT mapped out the sexual activity and relationships of an entire high school has some sociologists shocked. The unidentified school, labeled “Jefferson High School,” has 1,000 students, about half of them sexually active. That’s not the shocking part—nor the fact that sexually active teens at the school began having sex at about age 15. (This is considered “normal” by societal standards.)

Researchers were most surprised at how widespread and multi-layered the “sexual map” of the teen community was. For 18 months, according to *Time* magazine, “researchers tried to document every romantic and sexual liaison among high school students” (February 7).

Mapping the “sexual geography” of this teenage community revealed why sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) spread more rapidly among teens than among adults. Of the 573 students who said they had had at least one relationship in the previous 18 months, an incredible 288 were all connected together in an interlinking chain. “Adult sexual networks look very different and usually involve clusters of wanton individuals known to public-health experts as ‘core transmitters’”

(*ibid.*). The teen sex network is less clustered—which is why STDs are spreading faster among young people.

Yet, in listening to some health “experts” and media commentators, we are sometimes left with the impression that teenagers are becoming more responsible with sex. Even a former U.S. president boasted, “Teens in every state, across ethnic and racial groups, are making more responsible life decisions. As

HEALTH

Sexually Transmitted Death

THE MOST PREVALENT OF the STD batch is now thought to be the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is incurable. If contracted by women, it puts them at an especially high risk of cancer of the cervix or vagina. Approximately 2 million women per year become infected with HPV. One health professional quoted by Mary Eberstadt says this about HPV: “It has the dubious distinction of being one of the few causes of cancer we know about, and is directly responsible for 99.7 percent of cervical cancer cases and the deaths of nearly 5,000 women per year” (*Home-Alone America*).

Think about that. A thousand soldiers die in Iraq and the liberal media label it a “quagmire.” Five thousand women die *every year* because of cervical cancer brought on by the human papillomavirus, and we hear practically nothing.

The media blackout on the subject of STDs—particularly their rampant spread among teens—is inexcusable. For many teens, STDs mean you have sores that can be treated with a cream. In fact, STDs kill people by the thousands every year. And even if not deadly, others can cause life-long complications like infertility, complications with childbirth and birth defects.



PHOTODISC

FAMILY

Rearing Charm

ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN in etiquette classes is thriving across America. Clubs, restaurants, malls, hotels, schools and even department stores are stepping up to meet the increasing demand from parents to teach children such basic protocol as how to greet people, use cutlery and sit up straight.

Educators attribute the boom in the charm business, which has just about quadrupled since 2000 in some areas, to a number of factors. First, the increasing number of busy parents who want well-behaved children but who don't have time to teach them. This has probably been the reason most expressed by parents enrolling their children.

Others say it's thanks to the "increasingly crass nature of so much pop culture" (Forbes.com, Aug. 10, 2004). Some parents are uncomfortable with the social influences of culture models like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera.

Then there's the fact that most families don't eat together, or else they eat in front of the television, which means that children's eating habits and conversational skills aren't getting the attention they need.

In many cases, parents themselves don't possess the social graces and knowledge they need to teach.

But perhaps one of the saddest factors in the

boom is that children are more responsive to outside instructors than to parents who *are* trying to teach them. According to the etiquette program director at the Plaza Hotel in New York, "The classes are effective because children are more apt to listen to an etiquette teacher than their parents" (*Christian Science Monitor*, January 25).

A child may leave school having learned to look someone in the eye when they are being spoken to, but that is nothing compared to the importance of being taught to honor their parents—something an etiquette course can't teach. These courses may be teaching children how to behave in public, but learning to be polite to *parents* in private can seem like the most difficult lesson to a child.

The trend highlights an even more foundational understanding needed in child rearing—that CHILDREN DON'T HAVE INSTINCTS. They must be taught, and that is *why* God provided parents. He intended that they create an instructive family environment. Habits that children don't learn at home they will learn from our corrupt culture—including whether it is normal and better to be rude or well-mannered.



DREAMSTIME



EYEWIRE

Mom Madness

JUDITH WARNER'S NEW book, *Perfect Madness*, pinpoints what the author believes need to change about society's demands on motherhood.

"I read that 70 percent of American moms say they find motherhood today 'incredibly stressful.' Thirty percent of mothers of young children reportedly suffer from depression," she wrote.

Warner uses her experience as a do-it-all career woman/mother to illustrate the overwhelming demands society puts on women. The choices, she says, are 1) pursue professional dreams and abandon the children into long hours of child care, or 2) stay at home and live in a state of virtual, crazy-making isolation "because you can't afford a nanny, because there is no such thing as part-time daycare, and because your husband doesn't come home until 8:30 at night."

Undoubtedly, full-time motherhood is a difficult job. To be done right, it requires education, boundless patience, resourcefulness, creativity, perseverance—and, above all, total commitment.

Nevertheless, it is eminently important. Its challenges should make it self-evident why a low-paid daycare worker can't be expected to measure up to the task.

Warner's solution to the problem is for the government to legislate measures intended to change society's accommodation of "the hardest job in the world."

Surely there are many solutions that wouldn't require government interference. Many of them stem from the attitude of the mother, who does, after all, need to be *taught* how to be effective and loving "keepers at home" (Titus 2:3-4).

One solution Warner failed to cite, though she brushed up against it, was calling on *fathers* to consider the demands motherhood places on their wives.

The *Trumpet* has always endorsed the woman fulfilling her God-given role in the home. This role is much harder when the father is not involved with the children—playing with them, teaching them—or if he will not give his wife stimulating, adult conversation.

God's role for the father demands that he provide for his family—and not just by spending long hours at his job to meet the family's financial needs. What kind of home is he providing if his children never see him, and—perhaps more importantly—if Mom is never given a break?

If fathers would lead their families the way God intended from the beginning, mothers would be much less inclined to view their stay-at-home role as an unfulfilling life of seclusion.

SOCIETYWATCH is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the *Trumpet's* editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at **SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083**, or e-mail societywatch@theTrumpet.com. If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.



January's From the Editor piece, "Danger Stirs in Germany—Again," received quite a bit of response from the readership—much of it containing criticism that we are anti-German.

The editor of a German magazine in Canada said, "I have seen a lot of hate and antagonism, but very rarely have I seen an anti-German diatribe as vicious and hateful as your editorial." This editor promised to "check

with the appropriate authorities about the legality of your scribbling and the legal consequences here in Canada."

One reader brought the article, which he called "filth," to the attention of Angela Merkel herself, copying us in on his e-mail to her.

Our article largely quoted a report from the think-tank Stratfor Systems that stated the following: "Although Stratfor will not accuse Merkel of being a Nazi sympathizer, her statements at the conference are reminiscent of Hitler's." Is it libel to draw historical comparisons like that? We continue to watch Germany's rise to power. We watch for history to repeat itself. If a politician is making statements that are "reminiscent of Hitler's," this is worthy of reporting.

A number of readers had a different disagreement with our approach and asked a question that caught our attention.

One long-time reader asked, "Is being against multiculturalism making me a 'Nazi'? Consider that one of the principle causes of political strife and animosity in this country (the U.S.) is the forcing of multiculturalism down our throats via the Left's use of political correctness on our English culture, values and heritage. While I can look at another culture and probably figure out what they are doing, I cannot begin to equate their culture with ours, particularly when I see how their particular culture has produced nothing, and ours has, while not perfect, done far more than any other to raise standards and spread the gospel of Jesus. ... Does this make me a Nazi? I certainly don't think so, and I certainly cannot equate Angela Merkel's and Edmund Stoiber's opposition to multiculturalism in Germany, where they are being overrun with Muslims (their own fault, actually) the same way we are being overrun ... to making them Nazis either. What ... is wrong with trying to preserve one's nation's identity and cultural heritage in the face of an onslaught of Third World 'refugees' that neither share, respect, or care about

the host country ... I also cannot, ipso facto, condemn politicians in another country, faced with the same type of multicultural invasion we are, from having finally found a spine and standing up to the influences that have allowed, and continue to allow, multiculturalism to pervert the resident culture, unlike the spineless jellyfish we have in our federal government that refuse to enforce our immigration laws or defend our borders. ..."

To what extent multiculturalism is playing into the weakening of the U.S. is an interesting question. We do plan to explore this topic in a future issue. As far as whether opposing multiculturalism or immigration makes one a Nazi is an equally valid question.

Here's our answer. The *Trumpet's* stated purpose is to view all world events and social trends in light of Bible prophecy. That being said, we believe that God prophesied—millennia ago—that end-time Germany would lead Europe in plunging this world into a great world war. Therefore, we view every event and trend in Germany through those eyeglasses. One way we can do this and make these prophecies real to the readership is through pointing also to the cycle of history.

What we are proclaiming will happen in Germany has already happened in type under Hitler's regime. Even our editor in chief, in writing that piece, asked, "Why is all of this 'ominous'?" Reading about leading politicians in Germany who speak out against immigration and multiculturalism is ominous to mainstream Western thought for different reasons than it is ominous to us. We find it ominous, as our editor said, because, "Germany is rapidly shifting to the right wing politically. It is shifting toward policies 'reminiscent of Hitler's.'"

To what extent anti-multiculturalism and anti-immigration are right or wrong is not the issue. To what extent Stoiber's and Merkel's concerns are founded is not at play either. It's that history tells us that these sentiments, when found in Germany, are particularly *dangerous*. These sentiments, in the hands of this reader, would have a far different effect on the world than these views in the hands of a future dictator who has the power to *eliminate*—not just deport—these ethnic groups or religions.

We also talk warily about the rise of nationalism in Germany. This is not saying that we oppose patriotism or the feelings associated with admiring one's own homeland. But when we see it rising in a country where these sentiments were once key in wreaking havoc on the Western world—all the more falling in line with *God's prophecies*—we must speak out.

Where Was God?

I FULLY AGREE WITH THE VIEW OF Joel Hilliker and Mark Jenkins ("Where Was God?" February 2005). God is all-loving, all-merciful and our divine Father. But a father ought to punish his children when they disobey him. This is actually what happened. This world needs a better understanding of God, and until ignorance is dispelled we will continue to wail over such catastrophes.

Alok Dwivedi—ALLAHABAD, INDIA

Very interesting article. I once lived in Pasadena, California, and attended the church there. There were a lot of things we were not told. Thank you for this informative article.

John Frampton—ZIONSVILLE, IND.

A Nation Being Destroyed

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FEBRUARY 2005 magazine and read it with both interest and sadness. The kings of the north-south-east-west are lining up exactly as the Bible has predicted for several thousand years. Unfortunately for the U.S. and Great Britain, the future looks bleak. I served 24 years in the army, so the reality of the coming destruction of this nation is difficult

to accept. The stupidity and ignorance in the U.S. is staggering. The liberals have ruined the religious, political, educational, legal and moral values that built this nation. ... The U.S. will become the new Yugoslavia—broken apart by racial, religious, financial and personal beliefs. The Bible truths cannot come to pass until the political, military and economic power of this nation is destroyed, which, unfortunately, means a lot of what we hold dear to us will perish.

E-mail response

Breaking Ground

I JUST READ IN THE FEBRUARY *TRUMPET* about the beginning of the Philadelphia Church of God ("Breaking Ground").

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
Edmond, OK 73083

Freedom's March

What Iraq, and the whole world, can look forward to! BY STEPHEN FLURRY

HOW COULD ANYONE, EVEN THE MOST HARDENED cynic, *not* be moved by the spirit of brave Iraqis who risked their lives to cast a vote in their country's first free election in more than 50 years? "The victims of election day violence are being hailed by many Iraqis as the latest martyrs," Edward Wong wrote in the *New York Times* (February 2). "They were policemen who tried to stop suicide bombers from entering polling centers, children who walked with elderly parents to cast votes, or—in the case of [Naim Rahim] Yacoubi—a fishmonger who, after voting, took tea from his house to electoral workers at the school."

Islamic terrorists carried out their pre-election threat and murdered at least 50 Iraqis that day, but that didn't stop 58 percent of Iraq's registered voters from defiantly casting their ballots. (Voter turnout in America last November also hovered around 60 percent—and that with *no threat* of violence.) "At polling centers hit by explosions, survivors refused to go home, steadfastly waiting to cast their votes as policemen swept away bits of flesh" (ibid.). In the end, tens of thousands of Iraqis danced in the streets, wagging their ink-stained index fingers before cameras, celebrating their new birth of freedom.

We applaud their courage in the face of deadly danger. We admire their longsuffering and hope-filled patience after decades of abuse living under the boot of tyranny. And we acknowledge the tremendous benefit and blessing there is to living in a free and open society.

But while a free society is much to be preferred over despotism, the former has miserably failed to stop the spread of evil. In fact, as the *Trumpet* has often noted, our many "freedoms" are also responsible for promoting and distributing massive amounts of evil, like greed and pornography. We have also failed to stop, or even slow, the spread of violence and war, famine and disease, illiteracy, poverty, suffering or misery.

True freedom is much more than a world without Saddam Hussein. In the Bible, God represents freedom as the *absence of sin* (read all of Romans 6).

In today's world, however, it is sin—not freedom—that is on the march. As pessimistic as the Bible's *short-term* forecast might seem, it is, nevertheless, true: the worst is yet to come (2 Timothy 3:13).

A newly elected government in Iraq might make this temporal life more pleasant for the average Iraqi. But even if democracy were to spread to every nation on Earth, it would not solve the problems of this world. Democracy won't help educate half the people on Earth who are illiterate. It won't bring fresh water to 1.2 billion people who don't have it. It won't tighten the ever-widening gap between the rich and poor. It

won't even solve the problems facing a new and free society within Iraqi borders.

No man-made government will!

The only government capable of bringing this world lasting peace and prosperity—of spreading freedom to all corners of the Earth—is the perfect administration and rule of Jesus Christ and the saints of the Most High!

This is where Bible prophecy overflows with optimism! When Jesus returns—as He promised He would—the kingdoms and governments of this world will become His (Daniel 2:44; Revelation 11:15). He will then rule all peoples, in every nation, with compassion, justice, mercy—in perfect love and concern for the good and welfare of

humanity. At long last, the way of sin will be purged from the face of this Earth. All peoples will then be made free from sin and become servants of righteousness (Romans 6:18).

And yet, in stark contrast to the conditions put in place to establish a new government in Iraq, no human being on Earth will have a say in whether or not Christ should rule! He has already qualified for the position of world King. No one will vote Him into office. And no one will vote Him out—ever!

God's government, to be set up by Christ when He returns, will be a theocracy. Rule will be administered from the top down. But it will be nothing like Saddam's regime. In fact, it won't be like any government man has devised.

It will be God's government—for the people—but *not of or by* the people. If ever there was a government conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, as Abraham Lincoln once said, it will be this one: God's family government.

It's well worth sacrificing your life for it. ■

For more information about God's soon-coming, world government, request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What it Will Be Like*.



HOPING FOR A CHANGE

A jubilant Iraqi voter shows off her ink-stained finger after being fingerprinted in Iraq's first free elections.

GETTY IMAGES



The Key of David Television Listing

ONLINE www.KeyofDavid.com

UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 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 Ch. 255 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun; WWOR Chan. 238 9:30 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Northeast cable WWOR 9:30 am ET, Sun
Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri
Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 7:00 am, Fri
California, Los Angeles KDOC 9:30 am, Sun; KPXX 6:00 am, Fri
California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri
Colorado, Denver KPXC 7:00 am, Fri
Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Atlanta WGCL 7:00 am, Sun; WPXA 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Hawaii, Honolulu KPXO 4:00 am, Fri
Hawaii, Oahu Chan. 52 7:30 am, Sat
Hawaii, Maui/Molokai/Lanai Akaku Chan. 52 10:00 pm, Sun; 7:30 am, Mon
Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri
Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri
Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri
Kentucky, Louisville WBNA 6:00 am, Fri
Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Buffalo WGRZ 6:30 am, Sun; WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri

New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Asheville WASV 10:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville-Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Raleigh-Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOCB 9:00 am, Sun; KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Portland KPDX 8:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPHL 9:00 am, Sun; WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Wilkes-Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Greenville WASV 10:00 am, Sun
South Carolina, Spartanburg WASV 10:00 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Dallas KDFI 10:30 am, Sun; KPDX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri; KRIV 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Tyler KYTX 5:30 am, Sat; 7:00 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 7:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, D.C. WBDC 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle KTWB 9:30 am, Sun; KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 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
Ontario WGRZ 6:30 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
Argentina WWOR 10:30 am Sun
Brazil WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Chile WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
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; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Venezuela WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 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
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Grenada CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Grenada Meaningful TV 7:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun; WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Tobago CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Trinidad CCN 7:30 am, Sun

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 7:30 pm, Wed
United Kingdom Reality TV 6:00 am; Sun BSkyB ch. 187; NTL ch. 909; Telewest ch. 146

AFRICA/ASIA

Philippines nationwide Studio 23 8:30 am, Sun
South Africa CSN 6:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
Adelaide, South Australia Chan. 31 11:30, Sun
Perth, Western Australia Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun
Tasmania Southern Cross TV 5:00 am, Sun
New Zealand nationwide TV3 6:00 am, Fri

The Philadelphia Trumpet Literature Request Information

ONLINE www.theTrumpet.com

E-MAIL Literature requests request@theTrumpet.com
Letters and other correspondence letters@theTrumpet.com

PHONE United States and Canada 1-800-772-8577
Australia 1-800-22-333-0 New Zealand 0-800-500-512

Or WRITE to the mailing address of the regional office nearest you.
Addresses are listed inside the front cover of this magazine.

LITERATURE OFFERED THIS ISSUE

- Daniel—Unsealed at Last!
- The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
- Germany and the Holy Roman Empire
- Imperial College Bible Correspondence Course
- Jerusalem in Prophecy
- The King of the South
- Repentance Toward God
- Russia and China in Prophecy
- The Rising Beast
- The Wonderful World Tomorrow

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

For a FREE subscription, call
1-800-772-8577