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*Energy
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Future?*

THE PHILADELPHIA

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TRUMPET

IN THE BAG

Iran recruits partners
for its terror network



Rebels roll through the Libyan capital of Tripoli after ousting Muammar Qadhafi's regime.



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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

Egypt and Libya to Join Iran's Terror Network

The West still doesn't understand how Iran rules the Middle East.

IRAN, THE NUMBER ONE STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM BY far, has bludgeoned its way into controlling Lebanon and Gaza, and has become the backbone of Syrian terrorism. Iran also bombed and butchered its way into the dominant role in Iraq and Afghanistan (after America thought it had won those wars), and now is empowering the Muslim Brotherhood terrorists to get control of Egypt.

Now America and the West have paved the way for *another* Iranian victory in Libya. We are rejoicing about the overthrow of Libya's Muammar Qadhafi, while we should be mourning. Libyan chaos is now the ideal setting for Iran to bring that nation into its deadly terrorist web. The government that replaces Qadhafi will be a thousand times worse.

And you can prove this is going to happen! (More on that later.)

Egypt's Revolutionary Change

Egypt is rapidly moving into the Iranian camp. That means Egypt, which borders Libya, will now help bring that nation into Iran's terror network.

Already violence has broken out between Israel and Egypt—after 30 years of peace. Why the big change since President Hosni Mubarak resigned due to massive protests? That is a subject the mainstream media does *not* like to discuss.

The Muslim Brotherhood has joined forces with the powerful Egyptian military. It clearly is the dominant force inside Egypt, and is getting more control daily.

That means Egypt is in for a radical change, which we have been prophesying for 20 years.

President Mubarak obviously made some crucial mistakes, but let's not forget what he did. He kept peace with Israel for 30 years. He fought with America in its war against terror.

Here is what Stephen Flurry wrote in the April *Trumpet* magazine: "Four days after Mubarak's resignation, *Der Spiegel* published an exposé on Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the 'father figure' of the Muslim Brotherhood. Back in 2002, the Brotherhood asked Qaradawi to be its leader, but he turned down the offer because of its *limitations*. He wanted to concentrate instead on mobilizing a 'United Muslim Nations.'

"The charismatic Qaradawi, an Egyptian by birth, is one of the most popular Muslim clerics in the Middle East. He's written at least 100 books, and his weekly television program is viewed by 60 million Muslims on Al-Jazeera. HE HATES JEWS AND HAS ASKED ALLAH TO KILL 'EVERY LAST ONE' OF THEM" (emphasis added throughout).

There is absolutely no reason to believe the Muslim

Brotherhood will ever help bring peace to the Middle East. And now, it is positioned to gain even more power. As the *Jerusalem Post* wrote in an August 29 editorial, with elections in Egypt drawing near, the Brotherhood "is seizing the political momentum. The intensely disciplined Islamist group is Egypt's most cohesive political movement, and the largest organization apart from the Egyptian military itself."

President Mubarak obviously made some crucial mistakes, and both U.S. political parties have made serious errors in the Middle East. But let's not forget what Mubarak did. He fought as an ally of the United States against what he called the Iranian "cancer." He kept a lid on the violent Muslim Brotherhood, which killed Anwar Sadat, Mubarak's predecessor. He kept peace with Israel for 30 years. He fought with America in its war against terror. And one more extremely important point, Mubarak fought against Iran getting the nuclear bomb, which it could get as early as next year.

No Arab country in the Middle East has done more to befriend America!

President Mubarak was severely warning U.S. diplomats about the Iranian "cancer" spreading throughout the Middle East in 2009. Not only did our government *not* heed the warning, but at the same time, President Obama was meeting with the Muslim Brotherhood in the White House!

THAT INFORMATION SHOULD SEND SHIVERS THROUGH THE BODY OF ANY AMERICAN WHO UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE MIDDLE EAST!

"WITH THE UPHEAVAL IN EGYPT, THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL MIDDLE EAST PEACE TREATY IS IN JEOPARDY," William L. Gensert wrote in *American Thinker*. "The Egyptian border crossing into Gaza is now open and Hamas is very happy; it's so much easier getting weapons without the prying eyes of the Israelis. Iranian warships, banned since 1979, have been allowed to transverse the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean. ... EGYPT, ONCE CONSIDERED A STRONG AMERICAN ALLY, IS NOW DRIFTING WITHIN THE IRANIAN ORBIT. ...

"For years, Iran has been an ardent supplier of arms in Afghanistan to al Qaeda and the Taliban. Weapons and bombs supplied by Iran were used to kill American soldiers, yet our president says nothing" (August 14).

The end result is going to be that we exchanged Mubarak and "the *only* successful Middle East peace treaty" for the Muslim Brotherhood—allied with Iran.

In spite of Mubarak's positive fruits, the present U.S. administration set out to humiliate him publicly from the beginning, and it supported dissenters in Egypt. Only a rebuke from Saudi Arabia slowed our government's tactics.

The American government said NOTHING to support many thousands (some say millions) of dissenters in the summer of 2009 when they marched against Iranian leaders who stole their election!

President Obama excused American neutrality by saying, "It's not productive, given the history of U.S.-Iranian relations, to be seen as meddling."



February is TRANSFORMING the three-decade-old relationship between Egypt and Israel that HAS BEEN THE CORNERSTONE OF MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS.”

This newspaper is right in saying that the 30-year relationship between Israel and Egypt has been “the CORNERSTONE of Middle Eastern politics” (not just between those two nations). The cornerstone means the basic element or foundation of Middle East politics. That means when this relationship unravels, the foundation of Middle East politics unravels!

That is no small problem because Iran is reaping most of the benefits.

The *New York Times* sees this crisis as “the sharpest signal yet” that the revolution in Egypt is “transforming” the peaceful relationship between Israel and Egypt into an Israeli nightmare!

But it’s much worse than that. It shows that Egypt is already allying itself with Iran in its bloody terrorist war.

THIS HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CAUSE THE MIDDLE EAST TO EXPLODE AND DRAG ALL THE EARTH’S INHABITANTS INTO WORLD WAR III!

President Obama even claimed some of the credit for Mubarak’s expulsion. “What we’ve seen so far is positive,” President Obama insisted at a press conference a few days after Mubarak resigned. “I think history will end up recording that at every juncture in the situation in Egypt that we were on the right side of history.”

On the right side of history?

Historians could think that America actually supported worldwide terrorism and nurtured nuclear war!

There should be no doubt that Iran is going to start a war. That is why its getting nuclear weapons is such a critical issue.

MORE THAN ANY OTHER NATION, AMERICA HAS HELPED THE TERRORISTS SUCCEED!

It also took the U.S. government five months before it condemned Bashar al-Assad’s oppressing and killing many of his own people (with Iran’s help). Syria is the second-largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world—after Iran!

Future historians could think we were allies of Iran and Syria and the enemy of Egypt!

Violence Against Israel

After Palestinian militants recently organized an ambush attack on Israel that left eight Israelis dead, Israel retaliated with air strikes targeting the Gaza area.

The terrorist attack was carried out by a Palestinian faction based in Gaza, but was *launched from Egyptian territory*. In the midst of the attack, three Egyptian security officers were accidentally killed, for which Egypt blames Israel.

In response, Egypt threatened to remove its ambassador from Tel Aviv, prompting Israel to issue a rare public statement of regret over the killings. Once again, Israel is now under fire as a result of what started as *an attack against it*, planned by Palestinian militants and facilitated by access to the Sinai, an area Egypt has failed to keep properly under control for months.

The *New York Times* wrote in its August 20 edition, “The crisis has been THE SHARPEST SIGNAL YET that the revolution that toppled President Hosni Mubarak in

The *New York Times* article had this headline in that August 20 edition: “Nations Race to Defuse Crisis Between Egypt and Israel.” *Nations race* to help solve this problem because they know how deadly the potential is for the entire Middle East to explode.

There have also been five bombings of an Egyptian pipeline, which delivers vitally important natural gas to Israel. All of the bombings have happened since the revolution began in Egypt. That is another “sharp signal” that this part of the “Arab Spring” has already produced some bitter terrorist storms!

And this is only the beginning of sorrows!

Before he left office, Hosni Mubarak had this to say: “They [the dissenters] may be talking about democracy, but the result will be extremism and radical Islam.”

HOW PRECISELY PROPHETIC THAT STATEMENT WAS. But we dared not listen to *Dictator* Mubarak.

He spent his whole 30-year reign suppressing radical Islam in his own country. So he should understand this better than any man alive!

We loosely throw around the words “Mubarak the Dictator.” But look at what the man did—examine the fruits of his reign. He had to be a strong leader. It was the only way he could prevent the Muslim Brotherhood from violently taking over!

How little we understood Mubarak’s Egypt. This world is going to pay a bloody price because of America’s incomprehensible ignorance and lack of real leadership.

Libya’s Fate

Libya today is in total chaos. Reports say there are al Qaeda fighters there along with Hezbollah terrorists and even some militants from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Another report said that about 20 percent of the suicide bombers in Iraq came from Darnah, a city in eastern Libya.

NATO knows almost nothing about who these dissenters are and who will rise to power. But always lurking in the background is an oil-rich Iran with the will to send some of its leading warriors into Libya. Still, NATO wants to just bomb Libya and go

After Qadhafi—What Next?

THANKS LARGELY to Western brawn, Libyan strongman Muammar Qadhafi is gone. There was plenty that was ugly about him, but in his own unique way, he was a bulwark against Iran and its extremist Islamic proxies. Now Libya is a sitting duck.

The West thinks the battle for Libya is now over. In reality, the battle has only started—and *already Iran and radical Islam have the upper hand.*

Iran has *already* developed a cozy working relationship with those who will make up Libya's new government. On August 28, Iranian Foreign Minister Alu Akbar Salehi told *Jam-e-Jam* newspaper that Tehran had been supporting the rebels in Libya. He stated that the head of Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC), Mustafa Abdel Jalil, "sent a letter of thanks to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for having been on their side and helping."

When the rebels penetrated Tripoli at the end of August, Iran sent a note congratulating the NTC and encouraging it to "prevent foreigners, especially yesterday's oppressors and those which have claims today, from meddling with their fate."

A report released by a French commission of inquiry in May indicated that Islamic terrorists had deeply infiltrated the Libyan rebels, playing a *predominant role* in the movement. It revealed that the NTC is comprised of four factions: "true

democrats"—a minority; Islamic extremists seeking to establish an Islamic state; partisans of a restoration of the monarchy that was overthrown by Qadhafi in 1969, many of whom are also Islamists; and former figures in the Qadhafi regime who defected for various reasons. And though the NTC president is a "traditionalist," the report said, he's "supported by the Islamists."

Middle East expert Daniel Pipes explained, "The NATO intervention [in Libya] in March 2011 was done without due diligence as to who it is in Benghazi that it was helping. ... *Chances are good that Islamist forces are hiding behind more benign elements, waiting for the right moment to pounce ... I fear that a dead-end despotism will be replaced by the agents of a worldwide ideological movement. I fear that Western forces will have brought civilization's worst enemies to power*" (emphasis added throughout).

Historian Victor Davis Hanson is also worried. One of two scenarios is likely, he says: "either a sort of on-again-off-again chaos until a military-backed clique or strongman emerges and the same old cycle resumes, or some sort of *constitutional system in a decidedly Islamic context ...*"



If Libya falls under the influence of Islam, warned Hanson, "we could expect the new state's foreign policy to be anti-Western, friendly to China and Russia, virulently and actively anti-Israel, and *more accommodating with Iran and its subsidized terrorist appendages.*"

As rebel forces entered Tripoli, a draft copy of Libya's new constitution surfaced on the Internet. The document is filled with terms that thrill Western liberals—"democracy," "freedom," "equality," "rule of law" and "equal opportunity." Less emphasized, however, is Article 1, which establishes sharia as the supreme law of the land. "Islam is the religion of the state, and the principle source of legislation is Islamic jurisprudence (sharia)," it states. Thus, any "freedom," "democracy" and "equality" in the new Libya would be subject to sharia, which among other things mandates killing infidels and establishing a global Islamic caliphate!

This situation will likely get messy; several nations want a stake in this oil-rich country. In the end, though, Libya will pitch its tent in Iran's camp. Ideologically, it is more closely aligned with Iran than either Europe or China. More importantly, Bible prophecy says Libya will fall to radical Islamists! You can read it in Daniel 11:40-45: There Libya is mentioned by name, and it is aligned with the "king of the south"—Iran and radical Islam.

With Qadhafi gone, Libya's slide into the radical Islamic camp will only accelerate.

BRAD MACDONALD

home. This makes Iran's bloody work much easier!

That nation has the proven will to do whatever is required to win. The only thing the U.S. has left is a broken will. Nobody at this stage has the will to stand up to Iran. (Request our booklet *The King of the South*. All of our literature is free.)

The King of the North

The king of the south, Iran, is about to clash with the king of the north, a European Holy Roman Empire. The book of Daniel was written *only* for this end time (Daniel 12:4, 9).

"And at the time of the end shall the king of the south [Iran] push at him: and the king of the north [the Holy Roman Empire] shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land [Jerusalem], and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of *Egypt* shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the *Libyans* and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps" (Daniel 11:40-43). The Moffatt translation states that "at his steps" means *following in his train!* Egypt is not going to escape the king of the north because it is allied with Iran. The same applies to Libya and Ethiopia (which will probably be the next Middle East explosion, which Iran is going to exploit).

Libya was the world's 12th-biggest producer of oil before the uprising began in February. It provided 1.4 million barrels a day to Europe—Italy, Germany and Spain.

That means crisis in Libya causes a certain panic in Europe.

The Europeans know that Iran could get enough control in Libya to use the oil as a weapon against them. Also, Libya is in a very strategic location on the Mediterranean Sea, through which the Middle East oil flows.

Iran knows how much more clout an oil-rich country can add to its power in the Middle East.

We have warned since 1992 about Iran getting some control of the oil in Iraq. Now Iran has the greatest influence in Iraq of any country.

Here is what a writer recently wrote in the *Guardian* newspaper of Britain: "If the risings succeed in deposing the latest round of tyrants, but violent, illiberal Islamist forces gain the upper hand in some of those countries, PRODUCING SO MANY NEW IRANS, then heaven help us all. Such are the stakes. If that does not add up to a vital European interest, I don't know what does" (February 2).

All of these events are going to cause the European Union member nations to go from 27 kings to 10, so they can become a united and aggressive superpower (Revelation 17:12-13). Then Europe will clash with Iran and win. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

These terrifying events lead to the most exciting event ever to occur on this Earth or in the universe: the return of Jesus Christ (read Daniel 12). He must return or there would not be one man, woman or child left alive (Matthew 24:21-22).

What a magnificent future we have awaiting us. But before that happens, we are going to experience the greatest suffering ever on Earth. ■

Related article: "Arab Spring Leading to Israel's Fall?," page 25

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THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

Are Minivan-Size Suns the Energy of the Future?

A world powered by dazzling, clean, limitless energy technology: It's not science fiction—it's our science future.

BY ROBERT MORLEY

IF YOU WERE GOD FOR A DAY, WHAT kind of energy would you choose to power civilization?

Looking at the planet God created, the choices currently being exploited seem few and largely unappealing. Oil, natural gas, coal: These provide an enormous amount of energy, but are terribly polluting and non-renewable: finite—here today, gone forever. Already the world is confronted with “peak oil”: On both an absolute and per capita basis, the amount of oil to run the world's economy is declining. Global recession has reduced oil demand over the past three years, thus temporarily avoiding the effects of \$5-per-gallon gasoline—and \$5-per-loaf bread. But our reliance on a finite resource to power a growing society is obviously problematic and unsustainable. We are approaching a crisis point. Demand is outpacing supply, and some scientists say a crisis is coming sooner than we think—or that it has already begun.

Thus, many people are looking to renewable energy sources to stave off economic and

societal collapse. But they face an incredible challenge.

As Peter Haug, secretary general of the European Nuclear Society, pointed out years ago, most experts agree that technical limitations prevent renewable energies like wind, solar, hydrothermal and geothermal power from ever providing more than 15 to 20 percent of the world's energy needs.

The best rivers and lakes are already dammed. Windmills are becoming more efficient, but still struggle to produce electricity at rates comparable to fossil fuels. Solar technologies are capturing, concentrating and storing ever more of the sun's energy; economies of scale are kicking in and costs are coming down—but still, solar doesn't come close to the return on energy investment of coal or natural gas.

The green revolution is a dud so far—even from an economic perspective. As the *Los Angeles Times* recently said, “The ‘greening’ of the country, including the creation of green jobs, has proved unworkable and expensive.” Even the *New York Times* admits that government records show the effort to stimulate green

jobs has “largely failed.”

But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try. The world desperately needs a source of clean, abundant, inexpensive energy.

If it could find one, it would revolutionize the lives of everyone on the planet.

So what *would* you do to solve the world's energy problem? Instead of asking yourself what *you* would do if you were God, why not consider what God *did* do?

A Source of Limitless Power

Put on some sunglasses. And look up.

Harnessing the power of the sun, the energy of the stars themselves, has been a goal of both scientists and dreamers for centuries. And today we are scratching a little deeper than the surface, with huge advances being made in a field of physics, developments once thought to be closer to science fiction than science.

But what if instead of just harvesting the rays of the sun that make it to the surface of the Earth, the physics behind the sun's incredible energy output could be *replicated* here? What if scientists could imitate the sun fusion process and cause

It is dazzling to think about what the world would be like with virtually unlimited amounts of inexpensive, nonpolluting energy.

two hydrogen nuclei to combine together to create helium, giving off colossal amounts of heat energy in the process?

Scientists are already doing it—albeit on a much smaller scale, and for very short periods of time.

The lure of commercially viable nuclear fusion power generation is compelling. It produces zero “greenhouse gasses.” No radioactive waste is produced. There is no chance of a catastrophic Fukushima-type meltdown. It is a *million times more efficient* than today’s nuclear power plants—and a *trillion times more efficient than fossil fuels*.

Best of all, the hydrogen needed to power this reaction can be obtained from the oceans—the largest geographical feature on the planet.

Commercial fusion has some governments and private investors salivating. When professors Stephen Hawking and Brian Cox were asked to name the most pressing scientific challenge facing humanity, they both gave the same answer: producing electricity from fusion energy. The prize? A source of clean, inexpensive, limitless energy to power human development for centuries.

Now—there *is* a catch, and it is a big one. Replicating what happens in the heart of a star isn’t an easy task. Governments have spent billions trying to do it, and the best they can show for it is the ability to produce and sustain 16 million watts of energy output—for *one second*.

Racing Toward Solutions

Producing energy for a second may not sound like much, but consider that back in the 1970s the best that could be achieved was one tenth of a watt, produced for a fraction of a second. That is a billion-fold increase, notes the *New York Times*. So we are definitely heading rapidly in the right direction.

While the physics of nuclear fusion is well understood, the engineering requirements to control the process are very challenging. For example, how do you handle the gas-like hydrogen plasma formed by the colliding hydrogen nuclei when it routinely reaches *150 million degrees centigrade*? It literally melts away anything it touches.

But advances in technology are now close to overcoming this problem. Some scientists are using advanced magnets

to suspend the almost unfathomably hot plasma in mid-air, so it touches nothing; these magnets even enable them to deftly manipulate the stuff. Other scientists are using lasers to control how many hydrogen atoms are allowed to fuse, vastly lowering temperatures.

Challenges remain, but a race is on. The ability to build minivan-size suns able to supply the energy needs of whole countries for millennia holds the potential



POWER GENERATOR The sun produces enough energy in one second to power the world’s current needs for a million years.

to change the world forever. If used properly, this alone could virtually eliminate poverty. Imagine each nation being energy self-sufficient, not polluting, not reliant on imported oil, not gifting enormous cash flow and disproportionate influence to despotic regimes. It would be a radically different world. It is a worthy dream.

It is an aspiration that the European Union, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States have all teamed up to work toward. The goal is a working fusion power plant prototype by 2020.

“Now some people are cynical about that,” says Michio Kaku, professor of theoretical physics at City College of New York. “They say, ‘Hey, give me a break. We’ve been there. We’ve heard the claims. Every 20 years they say that fusion is 20 years from now. Twenty years come, and we’re still no closer to fusion.’ There is a difference. This time we physicists think that we have the technical problems licked.”

The prize is enormous: The sun

produces enough energy in one second to power the world’s current needs for a million years.

A Brilliant Future

This is not to say that other clean energy technologies will not be part of the future. Geothermal energy, for example, seems to hold a lot of potential. Wind and hydro-power may have roles too. Only God knows exactly what type of exciting, undiscovered, clean energy sources, the future holds.

But rest assured, the Creator of the material universe has locked within it an enormous amount of energy, and once His Kingdom is set up on Earth, mankind will be given the opportunity to unlock and harness it.

It is dazzling to think about what the world would be like with virtually unlimited amounts of inexpensive, nonpolluting energy.

The Bible describes a future when the world will not face energy shortages. This thousand-year period, described in Isaiah 11 and Micah 4, commonly referred to as the Millennium, is described as a time of peace and abundant prosperity. It is a period in which God will directly help mankind solve its problems.

This utopian time, depicted in Zephaniah, will also be a time of one language. Scientists will then be able to truly collaborate on blazing, Earth-changing advancements. And it will be a time of cooperation, not competition. As physicists from each nation understand and implement God’s physical laws, these awesome advancements will be shared with all.

Scientific understanding will be illuminated like never before. “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9).

Look forward to that dazzling day. Glittering cities with light to spare; zero-pollution, high-speed transportation systems; clean, powerful industries—and who knows what else we might achieve, living in accordance with God’s awesome laws? Stay hopeful. That incandescently happy time is coming soon. ■

Blood in the Streets

Understand the significance of the shocking violence hitting Britain and America.

BY PHILIP NICE

"A MERICA, BRITAIN and Israel have a terrible problem on their hands: violence. Violence from domestic troubles like race riots—violence from terrorist attacks. Many people have been affected by this scourge in these countries. I believe they are much more likely to recognize the seriousness of this issue. If you have not been personally affected, it is easy to want to pass such problems off as isolated incidents. In this chapter, I will show you that this violence is a MUCH more serious danger than most people would ever imagine!"

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote those timely words—in 2002. That was years before London burned and sporadic mobs pillaged American cities in the summer of 2011. And even years before race became a more openly divisive issue in the 2008 U.S. presidential elections.

His first edition of the same booklet strongly emphasized the racial riots in Los Angeles with a bold "L.A. Riots—Only the Beginning!" chapter that proclaimed, "As the economy grows worse, or is under siege, the rioters are going to burn more and more...." That was written in 1992. Mr. Flurry understood then that this seemingly isolated problem was widespread and bound to grow.

When you measure foresight like that in terms of decades, not 24-hour news cycles, it is worthwhile to ask, *how did he know?*

Back then, such violence seemed limited, isolated—a 100-year storm, if you will. Nations like the United States and Britain were civilized and wealthy and largely seen as post-racial.

But there was something ugly under the surface. Something less isolated and more dangerous than most of us thought. And someday it could erupt.

That Day Is Here

Racial tension is ingrained in American history, and it is part of a bigger unsolved



BARBARIC CIVILIZATION

The burning of shops like these on Tottenham High Road actually links to biblical prophecies thousands of years old.

problem that is getting very ugly, very fast. We do not know how to rule ourselves—or even preserve a stable society. The past year has introduced us to some brazen examples of this: Flash-mob robberies, anarchist-style beatings and vandalism have broken out in cities across the country.

In December, dozens of African-American teens at a Florida movie theater were thrown out by management after another moviegoer told them to stop making noise and talking on their phones during the show. But the throng waited until the man and his wife came out to the parking lot, then battered both of them and even hit police officers who arrived on the scene. Frederico Freire, a marine, had just arrived back in town from a tour in Iraq; the couple were on their first date together since he left.

In February, as many as 50 young



people in St. Paul, Minnesota, swarmed into a convenience store, assaulted a clerk, and then looted the store. It was the second time in four months that this had happened in the city.

In April, another mob of about 20 descended on a clothing store in Washington, D.C., and quickly grabbed about \$20,000 worth of merchandise before fleeing in every direction.

In May, a group of New York teenagers used social media to coordinate an attack on a restaurant, showing up in broad daylight and just ransacking the place unprovoked, kicking over tables, flinging chairs at employees and destroying equipment. Then they grabbed some food and drink and left as abruptly as they had arrived.

Chicago has also had several recent incidents of hoodlums attacking people

unprovoked. The mayhem has been so bad that tourists have been told to avoid the Magnificent Mile, Michigan Avenue's premiere shopping and dining district. In spite of budgets and forces being stretched thin, additional police have been called in to Chicago, and some lawmakers have considered deploying the Illinois National Guard.

During a Fourth of July celebration in Milwaukee's Kilbourn Reservoir Park, some 60 young African-Americans beat and robbed a smaller group who had been watching fireworks. One of the victims remembers being punched in the face before having her debit card and cell phone stolen. "They just said 'Oh, white girl bleeds a lot,'" she recalled. There is evidence that the same mob had just come from rushing into one or possibly two nearby convenience stores and gleefully stealing

everything they could carry as security cameras and shocked paying customers looked on.

In August, Kansas City finally responded to its own ongoing plague: huge crowds of unsupervised teens and children as young as 7 roaming the streets until long after midnight and intimidating visitors in its upscale plaza district. City government finally slapped a 9 p.m. curfew on the kids after the mayor toured the area to see if it was as bad as people said, and shots were fired about 50 yards away, wounding a 16-year-old, a 15-year-old and a 13-year-old.

The worst race riot in Wisconsin history occurred on August 4 during the opening night of the Wisconsin State Fair. As darkness fell over the fairgrounds, hundreds of black youths swarmed into the parking

lot, seeking out Caucasian fairgoers and assaulting them, smashing car windows, throwing rocks and beating passersby with whatever blunt instruments were available. An Iraq war veteran compared the scene to a combat zone. The teens even attacked the few police officers who were on site.

This trend was also encapsulated in “the city of brotherly love,” which has been plagued by mobs of lower-income teens meeting at predetermined locations to rampage through the streets and cause mayhem. In late July, 20 to 30 youths descended on Philadelphia’s Center City after dark to beat and rob bystanders. One man was knocked to the ground and savagely kicked, his skull fractured. In August, after two years of the barbarity, Mayor Michael A. Nutter imposed a curfew on all minors and delivered a blunt message to fellow African-American parents and a stinging rebuke to their out-of-control children, saying they had damaged the reputation of their own race (article, page 33).

Many of these chaotic attacks occurred in the most upscale parts of America’s greatest cities. Some occurred in broad daylight, most were perpetrated by youths who were not so poor that they couldn’t afford smart phones to coordinate the mayhem, and almost all were shockingly senseless.

The Burning of London

Across the Atlantic lies a world city among world cities, once capital of a great empire, center of finance and culture, and a model for civility. It also happens to be scheduled to host the 2012 Summer Olympics in less than a year. But right now, London is synonymous with something else altogether.

On August 4, police officers in the Tottenham neighborhood shot and killed a known suspect who was apparently armed. A group subsequently responded to the death of Mark Duggan, who was black, with a peaceful march to the police station to protest the shooting. But this soon gave way to vicious mobs of young people “demanding justice” L.A. 1992-style, by smashing windows, torching businesses and homes, fighting police, stealing merchandise, assaulting citizens and even murdering people.

Soon looters and their victims included all different ethnicities. It was no longer about anger or justice—it was about getting in and out through a smashed window with a tv. An entire class of people had figured out that if they went wild, only a few of them could be stopped. And if they could coordinate using smart phones and social media, they could really do some damage before calling it a night.



SAVAGES IN SPORTSWEAR

Youths casually walk off after stealing electronics from a store in Birmingham.

Police were hesitant to respond. Commentator David Green pointed out, “[T]he police have been hyper-sensitive about race. This attitude has now become so paradoxical that they find themselves standing aside when members of ethnic minorities are being harmed. The people who ran shops, or who lived in the flats above, were not given the protection they deserved.”

After quoting some of the awkward guidelines given to police, he wrote, “In this kind of atmosphere, it’s not surprising that officers in charge of a riot think it safer to wait for orders from the top rather than use their discretion to protect the public without fear or favor.”

Authorities feared that a strong response would ignite more riots. Yet more riots ignited. Britain’s cities were officially out of control: Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester and about 10 other urban centers. By the end of it, 16 people had been injured and five people had been murdered, including a 68-year-old man whose only offense was trying to stamp out an arsonist’s fire that had been set in a trash bin. The outburst of senselessness also cost hundreds of millions of pounds’ worth of damage to a national economy already over the edge.

And the chaos came while times are still good, meals are still easy to come by, and store shelves are still full (of things to loot, apparently). Rampaging British and American youths live in the largest welfare states in the history of the world. So what horror will we see when our economies totter over?

The Minds of Rioters

What goes through the minds of people who self-destruct their own cities? The answer to that question begins to reveal how, two decades ago, our editor in chief

so accurately forecast what was to come.

Images of boys as young as 8 smashing windows and stealing trainers and televisions illustrated where this problem is rooted: at home. Why does a young person roam the streets and beat people and take their things and throw a firebomb through someone’s front door just because it happens to be on the way to an electronics store they want to rob? Why do kids do horrendous things for “fun”?

Rioters are not born. Like everyone else, they begin as precious children, not knowing anything unless they are taught it. But what happens when those wonderful minds are wounded by neglect and hatred, dysfunction and lawlessness year after year after year? What happens when they receive little education about life or anything else inside or outside the home? Our divisive, chaotic lives at home eventually spill into the streets.

Britain and America’s violent vandals have simply *not been taught* how to live.

This is a major key Mr. Flurry used to forecast events like those we are seeing today. And it is written in one the oldest books in print. Isaiah 3 specifically says that our families would be turned upside down and fall apart because we would ignore how family is designed to work. In turn, disintegrating families would lead to a disintegrating nation. As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “a solid family structure is the foundational bulwark of any stable and permanent society”

Mr. Armstrong taught, and Mr. Flurry teaches, that dismantling our families eventually leads to national destruction. More than one Londoner would tend to agree. Mr. Flurry has also written, based on clear biblical doctrine, that human nature is not naturally good but evil: selfish,

prejudiced, jealous, envious, competitive, vain, lustful, greedy, resentful and violent.

Haven't we seen this insight proved right in 2011? This senseless destruction has revealed that our notionally civilized societies are much, much closer to primitive madness than we like to think. We have not advanced so far as we thought. Our human nature is not as "basically good" as we thought. We are capable of horrendous things so long as a police officer is not standing nearby—and sometimes, even if he is.

We actually have to start asking ourselves whether we can even maintain cooperative, self-governed societies. As one horrified onlooker said, "[T]he main reason you are not attacked on the street, shops are not constantly looted and burnt down, and we all don't take things that don't belong to us is because someone, when we were little, taught us the difference between right and wrong."

But that has changed in Britain and America, hasn't it?

Our leaders of government, education and culture have consistently, systematically torn down those former absolutes. *Husband and wife are bound together for life, fathers should lead their families, laws must be obeyed no matter what, you should work hard in school, criminals should be punished*—these are the virtues we thought we were too smart, too advanced for. And now, parts of England look like Libyan war zones.

Isaiah 3 also predicted this. God said there that mighty, judicious, prudent, wise leaders would be removed. "And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable" (verses 4-5). Doesn't this sound familiar?

We have deliberately chosen to be godless, deceitful, sinful and covetous, and to reject any thought of God and any inkling of God's law. And how is that turning out? Would you rather live in a place where those virtues, based on God's spiritual law, the Ten Commandments, are kept, or would you rather live in Tottenham?

It is a hard truth, but what American and British youths are doing is exactly what they have been taught: There is no such thing as good or evil, no sin or righteousness, God is a myth, resent authority, do what you feel is right, there are no real consequences. Like coddling parents, our governments have torn down virtues and even absolutes rather than upholding them. Britain's limp response to the

people burning its capital city is an iconic example.

We are stuck with the society our leaders have created, but can we still hope that our politicians and educators will learn the lesson and sort this all out? Committees are looking into it. More unaffordable, ineffective government social programs are on the way. You know that will be the answer. Addressing human nature? Defining good and evil? Turning to God? Out of the question.

It Is in the Bible

But there is an even more specific reason why Mr. Flurry so accurately forecast such violence in our cities. It goes beyond the tendencies of human nature. Believe it or not, the violence of 2011 Tottenham was written about by Ezekiel in the fifth century B.C. Here is what he wrote about the cities of America, Britain and Israel:

"A third part of thee shall die with the *pestilence*, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them" (Ezekiel 5:12).

The booklet in which Mr. Flurry discussed these matters as far back as 1992 is called *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*. In it he wrote, "Notice that *pestilence* is mentioned first. In the past, we thought the pestilence would be disease resulting from the famine. In this case, the pestilence is actually the leading cause of the famine!

"The word *pestilence* just means destruction or death. ... So this pestilence could be a plague of violence or burning ..." Mr. Flurry defines this burning and violence in our nations as similar to the 1992 Los Angeles riots, as well as the impact of even worse mayhem: terrorism.

"The Los Angeles rioting is JUST A TYPE OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO MAJOR CITIES IN THE WHOLE NATION!" Mr. Flurry wrote in 1992. "IT IS A STARK PROPHECY OF OUR FUTURE!" How much more accurate could you get?

"Terrorist attacks, rioting and burning are the main thrust of the pestilence mentioned in Ezekiel 5," he continued. "And this rioting will spread to other Israelite nations—unless people repent! God will get our attention one way or another. The worse the violence and burning becomes, the worse the famine will get. The worse

the famine becomes, the more intensive the violence will get. It becomes a vicious cycle."



Does not this perfectly describe what we are witnessing in Britain and America's major cities? "[A]s the U.S. and Britain become less and less competitive worldwide, unemployment will steadily increase. As that happens, domestic rioting and violence will become much more prevalent

"The seeds of this future calamity have already been sown. The government has lost control. There is a breakdown of law and order. ... We are getting dangerously close to social anarchy and chaos!"

We have just witnessed an advancement in this society-wide plague of violence and burning that is to strike our major cities.

The Bible even describes our leaders' feckless reaction to this implosion of order. But the Bible prophesied these problems, and it didn't say they were for want of another social spending initiative.

In Isaiah 1:5, speaking primarily about the leaders of America, Britain and Judah, God says the "whole *head* is sick, and the whole heart faint." Those responsible for leading our peoples simply do not have the heart or strength to confront evil, even when it threatens to destroy our cities.

Therefore, the whole body is sick—head to toe (verse 6). And it's leading to our cities being burned with fire by "strangers."

"The Bible also reveals the cause of the riots." After quoting Isaiah 1:5-6, Mr. Flurry stated: "Neither the leaders nor their followers have the will or the strength to get to the roots of race riots or terrorist attacks and solve them once and for all (see Daniel 12:9; 9:13; and Leviticus 26:19)."

These riots are a warning to the whole world: This is what happens when a nation rejects God's laws and revolts against His way of building a family. These riots are only going to get worse.

And why is this happening? Because this is what it takes for our peoples to finally come to really know their God. This is what it takes for us to finally admit that the desperately needed solution is not just one more election, just one more law, just one more committee, just one more spending initiative, just one more social program away. This is what it takes to admit that *we must turn to God!* And believing in Him and obeying His laws will solve these chaotic problems!

"And *they shall know* that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them," it says in Ezekiel 6:10. This is the big lesson God wants the latter-day Israelites and the rest of this world to ultimately learn—then "they shall know that I am the Lord." ■



Brace Yourself for Food Scarcity

Have you noticed rising grocery bills? That is just one sign among many that the world's intricate system of food production is in for some severe shocks. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

HAVE YOU EVER GONE HUNGRY? Ever had to scavenge for any scrap of food-like garbage simply to stave off your gnawing hunger?

Probably not. Most people in the affluent West can't even begin to imagine it.

But of the nearly 7 billion people on Earth, an estimated 850 million are undernourished or chronically hungry. With global food production hurting and prices rising, this number is swiftly climbing.

In July, a famine was officially declared in the Horn of Africa, the first in 30 years. A reported 12,400,000 people don't have enough food. Imagine it. There are 81,000 people in my town; this is every last person in this town and 152 more just like it, all going hungry.

Between May and July in that region, 29,000 children younger than 5 died of starvation.

The nightmare is expected to last into next year, and the number of afflicted to rise quickly to 15 million. These are the chilling effects of two years of drought—the worst in six decades—coupled with some absolutely shameful human behavior.

When your belly is plenty full, your tendency is to brush aside such facts. After all, what can *you* do?

But you need to give this some serious thought—because chances are extremely high that soon, you won't just be *reading* about those hunger pains.

In Matthew 24, Jesus Christ told His disciples what would precede His Second Coming and the end of this present world. Among the signs Jesus told us to watch for, He warned: “and THERE SHALL BE FAMINES, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places” (verse 7).

Famines—plural. And not just in

far-off places. Poor harvests, breakdowns in food production and distribution, dwindling supplies, economic collapse that shuts down commerce and the free flow of necessary commodities—all these conditions, and the woes that follow, are prophesied to *besiege* our world!

Do you believe Christ?

Where Does Your Food Come From?

Stop a moment and think about just how much you take plentiful food for granted. In the First World, we have enjoyed several decades of practically unprecedented abundance—limitless food variety, available year-round, at some of the cheapest prices enjoyed on a mass scale in human history. Thanks to increased food production, the share of underfed people on our planet has been dropping for centuries; in recent decades, percentages of

malnourished and starving people have been more than halved.

No wonder we take it all for granted. This auspicious historical anomaly is the new reality. The party can last forever, right?

Well, there is a catch. This period of plenty has largely been sponsored by a *complete revolution* in the way we produce and distribute what we eat. The good news is that we have become extremely efficient in producing cheap food in massive quantities. The bad news is that it has come with monumental unintended additional costs.

Perhaps the most urgent consequence is that this revolution has made us dangerously vulnerable to *massive disruptions* in our food supply.

As our modern world has shifted from an agricultural society to an industrial- and now a service- and information-based culture, farmers have vanished en masse. A mere century ago, one in four Americans lived on a farm, and the average farmer grew enough food to feed 12 other Americans. Today, while the population has more than tripled to over 300 million, only 2 million farmers remain. On average, each one grows food to feed 140 people.

Today in the First World, less than 2 percent of the population is feeding the other 98 percent. The vast majority of us get our food from hundreds or thousands of miles away, and have only about a week's worth of groceries in the pantry. We are wholly sustained by a complex system about which we are almost completely ignorant. Making food has become a profession for experts.

Every link in this intricate process is burdened with troubling issues that would cause most of us to raise our eyebrows with concern—or even retch in disgust. More pressingly, every link is susceptible to major potential breakdowns.

And early signs of breakdowns in the system are appearing—more all the time. Soaring grocery bills. Headlines about food-borne sickness from harmful bacteria. Epidemic chronic health problems like obesity and diabetes. Food scarcity. And yes, even famine.

What would you eat if the grocery stores and restaurants were empty?

Grocery Bills Are Rising

Surely you've noticed the rising cost of groceries. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Price Index climbed 25 percent last year. This February, it hit a record high. In June, the FAO said the cost of a typical

food basket worldwide was 48 percent higher than a year before.

These high prices are not a short-term problem. Recent troubles have only aggravated a crisis that has been incubating for years—and it isn't going away anytime soon.

Between 2001 and 2008, the world consumed progressively more grain than it produced. The world's grain stockpile shrank from more than 100 days' supply to less than 50 days. And food prices rose dramatically. Between 2005 and 2008, they jumped 80 percent.

The situation led to rationing and, in poorer countries, famine. Food riots erupted in several countries. The "tortilla

The vast majority of us get our food from hundreds or thousands of miles away, and have only about a week's worth of groceries in the pantry. We are wholly sustained by a complex system about which we are almost completely ignorant.

crisis" in Mexico, where thousands of people protested in the streets because of hikes in the price of maize, preceded public unrest over food prices in several other countries. Riots erupted in Haiti, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Cameroon, Morocco, Mauritania, Somalia, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Kenya, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Mexico and Zimbabwe. As 2008 began, the FAO said 37 countries faced food crises, putting 1.5 billion people at risk of starvation.

These problems were only made worse by the financial crash at the end of 2008. By mid-2009, food shortages had hit dozens of countries, and a billion people were eating less each day.

Today, a number of factors continue to hammer food supplies and prices: the rise of biofuels; skyrocketing oil prices; shrinking government food stockpiles; and environmental disasters, including record droughts and devastating floods. The world's grain reserves are now at a historic low. This past summer, G-20 agriculture ministers met for the first time ever in order to focus on mounting evidence that these high prices are only going to get worse—along with food shortages. "Almost in every country, including in Europe, the issue of higher food prices has already become tangible," said senior FAO economist Abdolreza Abbassian. The FAO's director general elect said that high and volatile food prices would exist "for a long time."

The FAO says unfavorable weather will

put still more pressure on food prices in the coming months. What was referred to as a "500-year flood" in the area of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers this summer caused millions of dollars' worth of farmland damage, spiking grain prices. The U.S. Department of Agriculture was already estimating big increases in grain costs for the 2011-2012 year over the previous year—and that was before the flooding. "All we can do is sit back and watch food prices soar, both across the United States and the globe," wrote Ian Cooper, editor of the *Wealth Daily* investment-advice column.

The adverse effects of these trends are far-reaching and potentially quite serious. The CEO of Smithfield Foods, a global food company, said, "We are just one bad weather event away from potentially \$10 corn, which once again is another 50 percent increase in the input cost to our live production." But this is more than just a mere inconvenience. It means that *food companies could well go bankrupt*, he said.

The U.S. is the world's biggest exporter of both wheat and corn. Failing crops in America will impact more than just the budgets of U.S. citizens—and exponentially so in many countries. Americans spend less than 10 percent of their income on food. But for the world's poorest 2 billion people, that figure is 50 to 70 percent. As *Foreign Policy* wrote, for them, "these soaring [food] prices may mean *going from two meals a day TO ONE*" (emphasis added throughout).

"We're descending into a food crisis that'll ravage the world as we know it," Cooper says. "Food prices will not come down. We should prepare ourselves now to see *food shortages*." It's one thing to have to pay more for food, assuming you have the money. But what if the food *isn't even there*?

One can hope that these trends are mere anomalies—that they will improve, or that somehow, we'll figure out a way around the growing obstacles.

In reality, though, *these trends are exposing cracks and structural weaknesses in the very foundation of our food system.*

Pressures on Food Supply

Every year, the human race produces 100 million more mouths to feed. Today we have nearly 7 billion eaters; 50 years ago there were only 3 billion. But it's not just more mouths—it is what is going into those mouths. The average person

SOCIETY

worldwide eats 20 percent more calories per day than 50 years ago.

And in many cases, those calories require considerably more energy to produce. For example, the emerging middle class in China and India has a growing appetite for meat, poultry, dairy and fish—far more labor- and energy-intensive menu items than rice and vegetables. As Julian Cribb brings out in his book *The Coming Famine*, China's meat consumption tripled in less than 15 years, "requiring a *tenfold increase in the grain* needed to feed the animals and fish." Within 15 years, China's grain consumption rose 1,000 percent!

The combination of global population and food demand is rising about 2 percent a year. Meanwhile, food production is rising at only about *half that rate*.

You can add to this fundamental reality a myriad of other pressures on the food supply: more adverse weather events—droughts, floods, and other disasters—that reduce crop yields or wipe out harvests; vanishing marine life, including ocean fish catches—the top source of protein for Asians—because of over-fishing, pollution and other causes; government enactments like farm subsidies, food price controls, taxes, regulations, restrictions and so on.

Paul Roberts lists still more factors in his 2008 book *The End of Food*. "Arable land is growing scarcer. Inputs like pesticides and synthetic nitrogen fertilizers are increasingly expensive. Soil degradation and erosion from hyperintensive farming are costing millions of acres of farmland a year. Water supplies are being rapidly depleted in parts of the world, even as the rising price of petroleum—the lifeblood of industrial agriculture—is calling into question the entire agribusiness model."

For some few realistic observers—and perhaps the 180,000 more people every day who, because of rising food costs, drop below the poverty line and can no longer afford a place at the table—these problems may, indeed, be calling into question the entire agribusiness model. But the reality is, our modern society has become impossibly dependent on it. Calling that model into question is tantamount to recognizing the inherently, irreversibly flawed nature of civilization as we have engineered it.

Hitting the Wall

Many people hope to solve this dilemma through *still more* technological wizardry. It's true that technology has delivered stunning growth in the volume of food produced—annual increase after annual increase

1960



WHOLE LOT OF LUNCHES

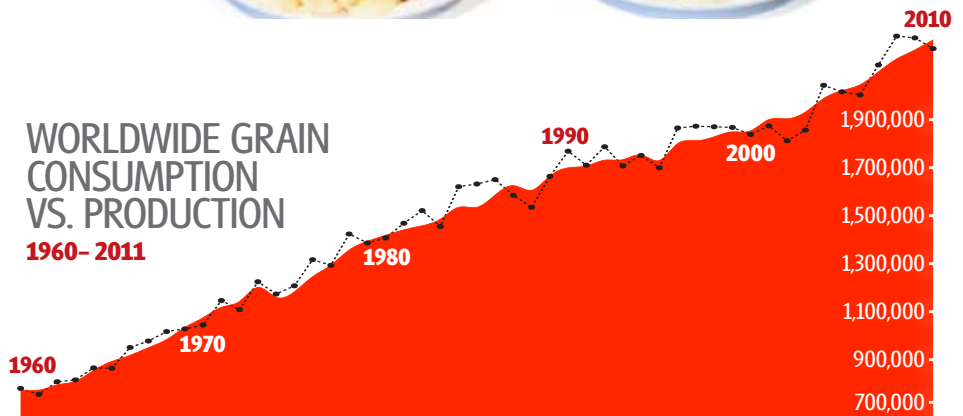
In 1960 there weren't quite 3 billion people in the world to feed. Today there are about 7 billion—and the average person eats 20 percent more calories per day than someone in 1960.

2011



WORLDWIDE GRAIN CONSUMPTION VS. PRODUCTION

1960–2011



MEALS MATH

Consumption of grain has risen dramatically in the past 50 years, with agricultural yields sometimes outpacing it, sometimes not, as in recent years when prices have jumped.

Consumption (solid red area) Production (dotted line)
Figures are in thousands of metric tons

in crop yields of 5 or even 10 percent in wheat, maize and rice, for example.

However, the last massive surge in global food production occurred in the 1970s and '80s. In more recent years those increases have been closer to 1 or even zero percent. Today, there is little investment in innovation. But more alarmingly, writes Cribb, "In advanced countries, some scientists whispered, *we might actually be approaching the physical limits of the ability of plants to turn sunlight into edible food.*"

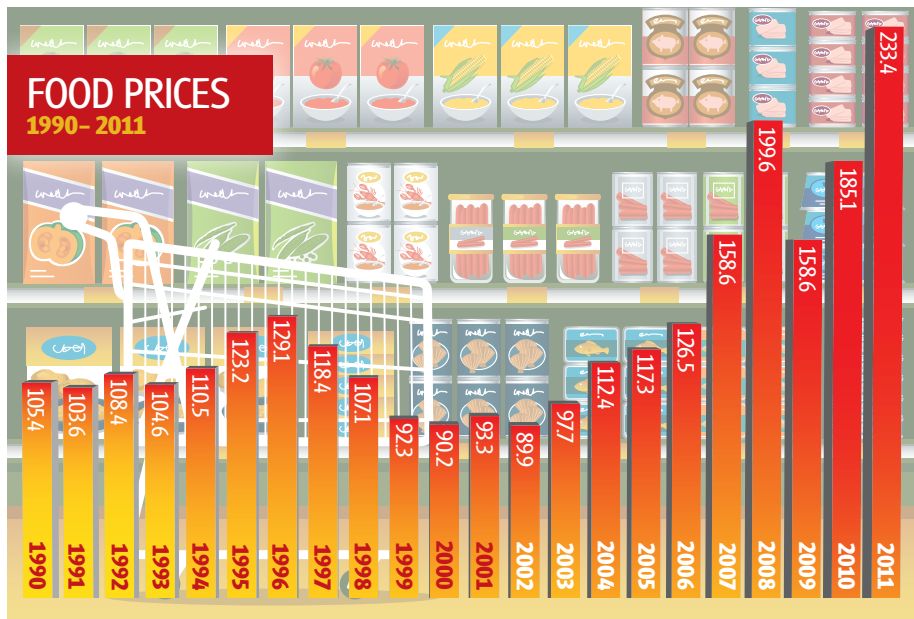
Think about that. You can only take so much from the land. You can only increase crop yields using artificial methods by so much. At some point you hit a wall of biological reality.

"[T]he challenge is far deeper, longer-term, and more intractable than most

people, and certainly most governments, understand," Cribb writes. "It stems from the magnifying and interacting constraints on food production generated as civilization presses harder against the finite bounds of the planet's natural resources, combined with human appetites that seem to know no bounds."

What we are seeing is the agricultural and nutritional equivalent of America's national debt. To maintain short-term gains, we have been living on borrowed or artificial stimulants to food production that, in some cases, have devastating long-term effects. Eventually, there is going to be a "default."

Consider the cold reality as Cribb spells it out: "The problem is very complex," he writes. "To sum it all up, the challenge



STICKER SHOCK Figures from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization show consumer food prices trending dramatically upward over the past decade. Figures are relative to the average prices between 2002-2004, with 100 being the average.

facing the world's 1.8 billion women and men who grow our food is to double their output of food—using far less water, less land, less energy, and less fertilizer. They must accomplish this on low and uncertain returns, with less new technology available, amid more red tape, economic disincentives, and corrupted markets, and in the teeth of spreading drought. Achieving this will require something not far short of a miracle.”

My recommendation: Don't count on that miracle.

Instead, look at present conditions—and then look into your Bible and judge for yourself whether, in fact, the dots we see today connect directly to the prophecies it contains.

The Black Horse

The four horsemen of the apocalypse are infamous harbingers of end-time calamity. The third of them is described in Revelation 6:5-6: “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 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.”

The meaning of this vision has been debated, twisted and misunderstood for centuries. But it is plainly revealed in Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!* As Mr.

Armstrong explained, its meaning is unlocked by Jesus Christ's prophecy in Matthew 24.

The third horseman links with verse 7 of that chapter: “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and THERE SHALL BE FAMINES, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.” The *warfare* described here is pictured by the *red horse* of Revelation 6:3-4. And the next prophetic reality Christ discussed links with the *third horseman*, riding the *black horse*: “there shall be FAMINES.”

Again—*do you believe Jesus Christ? Do you believe God*, who inspired the prophecy of Revelation?

We are about to experience far worse problems than just rising grocery bills. But as we do, *remember what they point to*. This was one of the signs Christ gave that He was about to return to this weary Earth!

Though this grim horseman has stalked humanity throughout its history, his appearance in the book of Revelation portends a final terrifying ride far deadlier than any before. “[A] GREAT FAMINE, LIKE NONE BEFORE IT OR EVER AGAIN, WILL STRIKE THIS EARTH WITH FRIGHTENING FORCE AND FURY,” our booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* says. “This time, instead of only affecting war-torn regions or the Third World, it will affect the *First World* nations—the blessed birthright peoples of the lost 10 tribes of Israel.” (This booklet is free upon request.)

These statements aren't based on one statement from Jesus and a single verse

in Revelation. They are backed by prophecy after prophecy of the most affluent, blessed nations on Earth today suffering a dramatic, precipitous fall into horrific conditions too hard for our minds to even imagine! Today's conditions link directly with these prophetic warnings, which God recorded to prove His omniscience and omnipotence—and *to induce us to repent and turn to Him*.

Where are today's dwindling food stocks and rising prices leading? Bible prophecy gives us a sure and sobering answer.

Consider this chilling prophecy from Isaiah: “For behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, TAKES AWAY from Jerusalem [a type of all the end-time nations of Israel] and from Judah [the Jewish state in the Middle East] *the stock and the store, THE WHOLE SUPPLY OF BREAD AND THE WHOLE SUPPLY OF WATER*” (Isaiah 3:1; New King James Version). God says that because of our *sins*, He is going to TAKE AWAY our food and water! (Prove the modern identity of *Israel* in biblical prophecy by ordering a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

In Hosea, another end-time book, God indicts the nations of Israel with this charge: “For she did not know that *I gave her corn, and wine, and oil*, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal” (Hosea 2:8). We have forgotten that we owe thanks for our abundance to GOD! He has given us the greatest blessings any nation in human history has ever received—and we have turned our backs on Him. He continues, “Therefore will I return, and TAKE AWAY MY CORN in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof...” (verse 9).

Could it be true? The shocks to food supplies we are beginning to witness are more than just our failure to plan, or mere “bad luck.” God Himself is actually *taking away* the blessings He had once richly supplied!

Blessings of Plenty—Curses of Scarcity

God created the Earth to emphasize our dependence upon Him and our smallness relative to the expanse of creation. Our food grows from the ground and requires favorable weather and environmental conditions—factors we have absolutely no control over. Though modern lifestyles have minimized the effect of daily weather changes on our immediate lives, our food production still depends on it. *This gives God a tool with which to bless or correct us*. We simply cannot escape this important aspect of the natural world as God created it.

Look how this point is made in the two pivotal prophetic chapters of the Old

Testament. In Leviticus 26, God promises rich agricultural blessings for our obedience to Him (verses 4-5). Verse 10 in the New International Version reads, “You will still be eating last year’s harvest when you will have to move it out to make room for the new.” And in Deuteronomy 28 we read, “Blessed shall be ... the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy [cattle], and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store [or kneading bowl]. ... The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand ...” (verses 4-5, 8, 12).

Among the curses for disobedience to Him, however, God promises the opposite: “[Y]e shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ... [A]nd I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: ... your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits. ... And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied” (Leviticus 26:16, 19-20, 26). Deuteronomy 28 continues: “The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed” (verse 24). God promises that our soil will be sterile and our crops will be consumed by pests (verses 23, 38-39, 42).

Look around: These curses are already beginning to descend upon us!

God gives these warnings *out of love*. He wants to help us *avoid* such a fate—and *repentance* is the means to do just that.

Those who would dismiss His forewarnings, God condemns in Jeremiah 14:12-18. “[T]hey say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land,” God says—but, He warns: “*By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed*. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters” (verses 15-16). Take time to ponder those words.

In this chilling vision it is *those in the city* who are particularly afflicted: “[I]f I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine!” the prophet says (verse 18). Imagine people becoming emaciated and scrounging for food, searching through garbage heaps for any scraps of



ONGOING TRAGEDY
A displaced Somali in the Kenyan refugee camp of Dadaan cradles her emaciated child.

something to eat. These won’t be images on our television screens from impoverished distant lands. They will be happening among the boulevards and skyscrapers of our formerly affluent towns and cities.

What do you suppose life will be like in the urban centers of America and Britain when food crises have reached such extremes? With even a little imagination, one can envision how brutal, how cut-throat, conditions could get. Sadly, biblical prophecy explicitly confirms, and even exceeds, our worst fears.

Pestilence

A Spanish proverb says, “Civilization and anarchy are only seven meals apart.”

Food shortages simply make the world a more dangerous place. Nothing is more important to people than having sufficient food and water. Water shortages have provoked fierce conflicts; governments have been overthrown in the wake of famine. The “Arab Spring” that has rocked northern Africa and the Middle East has emerged in no small part from popular anger over food shortages. Even if a nation has enough food, high prices can lead to protests and civil unrest. History proves that nations will fight to secure the food supplies they need.

“This challenge is more pressing even than climate change,” Cribb writes in *The Coming Famine*. “A climate crisis may emerge over decades. A *food crisis* can

explode within weeks—AND KILL WITHIN DAYS.”

Mike Murphy, a prominent dairy farmer, told Cribb, “Global warming gets all the publicity but the real imminent threat to the human race is starvation on a massive scale.” He warned of the combined, correlated threats of “food shortages, famine and *huge social unrest*.”

Biblical prophecy agrees!

In Ezekiel 5 is a horrifying prophecy of the end of the Anglo-American nations. It speaks of their fate being divided into thirds, with the first third being “burn[ed] with fire ... in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled” (verse 2). That *siege* is an economic besiegement at the hands of foreigners (also prophesied in Deuteronomy 28:52)—an event that will bring these nations to economic ruin.

Ezekiel then explains the effects of this besiegement in greater detail: “A **THIRD PART OF THEE SHALL DIE WITH THE *pestilence*, AND WITH FAMINE SHALL THEY BE CONSUMED IN THE MIDST OF THEE ... I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff [or supply] of bread: So will I send upon you famine ... and pestilence and blood shall pass through thee I the Lord have spoken it” (verses 12, 16-17).**

The *pestilence* Ezekiel spoke of is related to the *pestilences* Christ prophesied of in Matthew 24:7. In his May 22 *Key of David* program, Gerald Flurry explained how the “pestilences” Christ foretold could in



In the Horn of Africa right now, hungry, emaciated people are living in squalor, exploiting and being exploited in the fierce struggle to survive. But prophecy warns that soon, the same conditions will spread to millions of people who never even knew enough to fear them.

fact be speaking of *destructive human behavior* (for example, the same Greek word in Acts 24:5 is translated “a pestilent fellow”). “That adds a dimension to this prophecy,” he said. “When you have all of these famines or a famine in the land, *it’s also going to cause a social breakdown* if it gets worse—and it’s prophesied to get a lot worse before it gets better.”

In his booklet on Ezekiel, he made the same point about Ezekiel 5:12: The rioting and violence that are certain to accompany food shortages are prophesied to “take millions of lives!” he wrote. “The worse the violence and burning become, the worse the famine will get. The worse the famine becomes, the more intensive the violence will get. It becomes a vicious cycle.”

In the famine currently afflicting the Horn of Africa, desperate conditions are bringing out the worst in a whole lot of pestilent fellows. Terrorists are trying to fund their activities by squeezing an increasingly impoverished people, and abusing them when they refuse to pay or try to escape the country. Somalis are fleeing by the tens of thousands. Refugee camps are overflowing, crowded and plagued with disease; children are dying; thousands of people are having to live on their outskirts with little or no shelter. It’s a sobering picture of how quickly difficult circumstances can turn ugly.

These conditions—hungry, emaciated people living in squalor, living off hand-outs or scrounging for food, abusing and exploiting others in the fierce struggle to survive—are extant on this Earth this very moment as you read this. But prophecy after prophecy warns that soon, millions of people who never even knew enough to fear such conditions will be caught right in their maw.

“Our peoples will continue only a

few more years in comparative economic prosperity,” Herbert W. Armstrong warned 50 years ago. “This very prosperity is our fatal curse! Because our people are setting their hearts on it, seeking ease and leisure, becoming soft and decadent and weak!” Today that prosperity is just *beginning* to fade—and some are already proving themselves lacking in the character to conduct themselves morally! “Then, suddenly, before we realize it, we’ll find ourselves in the throes of famine, and uncontrollable epidemics of disease. ... And all this state of affairs because man is in defiance of his Maker!”

How bad will such conditions get? This is truly sickening to even think about, but the Bible’s forecast is plain and very vivid.

The prophecy of Leviticus 26 concludes with this appalling picture: “AND YE SHALL EAT THE FLESH OF YOUR SONS, AND THE FLESH OF YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL YE EAT” (verse 29).

Ezekiel 5 also includes this: “And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations. Therefore THE FATHERS SHALL EAT THE SONS IN THE MIDST OF THEE, AND THE SONS SHALL EAT THEIR FATHERS; and I will execute judgments in thee ...” (verses 9-10).

“THAT IS HORRIFYING,” Mr. Flurry wrote in the *Ezekiel* booklet. “IT MUST WAKE US UP! HOW CAN ANYONE FAIL TO CAREFULLY EXAMINE HIS OR HER RELIGIOUS VIEWS AFTER READING SUCH FRIGHTENING PROPHECIES?”

WILL YOU BELIEVE GOD? And TURN TO HIM—so you can *avoid* being trapped amid such atrocities?

The End of Famine

“[T]HERE SHALL BE FAMINES,” Christ said, “and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.” We can *stake our lives* on the fulfillment of this prophecy!

But remember—this was in fact given to us as a SIGN—a precursor of the very imminent return of Jesus Christ to this Earth to establish His Kingdom!

The prophecy continues: “Immediately after the tribulation of those days ... shall appear *the sign of the Son of man in heaven*: and then shall all the tribes of the earth ... SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING

IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY” (Matthew 24:29-30).

Look squarely at current conditions—the rising food costs, the weather disasters and other plagues decimating our crops, the shrinking food stores, the problems with our food production, the scarcity, the famine. Recognize how these are the early stages of *major* biblical prophecies being fulfilled. And then acknowledge the Almighty POWER *BEHIND* those prophecies—and realize what they all POINT TO! Even in this bleakest of phenomena there is a shining hope!

Once Christ returns as King of kings, the world He will establish is prophesied to be one of wonderful, universal abundance and prosperity. As mankind obeys the economic and agricultural laws of God in their food production, the natural benefits that follow will be amplified by supernatural blessings. All the encouraging promises of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 will come into full flower. And God says further, “I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be *showers of blessing*. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord ...” (Ezekiel 34:26-27).

“Showers of blessing”—what a wonderful expression. Rain is a blessing from God, given to the obedient. Thus, under Christ’s rule, people’s fields, crops, orchards and vines will be so productive and yields will be so great that they cannot keep up; they will still be harvesting when it comes time to sow the fields with new crops! “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. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them” (Amos 9:13-14).

Soon, famine will be a distant memory—for all people on Earth! ■

EU—power to the president!

EUROPE IS SUFFERING FROM A profound leadership gap. At a time of increasing crisis, commentators are crying out for someone to step up and take the lead.

Henry Kissinger during the 1970s famously asked, “If I want to call Europe, who do I call?” EU elites moved to begin solving that dilemma by creating the office of president of the European Council within the Lisbon Treaty/EU constitution ratified in December 2009. Appointments to that office are for a period of 2½ years, renewable once. The position is now held by Belgian Herman Van Rompuy.



Von Rompuy holds an office that may soon dominate Europe.

Yet, the problem of *confusion of leadership* persists, for the EU now has not one but *three* presidents who each preside over one of its three main institutions—the EU Council, the EU Commission and the EU Parliament—plus a temporary president of the European Councils, which rotates every six months among EU member nation heads of state. Complicating the situation further, each of the 27 individual heads of state of EU nations continues to assert his own national views separate and distinct from EU policy.

So, when the permanent European Council president position was created, not only did Kissinger’s question remain—the situation became even *more* confusing.

Thanks to the euro crisis, however, this is starting to change. Finally the ground is being laid for *one* EU president to have authority over all others. Here is how.

On July 21, a historic deal creating a fiscal and political union out of the eurozone member nations was signed. Immediately the next phase of European imperialism leaped into focus. France, along with other EU member states, began pushing for the office of permanent president of the European Council to receive new powers and *lead the eurozone at the level of heads of state and government*. Such a deal would put the Council

president head and shoulders above the presidents of the Commission and Parliament and the lackey rotational EU presidency. “The eurozone has never had a president at the level of heads of state and government,” EurActive noted (August 2). Giving the Council president such power would virtually make him the president over a fiscal and political union comprising the 17 eurozone member countries—the majority of the 27 EU member nations. This would give him great leverage over the remaining 10 non-eurozone EU member nations—to either force Berlin’s/Brussels’s will on them or possibly even oust them from the core union of 17 eurozone nations.

After German Chancellor Angela Merkel approved it, the deal was announced on August 16. Like much of what we have observed since Maastricht, this is a Franco-German initiative—with the emphasis, as always, on *German*.

This may well be the office that oversees the whipping into shape of a powerful combine of ultimately 10 leaders (described as “kings” in Revelation 17:12), prophesied to head up a final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire under one future overarching supreme dictator.

German policy is the driving force behind the effort for economic governance of the EU, giving it the power to impose budgetary and tax rules. Van Rompuy is but the puppet at present in the EC president’s chair. He does not innately possess the political power, the majority support, nor the leadership charisma to remain for long in that powerful position. In the normal course of events he will only hold it for 2½ years before it falls open for someone from another eurozone member nation to take. If Van Rompuy fails to effectively use his newly enhanced power, it just may result in a crisis that demands a much stronger personality take on the role.

Is the position of president of the European Council being prepared for a much more powerfully influential personality to take on in the near future?



1 | GERMANY Leading the EU’s fleet

Germany took command of the EU’s anti-piracy mission, charged with protecting the United Nations World Food Program supply ships, on August 13. Germany plans to substantially increase its contribution to the mission, sending the frigate Köln and Orion reconnaissance planes. Expect Germany to expand its military role in the world through organizations like the UN.

2 | VATICAN Pope courts youth

Pope Benedict xvi visited a gathering of 1.5 million young people during the Catholic Church’s World Youth Day in Spain August 16-21. “I’m very struck by the rapport ... that Benedict has established with young people,” wrote Damian Thompson for Britain’s *Telegraph* (August 22). The success of the day shows the growing popularity the Catholic Church has in Europe.



3 | FRANCE

At last: French people becoming more devout ... oh wait

This year, more of France’s Muslims planned to fast for the full month of Ramadan than in the past 20 years, showing that they are becoming more devout, according to *La Croix*. Seventy-one percent of France’s Muslims planned the full fast, it reported. “The intention to participate in Ramadan has increased strongly, rising by 10 points since 1989, the date of the first French survey. And it is also a general sign of an upsurge in the numbers of the



3.5-million-strong French Muslim population who practice their religion,” it wrote (August 1). Islam and Catholicism are building toward a clash in Europe.

Greek bailout faces hurdles ...

THE NEW BAILOUT FOR GREECE, agreed July 21, quickly came under fire as governments across Europe struggled to sell it to their electorates. It must be approved by all eurozone nations before going into force, and many nations require parliamentary approval.

One party in Slovakia's ruling coalition threatened to get in the way. The head of the Freedom and Solidarity party, Richard Sulik, said, "We will do everything we can in order for the parliament not to approve it." Without Sulik's support, Slovakia's main political party will require the help of the opposition party, which has been fiercely critical of the government.

Next, Finland sparked an argument about collateral for the loan. Greece agreed on August 16 to put €600 million in an escrow account as collateral for Finland's part of the bailout. Austria, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Slovenia claimed this was unfair and that they wanted the same. But Greece can't keep putting money inside escrow accounts. So on August 22, Germany said Finland's deal must be approved by the whole eurozone. Finland shot back by saying if it doesn't get collateral, it won't sign up to the bailout. Rating agency Moody's warned that the issue could cause the whole bailout package to unravel.

Cyprus might need a bailout soon, too. The Bank of Cyprus warned on August 1 that "there is an imminent threat of Cyprus joining the European Union's support mechanism, with whatever drawbacks that will entail." Even France may need one. French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced August 10 that the nation will introduce more austerity measures in order to cut down the nation's debt, as

its AAA credit rating is at risk because of the economic turmoil in Spain and Italy.

But it is Germany that poses the biggest challenge to the Greek bailout. In its August monthly report, the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, said the bailout deal might break German law, arguing that the EU's no-bailout clause should be kept in force "unless there is a fundamental change of regime involving a far-reaching surrender of national fiscal sovereignty." German President Christian Wulff said the European Central Bank buying debt from struggling EU nations such as Spain and Italy was "legally questionable." Marc Ostwald, strategist for Monument Securities, warned that Germany could soon have a constitutional crisis, saying, "This has all the makings of the revolt that unseated Helmut Schmidt [in 1982], and indeed has political echoes of the inefficacy of the Weimar regime."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is struggling to keep her coalition together in the face of opposition to eurozone bailouts. Spiegel Online wrote that the Christian Democratic Union is "falling out of love with Merkel." So is the German public. Fifty-five percent of Germans have "little faith" in Chancellor Merkel's ability to handle the financial crisis, and 20 percent have "no faith," according to a poll released by TV station ARD on August 19. Merkel is also being criticized for a lack of vision. "There is no leadership from Merkel, and that is the gist of the problem," the editor and publisher of *Die Zeit* said. As Gerald Flurry wrote in his editorial last month, "The German people are upset, and if this crisis doesn't end soon—and it won't—Merkel is probably going to go, perhaps even this year."

... and Germany has solutions

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced proposals for a common European economic government after they met on August 16. These proposals include a plan for eurozone leaders to meet twice a year, with a president being elected to chair the meetings. They said they wanted eurozone members to change their constitutions, adding a rule that requires governments to aim for balanced budgets.

They also proposed a common EU financial transaction tax and promised to create a common corporate tax rate between the two nations by 2013. The financial transaction tax would be a major stride toward a superstate. The Franco-German corporate tax harmonization is a step in the same direction, and the agreement could easily grow to encompass the whole eurozone.

The European Union needs a "stability council" to ensure nations stick to their budgets and to impose sanctions should they stray, German Economics Minister Philipp Rösler said August 9. Nations would face "competitiveness tests" to measure how well they are managing their budget. "If you fail them, there should be consequences," said Rösler. A government spokesman said the plan was the position of the Economics Ministry and not the government overall. Stratfor's Peter Zeihan pointed out that this proposal would seem to force eurozone nations to make their economies more like Germany's. Their economies are fundamentally different, and imposing these kinds of conditions on them would make growth "almost impossible," said Zeihan. To solve Europe's crisis, "Germany is going to have to be bought off," he said. "This may very well be the price" (August 11). This stability council would cement Germany's place at the head of the eurozone.

The crisis is already giving more power to the institutions that loan money. Head of the European Central Bank Jean-Claude Trichet and his successor, Mario Draghi, wrote a letter to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on August 5 that reportedly imposes conditions upon Italy in exchange for financial support from the ECB. This is just further proof that whoever has the money in Europe has the power.



MERKEL





Baghdad fighters under Suleimani's rule.

2 | IRAQ

The nation's most powerful man

IRAQI POLITICIANS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT GEN. QASSEM SULEIMANI, head of Iran's al-Quds arm of the Revolutionary Guards Corps, rules Iraq, according to a July 28 article in the *Guardian*. "He is the most powerful man in Iraq without question," said Mowaffak al-Rubaie, former Iraqi national security minister. "Nothing gets done without him."

"The strength of the ties between Suleimani and Iraqi legislators has been revealed during weeks of interviews with key officials, including those who admire him and those who fear the man like no other," the *Guardian* wrote.

Suleimani was put in charge of the al-Quds force shortly before the invasion of Iraq. "His power comes straight from [Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah] Khamenei," said Sunni Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq. "It bypasses everyone else, including Ahmadinejad. ... All of the important people in Iraq go to see him."

"He has managed to form links with every single Shia group, on every level," the *Guardian* quoted an anonymous Iraqi member of parliament as saying. "Last year, in the meeting in Damascus that formed the current Iraqi government, he was present at the meeting along with leaders from Syria, Turkey, Iran and Hezbollah. He forced them all to change their mind and anoint Maliki as leader for a second term."

This is remarkable proof of something the *Trumpet* has predicted for years: that Iran would get control of Iraq.

1 | EGYPT Suppressing Islamism can get you in a heap of trouble

The trial of Hosni Mubarak opened on August 3, with the former Egyptian president being wheeled into a courtroom cage in a hospital bed. This public humiliation of a bold leader who almost single-handedly held Egypt's forces of

religious extremism and anti-Israelism



Mubarak is being put to an open, televised shame.

in check for 30 years was aided and abetted by the U.S., which sided with the anti-government movement in Egypt and helped force Mubarak from power. This is destined to have the same result that America's betrayal of the shah of Iran had during the Islamic Revolution: the emergence of an Islamist Egypt.



OPEC's radical new president

On August 3, a commander in Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps became the nation's oil minister and the president of OPEC, despite his being the target of international sanctions. Iran took over the rotating presidency of OPEC in October 2010, so the appointment of Rostam Qasemi as the country's oil minister automatically made him head of the powerful international oil cartel. Because of Qasemi's role in assisting in Iran's nuclear weapons program, the U.S., the European Union and Australia have all levied sanctions against him. With him commanding OPEC, we can expect gas prices to get even higher and Iran's defiance toward the West to grow.

3 | IRAN

A perfect place for centrifuges

Iran has begun moving its centrifuges to the secretive Fordo plant, built deep inside a mountain near the city of Qom, the head of Iran's nuclear program, Feyzoudon Abbasi Davani, told Iranian state television on August 21. "Carrying out the process in Fordo could provide greater protection for Iran's uranium-purifying centrifuges against any U.S. and Israeli air strikes," Reuters wrote (July 13). Davani also announced that Iran was negotiating with Russia regarding the construction of new nuclear power plants.

"When enough 20 percent enriched uranium is accumulated at the underground facility at Qom, it would take only two or three months of additional work to convert this into weapons-grade material."

WILLIAM HAGUE
BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY

4 | ISRAEL

Fighting among themselves

Beginning in July, waves of social unrest swept Israel for six weeks on a level not seen before, only dampened by the threat to national security posed by the outbreak of violence on Israel's border on August 18. Hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Tel Aviv and other cities to protest the cost of housing and poor economic conditions, and tent cities sprung up across the country. What started out as demands for cheaper housing developed into demands for sweeping changes to Israel's economy and society such as a new taxation system, free education and privatization of state-owned companies. Any political turmoil resulting from the social unrest will only distract Israel at a time when it is facing its greatest outside threats—an increasingly powerful Iran, the prospect of Islamists taking over Arab allies and the threat of a third intifada—not to mention the unseen threat from its seeming ally Europe.



Israelis protest the cost of living in Tel Aviv.



5 | CHINA Someone must supervise U.S.!

On August 7, the leader of one of China's top credit rating agencies said the U.S. dollar's status as the world's reserve currency is set to sharply decline as policy-makers all over the world examine the implications of S&P's decision to remove the U.S.'s AAA rating.

Guan Jianzhong, chairman of Dagong Global Credit Rating, said the greenback is being "gradually discarded by the world" and that the "process will be irreversible." Washington "should get a clear understanding that the continuous decline of the debt service capability will inevitably result in the outbreak of sovereign debt crisis," he said. Dagong had



A Chinese teller counts yuan and dollars.

made international headlines the previous week when it became the first rating agency to reduce the U.S.'s credit score following the failure

of officials in Washington to come to a timely decision regarding America's mushrooming debt crisis. Guan also called for "international supervision over the issue of U.S. dollars" and the implementation of "a new, stable and secured global reserve currency." He said that since China is the U.S.'s largest creditor, Beijing has every right "to demand the United States to address its structural debt problems and ensure the safety of China's dollar assets."

As China's military might expands, watch for its criticism of the U.S.'s fiscal negligence to intensify proportionately.

6 | JAPAN Five years, six leaders

FINANCE MINISTER YOSHIHIKO NODA IS JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER. He was elected head of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) on August 29 and named prime minister in a parliamentary vote the next day. Noda is Japan's third prime minister since the DPJ rose to power in a historic victory two years ago, and the nation's sixth premier in just five years.

Reeling from the devastating March earthquake and tsunami, an economy that has been underperforming for 20 years, and a fiscal debt that dwarfs even that of the U.S. as a ratio of the national economy, Japan desperately needs strong leadership. But analysts do not expect such leadership to come from Noda.

Bloomberg columnist William Pesek wrote, "Voters wanted Seiji Maehara, the former foreign minister who they hoped might be less beholden to entrenched powerbrokers in Tokyo. Instead, they may be getting the same old, same old. As finance minister, Noda has displayed none of the boldness or fresh thinking Japan so badly needs. Not even a hint, in fact."

Among the weightiest issues the new prime minister faces are: Japan's deep-rooted structural economic problems; rebuilding after the earthquake and nuclear disaster; rapid currency appreciation; rising tensions with China and South Korea; and crippling infighting within the DPJ. Analysts express pessimism about Noda's future in light of these challenges, saying that he is unlikely to gain any more headway than his predecessor.

Japan is the world's third-largest economy and currently the U.S.'s most important Asian ally. Economically, environmentally, demographically and politically, the nation that has been such a crucial force of Asian stability and of cooperation with the West is becoming weaker. As the island nation stagnates, it leaves more and more space for another Asian power to rise up as the continent's leading voice. That country is China.

Last year, following three decades of spectacular growth, China overtook Japan to become the world's second-largest economy behind the U.S. While Japan's population and economy are rapidly aging, China has urbanized at lightning speed and, despite a slowdown in recent months, has much more room to grow. As China eclipses Japan, Beijing is beginning to reshape global dialogues on an array of issues. While China is still relatively poor per capita, it has an authoritarian government that is capable of taking decisive actions—the type of actions impossible in politically paralyzed Tokyo.

Noda's appointment is another sign of Japan's political malaise and its currently shrinking power. The situation is being prepared for China to take the top role in Asia. However, biblical prophecy does indicate that Japan will rebound and form an alliance with both China and Russia—a scenario that will lead to a massive clash between East and West.



Yoshihiko Noda, Japan's latest prime minister.

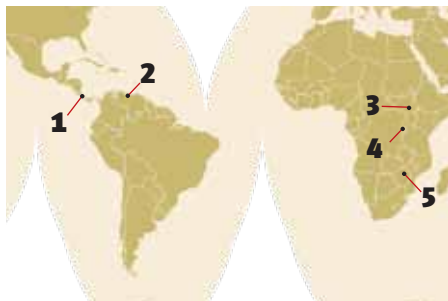
7 | RUSSIA A rival for the Raptor

On August 16, Russia's new stealth fighter jet, the Sukhoi T-50, made its public debut. The jet, developed by Russia and India, was unveiled at the MAKS 2011 air show near Moscow and is expected to become a staple of defense for both Moscow and Delhi by 2014 or 2015. The two governments have spent around \$6 billion to develop the T-50, and Gen. Alexander Zelin, head of Russia's air force, says the jet will match the U.S. F-22 Raptor.



5 | CHINA Overtaking America

China launched a record number of satellite-carrying rockets in 2010, overtaking the U.S.'s performance for the first time, according to a report published August 17 by aerospace consulting company Futron Corp. Russia remains at the top of the list because of its lead position in the commercial launch market, in which Moscow's reliable and inexpensive rockets attract an unmatched level of business.



1 | PANAMA

Look who's upgrading the canal

The U.S. may have dug the Panama Canal, but it is Europe that is looking to expand it to a size appropriate for the modern world. Right now, with two lanes of locks that can handle ships up to 965 feet long and 106 feet wide, the canal operates at or near its capacity of about 35 ships a day. Soon, however, the canal will be able to handle ships up to 25 percent longer and 50 percent wider. A consortium headed by Italian civil engineering giant Impregilo is adding a third set of locks, which will help eliminate backlogs. The canal's \$5.25 billion expansion is scheduled for completion in 2014. Expect the nations of Europe to take a much keener interest in Latin American trade routes in the near future.

2 | VENEZUELA

Give us back our gold

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez announced in August that he is repatriating his country's gold reserves from Britain, the U.S. and Canada. The move may be the largest gold transfer in modern history. According to the *Financial Times*, Venezuela holds the world's 15th-largest gold stockpile, most of which is stored at the Bank of England—more than 200 tons' worth. Over 17,000 400-ounce bars will be moved. To Chávez, it is worth it. With the U.S. dollar in free fall, gold may be beginning to replace it as the world's reserve currency. As economic turmoil continues in America and Britain, and the dollar and pound continue to be devalued, expect other nations to follow Chávez's example and take their money and run.



CHÁVEZ

As economic turmoil continues in America and Britain, and the dollar and pound continue to be devalued, expect other nations to follow Chávez's example and take their money and run.



South Sudanese soldiers have already deployed to try to stop the Iranian-backed Al-Shabaab militia in Somalia.

3 | SOUTH SUDAN

World's newest army vs. Islamists

Just a month after its birth, the Republic of South Sudan offered to send troops to help fight against Islamic militants in Somalia. On August 15, South Sudanese caretaker foreign minister Deng Alor Kuol said the new state was prepared to bolster the African Union's troops in Somalia, which are backing the weak interim government against the Iranian-backed Al-Shabaab militia. As the states of South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya—in which Christianity is influential—come into more conflict with the predominantly Islamic nations of Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia, expect Germany and the Vatican to get increasingly involved in African affairs. As last month's article "What the Future May Hold for the World's Newest Nation" explained, South Sudan may well effectively become a vassal state to a Catholic-dominated EU.

4 | RWANDA

A toehold for the Vatican

Vatican representative to Rwanda Ivo Scapolo pledged more collaboration between Rwanda and the Catholic Church during his farewell address to President Paul Kagame on August 22. Scapolo, Vatican ambassador to Rwanda for the past three years, has been reassigned to Chile. Speaking to journalists shortly after this meeting, Scapolo said that his visit to the president was evidence of the good relations between the Catholic Church and the state of Rwanda. Both the ambassador and the president agreed that the Catholic Church and the Rwandan government should hold periodic meetings to further enhance their working relationship. As the power of the Vatican increases on the world scene, expect more nations in Africa and Latin America to increase their collaboration with Rome.



Images of the pope for sale at a pilgrimage in Uganda

5 | ZIMBABWE

From breadbasket to basket case

Zimbabwe needs an additional \$73 million in humanitarian aid this year in order to meet the increased needs of its people, UN humanitarian coordinator Alain Noudehou said August 2. Instead of the \$415 million slated to go to Zimbabwe for food aid, UN agencies asked for \$488 million for 2011. Nearly 1.7 million Zimbabweans need food assistance this year. Zimbabwe once was a major regional agricultural producer, but President Robert Mugabe's policy of seizing successful white-owned farms and handing them over to untrained black workers has transformed the country. The chief of the Commercial Farmers' Union in Harare says food production has slumped by 70 percent in Zimbabwe since Mugabe began his land seizures in 2000. This amounts to \$12 billion in lost production over the past decade. A nation that once sold food to others is now begging for money to stave off starvation.



MUGABE





When Dad and Mom don't marry

TWO STUDIES RELEASED IN AUGUST SAY COHABITATION IS an emerging threat to the health of children and society. In the latter half of the 20th century, "divorce posed the biggest threat to marriage in the United States," said sociology professor W. Bradford Wilcox and 17 other scholars in one report. This is no longer the case, they said. "Today, the rise of cohabiting households with children is the largest unrecognized threat to the quality and stability of children's family lives," the scholars wrote. Instead of getting divorced, people simply aren't marrying; rather, they are just living together for as long as they consider it convenient.

For children, there is nothing convenient about this arrangement. In one study of children ages 6 to 11, about 16 percent of children in cohabiting homes had "serious emotional problems." This was true of only 4 percent of children living with married biological or adoptive parents. The number of Americans who have children and live together without marrying has increased twelvefold since 1970.

As marriage fails nationwide, family life is crumbling with it—and the consequences are proving to be devastating.

The last thing Britain needs in the Falklands

Argentine Defense Minister Arturo Puricelli recently announced that his country is building a nuclear-powered submarine. Superior to conventional models, nuclear-powered submarines can operate at high speed for long durations and do not need to surface frequently. Puricelli indicated that a submarine already under construction would be the first to be put into operation and suggested that others would follow. This announcement comes at a time of heightened tension between Argentina and Britain over the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, which British forces won back in a 10-week war in 1982 following an Argentine invasion. With British naval power at a historic low due to budget cuts, the development of a nuclear-powered submarine will be a great boon to Argentina in any future conflict over the Falklands.

ANGLO-AMERICA



A bad example

Australian Federal Finance Minister Penny Wong is setting a bad example by announcing her plans to have a baby with her lesbian partner, said N.S.W. Christian Democrats leader Fred Nile. On August 9, Senator Wong announced that her partner is due to give birth in December after becoming pregnant through IVF. Mr. Nile opposed the announcement, saying, "I'm totally against a baby being brought up by two mothers—the baby has human rights." The populations of Britain, Canada, the U.S. and Australia have largely embraced the homosexual agenda. Yet, without strong, traditional families, the foundation upon which all successful nations rest is broken.



NILE

Hello! My name is ... uh ...

Some children are arriving for their first day of school not knowing their own name, the British government's poverty czar Frank Field said on BBC Radio 4 June 23. The BBC followed up on the statement on the *Today* program, July 28, in which an executive head teacher of a group of schools in South Manchester, Neil Wilson, said, "I think the problem is much wider spread than we give it credit for. ... It's a communication issue at home. I think the advent of the media, particularly the television, has had a pretty poor impact on communication. I think that once upon a time families would spend a lot of time talking. Nowadays of course they've got DVDs, they've got the Internet, they've got the TV. So I think this formal communication process in terms of talking and listening ... has got worse" Jean Gross, the government's communication champion for children, told *Today* that as she traveled around the country she had come across cases where children didn't know their name, and didn't even know that they have a name. This shocking state of affairs shows how a lack of time spent communicating within the family is having a direct and detrimental impact on education.



British tots are arriving for their first day of school not knowing their own names.

"I have talked to a lot of head teachers and they have an increasing concern both about that extreme end where children might not know they have a name, but also about the children who don't have many words, can't express themselves or don't understand what is said to them."

JEAN GROSS

UK GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNICATION CHAMPION

NUMBERS

4

Hundreds of billions of dollars Congress raised U.S. debt ceiling by on August 2

100

Percent of GDP America's public debt now equals

945

Days it took the president to accrue \$4 trillion in debt

Finding the Path Out of Depression

BY DENNIS LEAP



LET US BE FRANK. DEPRESSION IS AT epidemic proportions worldwide. Ironically, this plague has been raging during what most consider to be *good times*. How will people handle the *bad times* now staring us in the face? We are not being pessimistic—just honest! We know that the current catastrophic world crisis will lead to a bright new future: Lasting good times—true personal and international peace and happiness—are coming. However, in the short run, world troubles will continue to approach near disaster. So, we all must learn to deal with the problems ahead. Why? Ignoring problems only increases mental disorders such as stress, anxiety and depression.

The best cure for depression—and its companions, stress and anxiety—is to never fall prey to it in the first place. However, if you are already depressed, believe us: There is a way to get out and stay out. Let us help you find the path out of mental gloom, even in this world rushing toward the brink.

Rethinking Depression

Some health-care professionals believe chronic stress is a leading cause of depression. In our fast-paced, frantic world, people gripe about being overworked and overwrought with personal problems. Many complain about being *stressed out* all the time. The smallest incident or personal inconvenience often sets some over the edge, emotionally.

Does this describe you? If so, it is not time to grab a pill, guzzle alcohol or use illegal drugs—it's time to get control of your emotions and

your *thinking!* Constructive, creative and critical thinking is greatly diminished in a person who is stressed out, fearful, super-anxious or depressed. *Clear thinking is a must for surviving tough times.*

Why are so many people so stressed out and succumbing to depression? Medical science wants to know the answer to that question, but most medical experts only examine the physical symptoms. Ignored are the difficult-to-observe, hard-to-detect mental weaknesses that lead to personal instability and loss of productivity. Corporate America may actually be doing a better job of going after the cause. Of course, it has an economic reason for doing so: Stress-related illnesses including depression are estimated to cost American companies \$200 to \$300 billion a year. Interestingly, the problem is being attacked with *education*. In essence, employers are teaching employees *how to cope with life*. Right education about solving life's problems is the key to conquering stress and depression.

Michael LeGault asks an intriguing question about stress in his innovative book *Think!* "Today, stress and its co-conspirator, so-called information overload, are two major factors in the weakening of mental energy needed to do creative, technical work and solve everyday problems. It is why so many people say they are in perpetual 'crisis mode' and have the feeling that their lives are 'out of control.' It is why some are falling off the side of their mountain. But how real is stress?"

What a thought-provoking question. Is stress real? The question would insult some. LeGault explains, "[T]here are

obviously traumatic events that can introduce severe stress into people's lives. But the meaning of stress, a word once applied to extreme, relatively rare situations, has been inflated to apply to just about everything that happens." LeGault believes *stress* is the new buzzword people use "to lift the burden of responsibility for the quality of our thinking and decisions from off our shoulders." In other words, many people claim stress problems as an excuse to shift the blame for their bad decisions: *Stress made me do it!*

Corporate instructors agree. Dr. Scott Sheperd, a professional stress counselor and motivational speaker, writes in his book *Who's in Charge: Attacking the Stress Myth*, "The word stress now seems to stand for all kinds of things. Stress has gone from a physiological process, during which certain hormones are released into the body, to some vague, malevolent force running rampant in life. In fact, stress now means so many different things, I don't think it means anything at all. And yet we blame stress for most of our problems."

Stress is not some virus that attacks an individual from outside the body, these thinkers say. Stress comes from *within the person*. It is the effect of how an individual perceives, thinks about and reacts to the problems life throws at him or her.

This same view can apply to endogenous depression. No doubt there can be physical, hormonal reasons for depression—post-natal depression is a well-known example. However, a majority of people succumb to depression because they do not know how to deal with life. They

are not taking responsibility and holding themselves accountable for their decisions and actions. Some, when confronted with even a slight problem, will exclaim, “That’s depressing.” Some often complain about their lives: “I am so depressed!”

Here is a reality that we all need to think about. Not everyone who faces catastrophic problems—loss of child or spouse, loss of job or social status, loss of physical health—sinks into deep depression. So why do others?

Missing in Education

Let us ask some tough questions. Isn’t there something wrong when corporate America must *fix its employees* so they can work productively? Has our educational system failed us? Why aren’t our schools—elementary, middle and senior high, our best colleges and universities, those that employ the most gifted teachers—teaching students real understanding about the human mind and human nature? Why are not students at all levels taught how to *prevent* problems before they arise? Why don’t mental health practitioners know the *cause* for stress, anxiety and depression? What should parents and modern education be teaching that is now not being taught? What is missing in our modern education?

Thousand of years ago, God gave the Prophet Hosea a remarkable look at our 21st-century society. Writing for God, this man tells us this about ourselves: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge ...” (Hosea 4:6; English Standard Version). Hosea saw a vivid, horrible picture: Our people would be destroyed—failing mentally and spiritually, perishing physically—because of the *lack* of knowledge.

Stress comes from within the person. It is the effect of how an individual perceives, thinks about and reacts to the problems life throws at him or her.

Take careful note: This verse does not say there would be *no knowledge*. In fact, our world is glutted with knowledge. What does this prophet of God mean? Read the rest of the verse. Hosea shows that people are *failing* and *perishing* because they are *rejecting* knowledge—the knowledge that comes directly from God: *true* spiritual knowledge. Our people are rejecting God’s knowledge, the firm foundation for all worthwhile education.

This is not a new problem. In fact, it is as old as man’s appearance on Earth. Describing humanity’s rejection of God, the

Apostle Paul wrote to the citizens of Rome, “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient” (Romans 1:28). Since our very beginning, man has cut God and His incredible revelation out of our education. Six thousand years of man’s history show that we have paid a heavy price. Mankind has proven with bloody and sorrowful history that we do not know how to get along with each other or deal with our human problems. Do we see why?

Cut Off From God

In our modern education we have replaced God with the *unprovable* theory of evolution. We have tried to explain the existence of the universe and man without God, cutting ourselves off from the source we need most!

To solve our problems—fears, anxiety, worry and depression—we need to know: Who and what is God? What and why is man? Why is there such evil in this world? Did God create a devil? Man needs to know the answers to these questions. God has clearly given truthful answers—in every millennium to every generation (Acts 3:21). Yet we don’t like hearing it from God.

When people get into serious personal conflict, it is easy to blame others—even God. Yet, God is love (1 John 4:8, 16). Of all things, He wants to help us prevent problems and, when we fall into them, to help us out of them. There are spiritual principles that lead to sound mental health. There are spiritual laws governing true success. There is a way to live that brings hope, joy, happiness and peace of mind. God wants all mankind to live an abundant, rewarding life. To do so, we must

learn to obey God and do things His way. Yet, millions worldwide unknowingly violate the spiritual principles and laws that would produce positive results.

All men, women, teens and children must come to know that excessive fear, worry, chronic stress and depression—for the vast majority of people—are *spiritual* problems that need *spiritual knowledge* to solve. God greatly desires to give us that kind of education. This incredible knowledge is revealed within the pages of the Book of books, the Holy Bible.

Author of Gloom

In the Bible, it is revealed that God is Creator. He designed and brought into existence the vast universe and the Earth—all that we can see with our eyes (Genesis 1:1). However, before the material creation God

created brilliant and powerful spirit beings, angels with great authority to help govern Earth and eventually the universe. God trained one angel—the most wise and powerful He could create, Lucifer—to administer His laws and government on Earth. God placed him on a throne and gave him one third of all the angels to rule over. The Latin name *Lucifer* means *light-bringer*. This being was to rule, lead and teach the truth to the angels under him. Their job was to beautify and preserve Earth in order to qualify to rule the universe.

Yet, Lucifer and his angels rebelled against God’s purpose (Revelation 12:4). Lucifer became Satan the devil; his angels became demons. They rejected God’s revealed way of life of giving, helping, sharing and cooperation, and pursued their own ways of selfishly getting, competition, vanity, covetousness and greed. With minds now perverted with wrong thinking—strife, resentment of authority, bitterness, selfishness and violence—they set out to dethrone God and rule the universe their way. However, they started a war they could not win. God in His superior power cast them back to Earth. Peter tells us, “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but ... committed them to chains of gloomy darkness ...” (2 Peter 2:4; ESV). You can read of this great rebellion in Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:12-19. Jesus Christ describes Satan’s fall in Luke 10:18.

Man’s Purpose

After witnessing and experiencing this incredible angelic tragedy, God created man with awesome purpose. Yet ever since, Satan and his perverted, evil demons, having lost the understanding and power to do good, have worked diligently and stealthily to keep humanity from understanding the purpose for human existence (2 Corinthians 4:4). God created man with a nearly unbelievable, incredible potential. Satan and his demon armies know this and hate all humanity because of it.

This is knowledge that only God can reveal. Mankind can never uncover such understanding. Our knowledge production is limited to what we can learn through our five senses.

Man is not an animal. Man is made after the God kind. Under direct inspiration from God, Moses records the divine act of man’s special creation: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth,

and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:26-27). Men, women and children are created in God’s image.

Herbert W. Armstrong, in his breath-taking book *Mystery of the Ages*, explained, “Why did the Creator God put man on the Earth? For God’s ultimate supreme purpose of reproducing Himself—of re-creating Himself, as it were, by the supreme objective of creating the righteous divine character ultimately in millions unnum-

To come out of depression, to overcome fear and anxiety, you must find lasting spiritual purpose and hope for your life.

bered begotten and born children who shall become God beings, members of the God Family.” For the full details on this subject, you may obtain a copy of *Mystery of the Ages* free upon request.

God recognized that when Satan and his angels failed to complete their purpose, only God beings with character like His own could be relied upon to rule and preserve His creation. So God planned a family. Mr. Armstrong continued, “Man was to *improve* the physical Earth as God gave it to him, *finishing* its creation (which sinning angels had deliberately refused to do) and in so doing, to restore the government of God, with God’s way of life; and further, in the very process FINISHING THE CREATION OF MAN by the development of God’s holy, righteous character, with man’s own assent.” Amazing. This is *God-revealed* knowledge that only a few fully understand today. You *need* a personal copy of *Mystery of the Ages*!

Under Satan’s Sway

Genesis 2 shows that God fully explained His purpose to Adam and Eve. He revealed to them His way of life (symbolized by the tree of life and codified by the Ten Commandments) as opposed to Satan’s way (symbolized by the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) (verses 9-16). Our first parents were required to make a choice: Follow God, or follow Satan. Genesis 3 shows that the cunning Satan deceived Eve into making the wrong choice by teaching her that she was an *immortal soul* and could not die (verses 4-5). Yet Adam was not deceived: He *chose* to follow his wife and believe Satan (1 Timothy 2:14). Tragically, Adam and Eve rejected God and His revealed

knowledge. By doing so, they made the same disastrous decision for all humanity.

When Adam and Eve made their choice, God sentenced mankind to 6,000 years of being cut off from Him and the tree of life, and being prey to Satan’s sway (Genesis 3:22). God allowed man to go his own way and build his own society, culture, government, religion and education, yet under the influence of Satan’s attitude of disobedience and rebellion.

Satan has been very successful in deceiving this whole world in the same manner he did Eve (Revelation 12:9). He has successfully swayed society to believe that he is God—to reject the true God and His spiritual laws that would bring world peace, cooperation among people and nations, happiness, joy and true success. So, we have a world filled with man’s laws and materialistic knowledge, but full of hate, violence and immense human suffering—including mental breakdown.

We must know how the devil works. Satan is the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2). He and the demons are the *spirit* behind human rebellion, hatred, tensions and violence (Ephesians 6:12). It is their specific goal to influence all mankind to embrace false knowledge, wrong attitudes and injurious values, and to sin. Satan inspires resentment to authority, lust, greed, fear and hopelessness. He transmits negative impulses, feelings and gloomy moods to unsuspecting minds.

No wonder mental health professionals do not understand why patients are negative and depressed.

Living to Get

When Adam and Eve rejected God and His laws and government, they chose to rely on themselves. Believing that they were just like God, they trusted in their own materialistic knowledge and understanding to decide what was right and wrong (Genesis 3:6). Adam and Eve built a life without God. They did not understand that Satan was leading them down a path to destruction. When our first parents went their own way, they *lost* the spiritual understanding of how to live, how to solve problems—how to relinquish fears and to satisfy needs.

Likewise, the majority of mankind has sought to find personal security, prosperity and fulfillment through Satan’s way of get—competition, strife, envy and jealousy. The spiritual knowledge of how to properly love God and fellow man escapes them. So most people trust in their own human strength, talents and abilities, often to the detriment of others. Without God’s instruction and power, people live their daily lives limited by their own

knowledge, wisdom, physical strength and resources to solve their problems. Millions have based their lives on values, ideas and reasoning that eventually produce problems they lack the resources to solve.

It is inevitable. The day comes when a person wakes up to the fact that his thinking, his resources, his ideas, his philosophy, his human strength or the people he has trusted in are extremely limited and transitory and cannot help him. The results for millions are unresolved anxieties, fear and depression.

Analyze your life. Now is the perfect time; do not delay. Do you have a solid relationship with the great Creator God of love, law and order? Look at your values, ways of thinking and lifestyle that could be setting you up to experience fears, hopelessness and depression. Is your primary focus on yourself—your needs—your desires? Or are you a positive person who seeks to build up society and encourage others? Are you putting your trust and hope in some idea, person or material things that could quickly be taken away? There exist eternal values and things that never fade away.

The Way Out

The truth is, most humans put their deepest trust, find their identity or build their feelings of self-worth in themselves, some other human being, or material possessions. Yet deep down, all human beings know they have deep-seated secret weaknesses in which they can have no confidence. Eventually trusted loved ones, friends and work associates fail us, discourage us, even lie to us. Now, with several nations facing severe economic problems, even continuing prosperity is fleeing the scene.

To come out of depression, to overcome fear and anxiety, you must find lasting *spiritual purpose* and hope for your life. We all must face the reality that physical health and beauty, our social network of people and material prosperity can be taken from us in an instant. However, an active, deeply satisfying spiritual life, closely bonded to God, will provide lasting stability and power to help us deal with problems confidently and securely.

Take the time—right now—to seek out and embrace a true, deeply spiritual way of living. If you honestly want to come out of depression, forsake fear and worry, and eliminate anxiety, then get your life right with God. God will teach you how to solve even the most difficult problem. Jesus Christ promises: “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32; ESV). Believe us: There is freedom from fear, worry, anxiety and depression. The choice is yours. ■

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY “NO risk” that America will lose its AAA rating, said America’s treasury secretary on April 19. Congress should raise the debt ceiling for “as long as possible.”

Infamous last words.

On Friday, August 5, at 9 p.m., for the first time in United States history, America’s sovereign credit rating was downgraded from AAA to AA+ by Standard & Poor’s.

Consequently, the credibility of the U.S. treasury secretary, along with virtually everyone in Washington, was downgraded too.

The agency issued its report long after the market closed for the weekend because of the potentially catastrophic consequences. On cue, Asian markets plunged. In Europe, the European Central Bank came to the rescue, promising to buy billions in Spanish and Italian debt. But on Monday in America, a battered Dow Jones opened down 2 percent and never stopped falling. It was the worst day since the Lehman bust in 2008.

In cutting America’s rating, s&p confirmed what the *Trumpet* has warned about for decades: America is addicted to debt.

Politicians in Denial

The credit rating agency said the deficit reduction plan signed by the president did not go far enough to stabilize the country’s debt situation. s&p also put America on negative watch—meaning that it may downgrade the country even further unless something significant changes.

Yet in comparison, American politicians sound inebriated. Only in America could a plan that raises the national debt from \$14.5 trillion to \$23 trillion by 2021 be declared a “win for the economy and budget discipline.” Only in Washington is adding another \$8 trillion to the debt characterized as “spending cuts.”

Republicans and Democrats alike don’t really believe America has a problem. Both sides are in denial.

Republican Sen. John McCain called members of the Tea Party “terrorists” for not wanting to raise the debt ceiling. Later he called them small-minded “hobbits,” with the implication that they needed to go back to Middle Earth.

Democrat John Kerry said, “I believe



Sent to the AA Club

Like an alcoholic in a self-delusional stupor, America still can’t admit it has a debt problem. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

this is without question the Tea Party downgrade ... because a minority of people in the House of Representatives countered even the will of many Republicans” Democrat Howard Dean confirmed: “I think this is [the] Tea Party’s problem I think they’re totally unreasonable and doctrinaire and not founded in reality. I think they’ve been smoking some of that tea, not just drinking it.”

But all the rhetoric and name-calling just goes to show how ridiculously ignorant most politicians are and how ignorant they think voters are. s&p didn’t downgrade America because of threats to not raise the debt ceiling, but because *politicians plan on raising it too much*.

Here is the problem; it really is simple to understand: America collects over \$2.1 trillion in taxes—but it spends \$3.7 trillion!

And here is the proof politicians have no real plans to end America’s addiction. The details of the new budget compromise show they are not even making a credible effort to wean the nation off debt. For

2012, the new plan calls to cut a total of—wait for it—\$21 billion. They are *planning* to go further into debt by \$1.6 trillion next year!

In 2013, politicians will trim \$42 billion—but America will go another \$1.5 trillion into debt that year. The rest of the so-called trillion-dollar cuts will happen years further in the future—if politicians don’t change their minds.

The scary part is that these massive budget deficits happen *if things go according to plan*—meaning, *if* the economy somehow gets back to 4 percent growth! Will someone tell the budget geniuses that the economy is growing at around 1 percent, and probably closer to not at all? Even before the recession, the long-term growth average of the U.S. was around 3 percent.

Don’t worry about sobering up to economic reality—the budget balances better that way.

Admitting It Is the First Step

Following the downgrade, the president said: “We’ve always been and always will be a AAA country.”

There will be no real desire to fix our problems until Washington admits—in both words and action—that it has a problem. Unfortunately, it will take a real market-imposed crisis to make that happen. And by then it will be too late.

America’s forced withdrawal is getting closer. On August 2, it was announced that U.S. federal debt had reached 100 percent of GDP for the first time since the World War II era.

When s&p downgraded America, the U.S. joined the AA club. But what the country really needs is an intervention from the Arrears Anonymous club—though, to tell the truth, America is actually even beyond that. Its economic organs are failing, it can’t think straight, and its historic response to problems is to look for ever-stronger stimulants to temporarily make the pain go away.

In fact, despite the downgrade, most Americans still don’t *really* think there is a problem. We are so intoxicated with debt, we don’t even know we are drunk on it.

Reshaping Asia

As America pulls away, China fills the void. The whole continent is on notice.



BY JEREMIAH JACQUES

AS ASIAN NATIONS SURVEY THE landscape of their continent, two accelerating trends stand out that are rapidly reshaping the region.

First, they see the United States—the region’s powerhouse since the end of World War II—distracted by vexing challenges in the Middle East and economic trouble at home. Succumbing to its fiscal diseases, the U.S. is reducing its defense budget and planning to hack as much as a trillion dollars more over the coming decade. Asia is simply no longer the priority it once was.

Second, and patently obvious to the nations witnessing it in their own neighborhood, they see China’s power mushrooming—and fast.

The ramifications of this shift are already sending waves through the Pacific. It is reshaping the world order, and its significance cannot be overstated.

Military Brawn

China is upgrading its military speedily. Just in the last year, the 2.3 million-man People’s Liberation Army (PLA) completed the prototype of its first stealth aircraft, unveiled new strategic missiles, and developed the world’s first operational anti-ship ballistic missile for targeting ships at sea.

In August, China’s first aircraft carrier, the *Varyag*, left its shipyard to begin its first sea trial. Beijing says the refurbished Russian warship will be used only for “scientific research, experiment and training,” but you can be sure it sends a powerful message to China’s friends and foes alike. Jeremy

Page of the *Wall Street Journal* called the launch “the most potent symbol yet” of China’s rise, and said it marks “a milestone in relations between an ascendant China, bent on reclaiming its historical role as a global power, and a debt-ridden U.S. that wants to retain the military supremacy it has wielded in Asia since 1945” (August 11).

The *Varyag* is not the only aircraft carrier in the works for Beijing. One Chinese official said the PLA is developing two additional warships of its own design; earlier reports say Beijing has as many as six aircraft carriers in development.

This militarization has the whole region on edge. Ian Storey of Singapore’s Institute of Southeast Asian Studies said in *Time* magazine that the launch of the *Varyag* added to tensions that have notably risen in recent months and are now probably higher than they’ve been since the end of the Cold War (August 10). Why so tense?

Since 2000, China’s published defense budget has increased by 15 percent each year, and its defiance rises in proportion to its military might. Following 10 years of charm offensive toward other Asian powers, Beijing now behaves like the neighborhood bully in its claims of ownership over almost all of the South China Sea. China is not content with the status quo in Asia and is displaying its ambitions of regional supremacy with increasing boldness.

Exacerbating the tensions is the nation’s one-child policy, which has had an apparently unintended side effect: a catastrophic sex ratio. The desire of most couples to have a male heir has prompted pandemic abortion rates of females, creating a China with more than 32 million excess males under the age of 20 who have

no chance of finding a Chinese bride. In his book *After America*, author Mark Steyn says the one-child policy “is a recipe either for wrenching social convulsions at home—or for war abroad. ... *China has to maximize its power before demographic decay sets in.* In other words, it has strong incentives to *be bold* and to *push, hard and fast*” (emphasis added throughout).

China certainly has put itself in a position to act on those incentives. Because of its authoritarian government and enormous population, it has a potential as a military superpower unmatched by any other nation.

As Russian analyst Lev Navrozov wrote, “As a totalitarian society, PRC [People’s Republic of China] is a military camp, in which *everyone is a soldier*. It is easier in such a society to conceal the building of new weapons or pursuing a secret military agenda” (*World Tribune*, August 11).

Navrozov continued: “The United States should keep in mind that the Communist China is a totalitarian society, the number of its population is 1.4 billion, and the possibilities to conceal secret military projects are infinite. The PLA is the name of China’s ‘People’s Liberation Army.’ It means that Communist China is out to ‘liberate’ the entire world. ... *China has enough people to carry out this task of global ‘liberation.’* ... The free people of the world, their governments, and those who want to be free must learn how to recognize the warning signs of the danger coming from the evil, totalitarian societies by doing their utmost effort to defend themselves.”

Asia Responds

As Asian nations observe these warning

signs and experience the acceleration of these two intertwined trends, they are reacting in two ways: defensively, or realistically.

Japan is responding by bolstering its own defense forces and cautioning the world about Beijing. In its annual defense report released in August, Tokyo called China's future direction a "source of concern" and voiced anxiety over what it called the "opaqueness" of China's military spending. The defense budget China publicly announces "is widely seen as only part of what Beijing actually spends for military purposes," the report cautioned. In response to China's ramped-up aggression and power, Japan is working to increase its coastal defenses, expand its radar ability, and boost the size and power of its submarine fleet.

However, though Japan is sounding the strongest alarm over China's rise, it is hardly in a position to curb the trend. It is struggling to recover from economic anemia, political malaise and the damage it sustained in the massive earthquake and tsunami it suffered on March 11. And even with Japan's forecasted military expansions, its armed forces are only around one tenth the size of China's. Japan is concerned, but concern will not neutralize China.

Russia and Thailand, by contrast, are responding with a markedly different approach. As China flexes its military muscle and America's prestige fades, Moscow and Bangkok are preparing to abandon the sinking U.S. ship to align themselves with Beijing.

On August 6, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev deserted his previous pro-U.S. political disposition and said the option of improving U.S.-Russian ties is now *out of the question*. Medvedev also bizarrely accused the U.S. of instigating the 2008 Georgia war, in which the Russian Army invaded the Republic of Georgia; he accused Washington of plotting with Georgia to seize the Russia-friendly breakaway states of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Since 2008, the Obama administration has made a string of concessions to Russia—approving the New START treaty on nuclear disarmament, offering full support of Russia's WTO ambitions, and agreeing to cooperate on a ballistic missile shield. Why, then, would the Kremlin's rhetoric toward the U.S. take such a hostile turn?

The answer is China. Russia is pivoting away from Washington in order to strengthen ties with Beijing.

As New York University Professor Emeritus Albert Weeks wrote, "[T]he Kremlin seems to be reasoning that hitching its wagon to the red flag flying over Beijing is the safest way to go, especially given China's mounting economic power and its

potential military supremacy looming in the not-too-distant future Maybe an emerging Chinese superpower on Russia's borders is a better bet for the Kremlin than the United States. Moscow and Beijing now speak the same language on 'U.S. global hegemony' and America's 'parasitical' policy with respect to global finance. What Moscow used to call its mere 'partnership' with China may now be *escalating into an all-out alliance*" (*Herald Tribune*, August 10).

A crucial facet of this developing alliance is military cooperation. When a top-ranking Chinese army official visited Russia in August, China's state-sponsored *People's Daily* reported, "As their bilateral relations have developed ... the two countries have made great efforts to promote the healthy and *rapid development of bilateral military ties* in a comprehensive way" (August 15). During the visit, Russia and China agreed for the first time to conduct General Staff-level military exchanges, a milestone in cooperation in military operations. The *Daily* said such unity "*could rarely be seen* in the military cooperation between any other large countries."

Thailand has taken a similar course of action. In a confidential cable to Washington, America's former ambassador to Thailand wrote, "Indications that the U.S.'s historically close relationship with Thailand and the region is being challenged by the rise of China have become increasingly evident in recent years in a variety of arenas, not just economically but diplomatically, culturally, politically, and even in some security areas. A U.S.-educated Thai Army colonel at the National Defense College shocked a group of U.S. one-star officers visiting ... by stating bluntly: 'The Thai perceive regional power dynamics as follows: *China is rising; the U.S. is distracted/declining; and Thailand will adjust its policies accordingly.*'"

Evidence of Beijing's success in drawing Thailand away from Washington began in 2006 when China convinced the Thai military to hold annual joint military exercises with Chinese troops. Last year, the two sides held a 15-day joint antiterrorism drill. One Thai official expressed alarm over China's surging influence in Thailand, saying, "China will own us! Thailand will be like a vassal of China."

But Thailand's swing toward Beijing in recent years indicates

that the majority of Thai policymakers have already accepted that China will dominate Thailand, and they are bracing the nation for the inevitable.

Two Camps Will Become One

As China rises and the U.S. slides, each Asian nation is working itself into one of two categories.

In the first camp are countries following Japan's example. They see China's shadow growing longer and darker and are reacting by building up their own defense forces. Among the nations in this category are Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea and Indonesia.

In the second are the countries taking the realist path of Russia and Thailand. They are preparing to be allied with or dominated by China. Among the countries in or edging toward this camp are East Timor, North Korea, Myanmar, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka.

But Bible prophecy indicates that, regardless of which category a given nation

currently falls into, *almost all will eventually be in the second camp*—joined together as a gargantuan power bloc, with China and Russia at the helm.

An end-time prophecy in Daniel 11:40-43 refers to a European empire rising up to smash a

Middle Eastern power in a shock blitzkrieg strike. The staggering military success of this European bloc will not go unchecked! The prophecy continues in verse 44, saying "*tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him*" After devastating the Middle Eastern power, the European empire will be troubled by stirrings to its east and north—that is, *in Asia!*

Putting that prophecy together with many others shows that Asia is going to rise up in a massive alliance dominated by China and Russia. The *Trumpet* has foretold this for over two decades, and Herbert Armstrong and the *Plain Truth* magazine did so for more than five decades before that! China's rise and the geopolitical reshaping we are witnessing today points to the dramatic and sure fulfillment of this age-old prophecy—a prophecy that actually culminates in the most momentous event in the universe's history: the return of Jesus Christ, and the commencement of an age of peace for all the people of Asia, and of Europe, and for the whole of mankind! ■

"The Thai perceive regional power dynamics as follows: China is rising; the U.S. is distracted/declining; and Thailand will adjust its policies accordingly."

A THAI ARMY COLONEL



To understand more, request our free booklet ***Russia and China in Prophecy.***



The Battle for Syria

An Arab Spring may be taking root, but don't be fooled. What's growing here is different than what you might think.

BY ROBERT MORLEY

WHEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT and al Qaeda agree on something, you know that can't be a good thing.

In this case, they both want Syrian President Bashar Assad to step down. Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, while calling Assad a “leader of criminal gangs” and a “traitor” to his people, has applauded the pro-democracy activists’ efforts to teach their president a “lesson.” Meanwhile, America is openly rooting for a “democratic transformation.” Both America and al Qaeda, ironically, are pushing for people power.

Yet for all the talk, neither group has much influence in Syria. That country's future will be determined by powers more influential than either of them.

Since Syria sits near the heart of the world's most important but increasingly volatile oil-exporting region, the resolution of this conflict will affect regional stability and even the world economy. Plus, Syria's Arab Spring could easily morph into Israel's dark winter if the Jewish state ends up with an even more radical regime as a “peace partner.”

The pressure for regime change in Syria is coming from both inside and outside—but not necessarily from where you might expect.

Popular Uprising

From within, the pressure for change comes from its 75 percent Sunni majority, who are upset with the ruling Alawite minority of President Assad. This is not unexpected. Sunnis are both economically disadvantaged and politically unrepresented despite being the vast majority. The recent protests are the product of years of repression and in some cases outright persecution.

Now the protests are intensifying—as is Assad's bloody crackdown. On July 30, for example—perhaps the bloodiest day to that point—reports indicated that 120 people were killed as troops besieged Hama, a city of 800,000. The following day, an intense gun battle was also reportedly raging in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, and soldiers backed by tanks took control of the town of Houla in the central province of Homs.

The protests are no longer just contained to the far south, and it is harder

for Assad to blame the uprisings on agitators from Jordan and Israel. In fact, there are signs that tension is spilling over into Assad's power centers. On August 30, one of the first protests in the economically important city of Aleppo took place. Although the demonstration was largely peaceful, hundreds of people took to the streets. The business-class residents of Damascus and Aleppo have remained loyal to Assad thus far, but if proposed international sanctions kick in, there is sure to be more tension, even in Assad's strongholds.

The United Nations reports that more than 2,200 people have been killed since the uprising began in mid-March. As the protests have grown in strength, greater numbers of military defections are occurring. There is a growing sense that Assad may be losing control of events.

The internal turmoil has opened up Syria to exploitation by outside powers. This is not unknown by Assad, but there may be little he can do about it. If he wants to stay in power, he needs friends—and that comes with a price.

Two Blocs Forming

With the United States winding down its

presence in the Middle East and evacuating its troops, the region is fragmenting into competing power blocs. Syria is caught right in the center of the power struggle.

These power blocs can be categorized as those aligned with Iran and those reacting against Iran's growing strength.

Currently, Syria is in the Iranian camp (along with Iraq and, increasingly, Egypt). Syria is Iran's most important ally, and Iran will do all it can to keep it in its sphere of influence.

Now that Syria is experiencing internal turmoil, Iran is trying to exploit this vulnerability to strengthen this alliance and thus its foothold near Lebanon and Israel's northern border. When the protests initially broke out, Iran sent Bashar Assad both Hezbollah fighters and crack Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps members to help stomp them out. By Stratfor's reckoning, this sent a dual message that Iran could not only help Assad but also hurt him if he chose to realign himself with other Sunni states in an effort to gain their assistance in pacifying the protesters. Iranian meddling has thus far proved effective—but in the end, meddling of any kind also tends to produce a backlash.

Iran is currently using America's withdrawal from the region and the general unrest as a once-in-a-lifetime-type opportunity to destabilize its Sunni Arab rivals and assert its regional hegemony. Iran's virtual takeover of Iraq is one example, as is the battle for Bahrain and the world's largest oil fields in Saudi Arabia.

Attempting to oppose Iran's growing influence in the Middle East is a Saudi-led coalition of nations.

"Saudi Arabia has an ambition and so does Iran," noted Bassel Salloukh, assistant professor of politics at the Lebanese American University, in 2009. "Syria stands in the middle."

Saudi Arabia has been working on shifting Syrian loyalties for years. It too looks on the current crisis as a game-changing opportunity.

Saudi Arabia's current plan of action hinges on its greatest strength: oil exports. Earlier this year it lent Syria \$73 million to construct a new power plant to alleviate growing electricity shortages. The message from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council members (which now include Jordan) is that they are more than willing to help Assad overcome his financial difficulties, as long as his regime takes the necessary and visible actions to distance itself from Iran.

But perhaps the greatest pressure for change in Syria is coming via its neighbor Turkey.

Another Formidable Power

Like Saudi Arabia, it is in Turkey's strategic interest to build a coalition of states to act as a counterbalance to Iran.

This fits well with the views of Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Recep Erdoğan, who seems to envision Turkey as the leader of the Arabs. In power since 2002, he has been accused of seeking to establish a new Ottoman empire.

With a fast-growing economy, a rising population and the largest military in Europe, Turkey has become a formidable power. With its NATO ties, it also has access to many tier-one economic and military powers not available to some of its Middle Eastern rivals. "For the first time since the

The longer and more violent the Syrian protests get, the more an Arab coalition including Syria and joined with Turkey looks probable. In fact, this is exactly what the Bible predicts will happen.

end of World War I, Ankara is beginning to revisit its historical role as a regional powerhouse," wrote Stratfor last year.

America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with rejection by the European Union due to its Muslim religion, have compelled Turkey to step out on its own. Although its first small steps saw it begin to subordinate its defense agreement with Israel and make overtures to Iran, events in Syria are now setting up a clash with the Persians.

Turkey has been working closely with Syria to help manage the fallout from the protests there. Syria is relying on Turkey to prevent NATO intervention, while Turkey wants to make sure the violence does not spread from Syria's Kurdish population into its own. Toward this end, Erdoğan is publicly insisting on enough reforms to satisfy the protesters, but not so many as to cause Assad to lose power.

However, behind the scenes, there is evidence that Turkey is pushing for much more dramatic changes. According to the *Jerusalem Post's* Caroline Glick, Turkey

has been actively interfering in the revolt against Assad. Meanwhile, Turkish humanitarian relief agencies are hosting Syrian opposition leaders in Turkey. For now, Syria needs Turkish support, so Ottoman influence in Syria will probably grow. But according to Stratfor analysts, Erdoğan's party wants Syria's Islamist organizations to gain political space—with the goal of becoming their eventual sponsor. "Erdoğan's clear aim is to replace Iran as Syria's overlord in a post-Assad Syria," says Glick.

So Who Will Win in Syria?

In March, Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Sultan told his Turkish counterpart that the Saudi royals "want to see Turkey as a strategic partner of Saudi Arabia."

Will the Turks join Saudi Arabia's Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in opposing Iran? By working together, they would certainly form a much more formidable front.

The longer and more violent the Syrian protests get, the more an Arab coalition including Syria and joined with Turkey looks probable.

In fact, this is exactly what the Bible predicts will happen. For more than 15 years, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said that biblical prophecy foretells that the Middle East will fracture into two rival alliances. In his 1996 booklet *The King of the South*, Mr. Flurry indicated that despite contrary outward appearances, Syria would eventually split from its Iranian allies.

Fifteen years later, that prophecy looks like it is about to be fulfilled.

What happens in Syria will almost certainly affect Lebanon too, since in many ways, Lebanon is controlled by Syria. As is brought out in Mr. Flurry's booklet, Lebanon is prophesied to eventually abandon its relationship with Iran too.

Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the other GCC member states are seeking to draw more allies together in order to protect themselves from Iran. Next, watch for them to begin reaching out to Germany and the Europeans for protection—that too is prophesied in your Bible.

Syria's Arab Spring is not over yet. America is shrinking in influence. Iran is becoming the undisputed king of the region, and new allies are banding together for protection. Prophecy is being fulfilled, and despite the troubles ahead, it is all leading to the best news ever: the return of Jesus Christ. ■



For a scriptural explanation of why we expect Syria to break its alliance with Iran, request a free copy of Gerald Flurry's booklet *The King of the South*.

Arab Spring Leading to Israel's Fall?

BY RICHARD PALMER

THE SO-CALLED ARAB SPRING claimed its first Israeli casualties on August 18. A “terror squad” coordinated attacks on two buses and two cars, as well as Israeli troops, killing eight and wounding 40. As Israel tried to deal with terrorist bases in Gaza, Islamists fired over 100 rockets, killing 15 and wounding nearly 70.

This is just the beginning. The attacks have made Egypt *more* supportive of Hamas. Meanwhile, in response to the Arab Spring, Iran and its terrorist proxies are pushing for war with Israel to take the heat off men like Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Israel faces a three-front war. Its position will only get worse as Egypt slides toward radical Islam and Iran. The Arab Spring is already a disaster for Israel.

A ‘Game Changer’ in Egypt

The August 18 terrorist attack couldn’t have happened with Hosni Mubarak running Egypt. Israeli officials say that a heavily armed group of Palestinians crossed into the Sinai from Gaza a month before, where they were joined by other militants. They then crossed the desert into Israel and attacked.

Mubarak clamped down on terrorists in the Sinai, and while he didn’t stop weapons flowing into Sinai, he did close the official border and limit the terrorists flowing out.

Now, it is anarchy.

Islamists attacked the gas pipeline from Egypt to Israel five times from February to July this year. They have burned down police stations and even the headquarters of Egypt’s state security in Rafah. The number of rockets in the Gaza Strip has doubled from 5,000 to 10,000 since the end of last year.

Even before the August 18 attacks, Israel was very unpopular with the Egyptian people. Now, the tension is even worse.

As Israel pursued the attackers, some Egyptian police were killed in the crossfire. This poured kerosene on the flames of Egypt’s animosity toward Israel. “What was tolerated in pre-revolution Egypt will not be in post-revolution Egypt,” wrote Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf.

A group of Egyptian politicians, including several of Egypt’s presidential hopefuls and the former leader of the Arab League, Amr Moussa, published a statement in local newspapers warning that Mubarak was “a strategic asset to Israel” but now, Egypt is ruled “by a strong popular will that does



ANOTHER VICTIM
Israeli policemen bury a counterterrorism officer killed by a “terror squad.”

not know weakness or complicity and understands how to achieve retribution for the blood of the martyrs.”

At time of writing, Egypt has not completed its autopsy on the dead policemen, but don’t expect Egyptian leaders to call for retribution if it turns out they were killed by the terrorists.

The killings prompted protests outside the Israeli Embassy in Egypt. One man scaled the building and replaced the Israeli flag with an Egyptian one. He has been applauded across Egypt and on Facebook and Twitter.

Faced with Egyptian threats to recall Egypt’s ambassador, Israel apologized for the deaths. Egypt’s cabinet refused to accept the apology, saying it was “not in keeping with the magnitude of the incident and the state of Egyptian anger toward Israeli actions.”

The Egyptian people have long been anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic, but as JKC de Courcy of Intelligence Research pointed out, the “game-changer” is that now, “Egypt has to take account of popular opinion in a way that the Mubarak regime did not.” He continued: “Even under the transitional Supreme Military Council this factor is having an impact on Egyptian policy, and that will be even more the case once elections have been held” (August 24).

An Incentive for War

This incident is being exploited by Hamas and their Egyptian cousins, the Muslim Brotherhood. “There is evidence that Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood are working together to refocus the energy of the Arab Spring onto Israel and the Palestinian question and away from the purely domestic issues that were the initial inspiration,” wrote de Courcy.

Stratfor’s George Friedman warns that this pro-Palestinian sentiment “is a singular unifying force that might suffice to break the military’s power, or at least force the military to shift its Israeli policy” (August 22).

Hamas’s strategy is to attack Israel through front organizations—terrorist groups that it supports or controls but denies having

any jurisdiction over. This means that if Israel bombs Gaza, Hamas can deny having provoked the conflict and simply play the victim. Sadly, history shows that most of the world will believe it.

“I find it difficult to believe that Hamas, with an excellent intelligence service inside Gaza and among the Islamist groups in the Sinai, would not at least have known these groups’ broad intentions and would not have been in a position to stop them,” wrote Friedman. “Just as Fatah created Black September in the 1970s, a group that appeared separate from Fatah but was in fact covertly part of it, the strategy of creating new organizations to take the blame for conflicts is an old tactic both for the Palestinians and throughout the world” (ibid).

Hamas has much to gain by provoking war. It would be almost impossible for Egypt’s government to keep its peace with Israel while popular opinion overwhelmingly supported the “innocent” Hamas as it was bombed in Gaza. Rather it would surely allow aid of every type to flow into Gaza to help Hamas confront the Israelis.

Such a war would also make it hard for Fatah, in the West Bank, to do nothing. There, popular opinion would be clamoring for an intifada, which could push Fatah to side with Hamas. Meanwhile, Israel

See **ARAB SPRING** page 36 ▶

God's Word is flooded with promises you can claim!
But how? What is the evidence that God will
follow through with what He has promised?

The Evidence of Faith

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

YOU CANNOT SEE FAITH. IT IS SPIRITUAL. It doesn't come by the five senses. Faith is spiritual because it is relying on a *spiritual*, invisible God. Hebrews 11:1 makes it plain: Faith is simply evidence you cannot see.

There are several outstanding models of living faith recorded in the Holy Bible. Noah, for example, "moved with fear" after being warned by God "of things not seen as yet" (Hebrews 11:7). Noah's evidence, in other words, was based on faith. His decision was based solely on what God SAID. There was no physical evidence to suggest a flood would eventually come and destroy all of mankind.

As a matter of fact, all the physical evidence suggested he should *not* build the ark. People in those days were eating, drinking and marrying—they were just enjoying the "good" life (Luke 17:26-27). Why look like a fanatic and build a huge ark for *100 years* in the middle of dry land while being mercilessly subjected to cruel mockings and ridicule? *Because God said so.* God said a flood would come, and Noah simply believed Him in *faith*.

Abraham also *faithfully* feared and obeyed God. He was 75 years old when God told him to leave all that he had and to travel to an unfamiliar, faraway place.

"By *faith* Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, OBEYED; and he went out, *not knowing whither he went*" (Hebrews 11:8). God told him to go, and Abraham left in faith, not even knowing where he was going!

At the age of 130, nearly 55 years after leaving his homeland, Abraham faced his greatest test of faith. He was told to sacrifice his son Isaac. After God gave this instruction, the Bible relates, Abraham rose early in the morning and left for the place God had told him to go (Genesis 22:1-3).

His faith had become so strong that he didn't even question God! When he ar-



rived at the place God had commanded and arranged for the sacrifice, he was stopped just short of killing Isaac. "And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do

thou any thing unto him: for NOW I KNOW THAT THOU FEAREST GOD, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me" (verses 11-12). Now God knew that the only evidence Abraham would ever need to carry out God's command was FAITH!

In all these examples, notice how faith does NOT require understanding. Noah was warned of things *not seen*. Abraham didn't know *where* he was going. Yet their obedience didn't depend on God answering their every little question.

It is not important to know *why* God says to do something—ONLY THAT GOD SAYS "DO IT"! That is what makes it a test of faith: because faith depends on evidence NOT SEEN.

What Is Faith?

The definition of faith is found in Hebrews 11, the faith chapter—one of the most practical chapters in the Bible. "Now *faith* is the SUBSTANCE of things *hoped for*, the EVIDENCE of things *not seen*" (verse 1). So faith is a substance—or *assurance*, as most Bible margins say. It's something you *have*, but it is the substance of things *hoped for*. So *faith* comes before possession. You may not *yet* have the actual possession, but faith is the assurance that you will!

In his booklet, *What Is Faith?*, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "Once you have received the possession, you no longer hope for it. But even *before* you receive it, you have it in substance; and that substance—that assurance that you shall possess it—IS FAITH."

In a way, faith is a substitute, because God will eventually replace it with what you have asked for, as long as He has promised it.

Faith is *believing* God. It is TRUSTING God to do what He hasn't yet done.

To strengthen our faith in God, we must really know what God says in His inspired Word—to understand His will (Ephesians 5:17). Faith comes by hearing, Paul said, “and hearing by the *word of God*” (Romans 10:17). If we *know* it is God's will, then we can ask in faith.

There's more. It is not enough just to know God's will. “And whatsoever we ASK [after knowing His will], we receive of him, BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight” (1 John 3:22). Obedience to God is the often overlooked aspect of living faith.

If we know God's will and are striving to obey His voice, then as Christ said, “According to your *faith* be it unto you.”

It is such a simple formula. Yet, as Mr. Armstrong wrote in the April 1980 *Good News*, “At least 99 out of every 100 earnest, surrendered Christians have not fully realized just what faith is or how to exercise it.”

Search the Bible for God's will, strive to obey His laws, and then faithfully believe. That is the formula. But it is important to note that what God does *not* promise anywhere in His Word is HOW or WHEN He will answer our request. That fact ALONE is what CAUSES SO MANY PEOPLE TO LOSE FAITH.

What many people typically do is ask God for something He has promised and then figure out for themselves HOW and WHEN they would like God to fulfill that request! When that happens, faith immediately breaks down because we generally base the how and when on any available *physical* “evidence.”

But remember, faith is a spiritual thing. We cannot see it! We must put our trust in God ALONE.

Waiting on God

In the *Good News* article mentioned above, Mr. Armstrong challenged the reader by stating, “It is impossible for God to lie. Impossible for God to break His promise. *Do you believe that?*” (emphasis added throughout). It's easy to *say* that God keeps His promises. But when things don't work out the way we want them to, it's also very easy to become disillusioned about God and His Word.

God will often test our patience by

making us wait on Him because He wants to see if our faith will waver. It must not! It must remain constant, without wavering!

Abraham learned that. His faith didn't stagger at the seemingly unbelievable promises of God (Romans 4:19-20). He was “fully persuaded that, what [God] had promised, he was able also to perform” (verse 21). *That is faith*. It is simply believing that what God *has promised*, HE WILL DO!

Through the examples of Abraham and many others in the Bible, God is trying to teach us that He considers faith to be MUCH MORE important than the actual possession! That is why God hasn't promised how and when He will answer. He wants our faith to develop *most of all* because, ultimately, WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE—THROUGH FAITH! (Ephesians 2:8).

Another reason God doesn't promise *how* He will answer our request is because when He does answer, He wants us to know that *He* did it—not us! God often answers our prayers in a way we would least expect.

Furthermore, He doesn't promise *when* He will answer, as noted earlier, because He wants us to develop *patience* (James 1:3). God tests our faith so that we might grow to the point, like Abraham, where we will not waver (verse 6).

In a way, faith is a substitute, because God will eventually replace it with what you have asked for, as long as He has promised it. Then, once you receive the possession, you no longer need faith!

No wonder God often makes us wait. He wants to see our faith grow and strengthen over time.

The single greatest reason people lose faith in God is that He does not necessarily answer immediately. Yet if we can focus on the *faith* being developed, look at how positive a trial can be! God will often try our patience. But HE WILL NEVER FAIL US.

The Resurrection

Sometimes it is easy to read certain Bible stories that cover only brief highlights and assume these great men had some sort of superhuman faith, and that God answered their prayers almost before they finished asking. Not so! The men and women of Hebrews 11 *were* people of FAITH—but they were *also* people of PATIENCE. They waited on God. Noah built the ark for at least 100 years. Abraham did not have a son until 25

years after God told him to leave his homeland. By patiently waiting on God, these men and women developed *lasting* faith.

Read Hebrews 11:33-34 to see what many of these men and women accomplished by faith. They trusted in God and He delivered them! But many others were tortured, mocked, scourged and thrown into prison (verse 37). Why weren't these individuals protected? Didn't God promise it? Did God lie?

Verse 13 gives the answer: “These all DIED IN FAITH, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off ...” The possession is not most important to God. Faith is! These men and women died in faith, *not yet* having received the promises. But they saw them afar off, by faith! Faith is the substance of things *hoped for*. How terribly insignificant physical things are when compared to the spiritual!

In the near future, these individuals who died in faith will be resurrected to immortal life. At the resurrection, every wrong will be made right. Psalm 37:1-2 make this abundantly clear. Notice these clear promises in verses 3-4. God doesn't specify *when* or *how*, but if we commit ourselves to pleasing God, He will never fail us!

The entirety of Psalm 37 discusses the difference between good and evil men, and the final outcome for both. Don't be fooled by the apparent prosperity of wicked men today, David wrote. In the end, *God will make it right*.

Is it worth it to have our faith tried and tested a little now? Is it worth it to patiently endure through a trial, sickness or test, until God eventually answers? He will never fail you!

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “There is *not one thing* I have had to rely upon God for and ask Him for in prayer, for myself and family or this wonderful work of His, which He has committed to me, THAT HAS NOT BEEN ANSWERED.” Imagine that! *Not one thing*. God was *always* there for Mr. Armstrong. The fruits of his life prove that. Like Abraham and Noah, he died in faith.

If God has made a promise to you, that is all you need to know! If He delays answering your prayer, that is all it is—a *delay*. It doesn't mean God has refused to answer or fulfill His promise. Don't rely on physical evidence. Faith is *not* physical. Trust God. His evidence is *invisible*. Never quit. Forge ahead with LIVING faith and see God come alive in your life! ■



The First Commandment With Promise

There is no substitute for a parent's God-given authority at home.

WHEN PHILADELPHIA MAYOR MICHAEL NUTTER lashed out at teenage delinquents at a Baptist church on August 7, I was struck by how well the congregation received his corrective rebuke—much of it aimed squarely at parents. Nutter hearkened back to his upbringing in West Philadelphia 40 years ago, when his parents enforced a simple code of conduct.

“That room? *We let you sleep in that room,*” Nutter said, paraphrasing his parents’ firm, no-nonsense approach. “Those clothes on your body? *I bought those clothes.* I brought you in here, I’ll take you out of here.”

This was no punch line at a Bill Cosby concert. This was a blistering sermon that invoked rousing applause and shouts of *hallelujah* and *amen*. This was a throng offering enthusiastic support for a citywide crackdown on youthful lawlessness and disrespect for authority.

“Now parents, please talk to your children,” the mayor pleaded. “They need to understand that there are serious consequences to aggressive, violent, idiotic, stupid behavior.” He then took aim at the teens: “If you want to be aggressive, *we’re going to be aggressive*” (emphasis added throughout).

Those who heard the mayor’s message—most of them parents—absolutely *loved* it. Said one black parishioner, “Our older generation fought hard and it wasn’t that long ago we got the right to vote. For some kids to take advantage of it like this *is very troubling*.”

Yet this woman, like many others who applauded the mayor’s message, appears to be a large part of the problem. When her 16-year-old daughter, who also attended the service, was asked about the mayor’s remarks, this was her sharp-tongued response: “*I wasn’t paying no attention.*”

Most of the congregants who packed that church to hear the mayor were three or four times older than that girl, who was one of the *few* young people to even bother attending.

She “wasn’t paying no attention.” The parents, on the other hand, couldn’t stop cheering! Why? BECAUSE MANY OF THEM REALIZE THAT THEY’VE LOST CONTROL OF THEIR CHILDREN—and *they’re desperate for help*. Many simply don’t enforce any rule of law or code of conduct within the home. And now they want the civil authorities to step in and be AGGRESSIVE.

A year and a half ago, I remember reading several news reports about the American Psychiatric Association’s plan to update and revise its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The last revision occurred in 1994. Since then, to no one’s surprise, the “experts” have discovered a *WHOLE HOST* of *new* mental illnesses, including behavioral “sicknesses” particularly common among young people.

Illnesses like *oppositional defiant disorder*. An individual with this, says the APA, is easily angered and often displays a “defiant, disobedient and hostile behavior toward authority figures.”

Then there is *temper dysregulation disorder with dysphoria*. This is the ridiculous psychiatric label given to children who have at least three temper tantrums per week!

It’s *not* simply a *SPIRIT OF REBELLION that can be driven out*

by parents who are willing to use authoritative discipline—it’s a *mental* disorder that must be treated with dangerously powerful, mind-altering *drugs*. As the *Washington Post* noted, these new disorders “could have far-reaching implications, including determining who gets diagnosed as mentally ill, who should get powerful psychotropic drugs, and whether and how much insurance companies will pay for care.” It’s little more than a multibillion-dollar pharmaceutical racket where untold millions of children are being treated like guinea pigs.

Not that drug companies and psychotherapists are primarily to blame. The *root cause* of our societal breakdown is the *DISINTEGRATION* of the *traditional family* and the *RULE OF LAW*. Medicalizing youthful rebellion is *just one* of *MANY* all-too-convenient alternatives for parents who have abandoned their God-given responsibilities to uphold law and order in the home.

But what *every* parent must *KNOW and accept* is that there is *no substitute* for God’s law! The very first form of government and authority a child comes into contact with is the family government inside the home. If this is non-existent, then how can we expect children to grow up with a healthy respect for law and government in society?

When the *family* breaks down, *SOCIETY* soon follows.

This is why God thunders, through the Apostle Paul, “Children, *OBEY* your parents in the Lord: *for this is right*” (Ephesians 6:1). The very first thing God-fearing fathers and mothers must teach their children is to *OBEY THEIR PARENTS!*

And when children disobey, the Bible says that they should be corrected—not in anger or frustration—but in love.

“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the *rod of correction* shall *DRIVE IT FAR FROM HIM,*” says Proverbs 22:15. Children, in other words, need to be taught that there are consequences for aggressive, violent, idiotic and stupid behavior. It is within the home that children first learn that fighting, smashing glass, stealing toys, damaging property, ignoring rules and disrespecting government simply will not be tolerated. And if they want to be defiant, angry and aggressive toward the rest of the family members in their community, then parents must respond *aggressively* to their aggression.

Paul continued in Ephesians 6:2: “Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)” Learning to *UPHOLD* and *revere* the office and authority of both father and mother is one of the *GREATEST LESSONS—and blessings—ANY OF US could ever learn!*

This is, after all, one of the Ten Commandments! (Exodus 20:12). And it’s the first commandment that comes with promise. Notice: “That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:3). Obedience to the Fifth Commandment automatically builds habits and character traits that lead to long and prosperous physical life.

Ultimately, if we learn to honor and obey our *spiritual* Father through the process of Christian conversion, it leads to joy-filled eternal life in the ever expanding Family of Almighty God!

Crowned, not elected?

I wonder if this means that a Holy Roman emperor will be crowned and not elected (“World’s Greatest Danger: Germany Domineers Over Europe Again!” September). Who else but a person from the Holy Roman Empire lineage would qualify? Will the 10 kings be actual “kings” as per the Middle Ages? Interesting times indeed. I am so thankful that you continue to blast your message in the face of disbelief and disdain.

Pond Inlet—CANADA

Another excellent article, Mr. Flurry! It’s amazing that this was all prophesied millennia ago and explained by both Mr. Armstrong and now yourself. You have also provided so much hope in this scary world that’s about to take a drastic turn for the worse. Thank you so much!

Jillian Coppola—BUFFALO, N.Y.

Why Germany is after Greece?

Thanks for an insightful article about facts most people wouldn’t be aware of (“Greece: Now a German Vassal State,” September). Germany has learned from its mistakes in World War II and is not only making sure she doesn’t repeat them, but also has total control of future events. Greece posed a major problem for the Germans in World War I and many historians believe delayed Hitler’s Russian offensive and may have changed the face of the war. With Greece now becoming a vassal state as you mention, the Germans will no doubt acquire one of the country’s crown jewels, her merchant shipping fleet. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics and the World Factbook, the Greek maritime fleet is today the largest in the world, accounting for 18 percent of the world’s fleet capacity. Germany may be rubbing her hands with glee at the demise of Greece today, but as Revelation 18:11-20 points out, its world dominance has a use-by date.

Peter—AUSTRALIA

More on nations like Ireland

Respectfully, I do suggest that far too much prominence is being given in *Philadelphia Trumpet* feature articles to, specifically, *Britain’s* (Ephraim’s) relationship with the European Union. In sharp contrast, it is lamented there is conspicuously so very little written



by *Trumpet* staff about the fraught relationships with an increasingly dictatorial EU of all the *other* European *Israelite* nations, including Ireland, where there is seething anger and frustration at the EU’s dirty tricks and bullyboy tactics to enforce compliance with what is, in fact, its own end-time satanic euro-agenda.

Christopher Patrick Murray—IRELAND

You are right: Persistence pays

Thank you for your encouraging article “The Secret to Success” (September). I myself have often thought how blessed those students are, that are on your campus. I have been doing the correspondence course for the last three and a half years and I am on Lesson 35. As for prayer, that did not come easy for me. In the beginning all I could give was 10 minutes; today one hour is no problem. You are right, persistence pays and slowly you start to develop the right attitude. Thank you for your slant on this subject as I feel I am not missing out at all, but part of a bigger picture. May God bless this work in all its endeavors.

Peter Stimson—AUSTRALIA

How we look at news

One of your finest articles yet (“Do You Ignore Reality?” September). You ask a question that makes the reader, myself included, question how we look at news and events as they explode upon the world scene. How fortunate we are that we have a very recent historical reminder of what mankind is capable of doing and with the invention of weapons of mass destruction we can see how the extent of damage will affect us. Most, sadly, will not learn the lesson until after war has come to pass, and this time most will not survive it. Thank you for this reminder to look into ourselves and see if we have the same weakness that beset the Western nations in the years leading up to World War II.

Rohann—SOUTH AFRICA

Blessings from work

I just wanted to thank you for your article “Six Days Shall You Labor” (August). It brought to my mind a lady whom I worked with until very recently, who definitely had a great attitude toward working, and who still inspires people, including myself, to this day. Having lived through

two world wars, this lady waited tables at our local hotel for six days each week for over 60 years. At the age of 97, she has a wonderful personality, a hearty humor, no health trials as far as I am aware, and has absolutely no plans to retire. In fact, she loves her job! To meet her is to realize the absolute blessing that God gives to those who keep this commandment, and I have heard comments from her “fans” to suggest that in fact it is her commitment to working over all these years that has kept her alive and well. I look forward to the day when everyone will enjoy their labor and reap the blessings from it.

ENGLAND

‘Lucked out’

Hello. I received this magazine at work by mistake, and I must say ... I’ve lucked out. I’m not religious, but this is a fine magazine: thought-provoking, smart and with the times. Good job to you all.

Riley D.—CANADA

I wanted to thank you for all the literature you have sent to me. I have not been able to read all of it because friends and neighbors are borrowing them from me as fast as I get them.

Sandy Hardin—TENNESSEE

A subscription to the *Trumpet* has been my joy for many years, and the *Plain Truth* before that. All of your publications are a cherished part of my library, and I am also a contributing co-worker as best I can. A special privilege was to meet Mr. Gerald Flurry in person on his New York visit.

Ray Santiago—NEW YORK, N.Y.

Eilat Mazar

Thank you so much for the *Trumpet*. On the recent issue’s cover, you pictured Eilat Mazar, archaeologist (August). I was thrilled to see the picture and read of her achievements. In November of 1989, I was honored to be given a 10-day trip to Israel by people I did not know who rewarded me for my work with troubled youth and their families. That trip was headed by Eilat’s father and coordinated by her brother. We dined with the heads of state for Eilat’s grandfather, Benjamin Mazar, who was officially the “father of Israel.” While we were on the Temple Mount, she is the one who showed us the archaeological digs and taught us what archaeology is really all about. Having worked with about 80,000 people in many capacities over the years, I have learned to recognize the genuine and the “not so genuine.” The Mazar family has my utmost respect. Thank you for highlighting her accomplishments. That is a compliment for both her and you.

James N. Lee—CALIFORNIA

The Joy of Family

Grateful reflections from “the son of a milkman”

MY ELDEST GRANDSON, DAVID, TURNED 21 THE SAME month as I turned 70 this year. Each of us crossing these thresholds within weeks of the other caused me to think on the joy of family.

I remember listening to David’s heartbeat shortly before his birth. I was on one end of a phone connection in Australia and my wife was in the opposite hemisphere in Pasadena, California, holding the other end to the stethoscope that was picking up the steady beat of that little, unborn infant’s heartbeat through his mother’s womb. I stayed on the line till I heard his first cries at birth. It was an expensive phone call, but worth every memorable moment.

Now that lad has become a strapping 6-foot young man beginning his final year at college. Seven other grandchildren followed from the marriages of my three children. It has been sheer delight to watch them grow up toward that time when they will make their choice to dedicate their lives to the service of their Creator.

One of the things my wife and I have most deeply appreciated throughout our life together is the wonderful biblical revelation about marriage and the family. It enabled a strong foundation for the building of a beautiful marriage and the raising of our children in God’s way of life. Now we are able to savor the results of seeing our children teaching that way to their own.

If I were to boast of my children and children’s children, my boast would be of a God who opened the minds of my wife and me to receive His divine revelation about the very nature, the reason for and true destiny of the marriage and family relationship. Had we not had the blessing of that knowledge, who knows what state my extended family would find itself in today!

But for reasons best known to Him, God did open our minds to His truth, and we have striven, through thick and thin,

It seemed that from the beginning, the deck was heavily stacked against prospects of my personal success in building a family.

through all test and trial, through occasional persecution and through ongoing correction, to live His way of life for al-

most half a century. Through all of this I would have to say that the joy of family has far exceeded all others in my life.

To put things into perspective, that joy has been enhanced even more because, on reflection, it seemed that from the beginning, the deck was heavily stacked against prospects of my personal success in that arena.

My paternal grandfather was murdered by fellow workers for refusing to take part in a labor strike when my dad was 13 years old. It was during the economically depressive interwar years. My dad then had to leave school at that young age and go to work laboring in a butter factory in Sydney, Australia, to support his sister and mother who were largely left destitute, except for



Request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s book **The Incredible Human Potential**.



their home.

The year I was born, my dad went to war in the Pacific campaign, fighting as a machine gunner in one of the most extreme battles against the Japanese forces in the Pacific, the battle of the Kokoda Trail in New Guinea.

Mercifully, he returned and was able to reengage with his prior employer. Five years later, however, he was killed in a road accident when a drunken truck driver rammed into his horse-drawn milk-cart.

I was 10 years of age.

My twice-widowed mom was left with two young daughters and me to raise. Her first husband had died of peritonitis when she was expecting her first child. Following the loss of her second husband, Mother became emotionally unstable. But the one thing she did do was hold our dad constantly before us as our hero. She never remarried. Hers was a truly loving relationship with her husband.

At the trial of the drunken driver, as the court was awarding damages to Mum for the death of her husband, Mum’s lawyer questioned what he thought was a sum too low to allow for my education and training to adulthood. The lawyer for the defendant contested any prospect of increasing the damages offered.

The judge agreed with the defending lawyer, claiming that taking Dad’s socio-economic status under consideration, and the future he could have offered to his children should he have lived, the amount was adequate. He rounded off his remarks with the statement, “Well, after all, what can one really expect of the son of a milkman?”

Damages were awarded at the lower level. But those words of the judge, conveyed to me by my mom, burned deeply into my brain as a child. From then on, I was determined to show the world what “the son of a milkman” could do.

God speaks of a resurrection of the dead when all who have ever lived will live again to experience life the way God intended from the beginning (Revelation 20:12). Perhaps I shall meet that Australian judge in that resurrection and boast to him of my God. Boast of the God who opened my ears to hear the words of an aging apostle, Herbert Armstrong, who taught the truth about marriage and family. One who taught the revelatory truth of how to raise a family within a successful marriage and then guide a second generation in training up a third, teaching them the knowledge of how to unlock their incredible human potential and truly gain success in this life.

I will boast of a God who will give every person conceived of man and born of woman—be they a common laborer, the “son of a milkman” or the highest judge in the highest court of the land—the opportunity to lay hold on the incredible human potential and fulfill his or her God-ordained destiny! (John 10:34). ■

would be condemned by the world for trying to defend itself.

Yet it is not only Hamas that has an incentive to attack Israel.

Israel Surrounded

Wherever there is conflict in the Middle East, it seems Iran is nearly always involved.

The *Washington Times* wrote on August 24, "Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, has ordered the Revolutionary Guards to draw Israel into another Middle East war through their Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Hezbollah proxies in an effort to save Bashar Assad's brutal regime in Syria, sources report."

Assad's troubles give Hezbollah a strong incentive to attack Israel. The terrorist group's popularity has suffered as it has supported Assad. But if it takes the focus off Syria's leader by attacking Israel, it can paint itself as the hero of the Arab world once again. And it can paint Assad's enemies as agents of Israel. Even if Assad fell, Hezbollah would come out looking far stronger if it was pitched in battle against the Jews. "It would help Hezbollah create a moral foundation for itself independent of Syria," Friedman explained.

So Israel has enemies to the north and south with strong incentives to start a war. Fatah in the east would face strong pressure to join them.

Israel faces the strong prospect of a three-front war. Its leaders seem aware of the danger. They have already announced that they will call on their reserves in September. But even if they weather the storm, they're in a tough position. Egypt is still sliding inexorably toward Hamas and Iran. It has lost control of the Sinai. Israel has allowed a thousand more Egyptian troops to enter the Sinai to try and bring it under control—but when Egypt aligns with Iran, these troops will become the enemy.

Biblical prophecy warns that East Jerusalem will soon fall to radical Islamic forces. The Arab Spring is setting the stage for this, making the radicals powerful enough to push at Israel.

How long can Israel survive when it is threatened on three fronts? ■

For a thorough biblical explanation of what is facing the nation of Israel—including its inspiring ultimate future, request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.



TELEVISION LOG

THE KEY OF DAVID

All times are a.m. local time unless otherwise noted.

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite Galaxy 3

Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET

Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307

8:00 ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00

ET, Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00

ET, Fri

Dish Network DBS WGN Chan.

239 8:00 ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00

ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH

5:00, Fri

Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT

8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT

8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri

Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT

8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT

9:30, Sun

Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun

Eureka KJUV-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KPXN 6:00, Fri

Monterey KMWV 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT

9:30, Sun

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30,

Sun

Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX

6:00, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun

Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT

9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP

6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-

DT/WTLH-DT 9:30, Sun

Tampa WXPX 6:00, Fri;

WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun

Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WJGA 9:30, Sun

Macon WBMM 9:30, Sun

Savannah WWSA/WGCV-LP

9:30, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54

6:30, Sun; 8:30, Wed

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

Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO

10:30, Sun

Pocatello KPIF 10:30, Sun

Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP

10:30, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT

8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUI 9:30, Sun; WCPX

5:00, Fri

Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPIA-DT 21.2

9:30, Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KPFX 5:00, Fri

Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun

Kirksville KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTVI-DT 8:30, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO

8:30, Sun

Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA

8:30, Sun

El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT

8:30, Sun

Lafayette KLWB 8:30, Sun

Lake Charles WBLC 8:30, Sun

New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

Presque Isle WBQP 9:30, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT

9:30, Sun

Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun

Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun

Detroit WPKD 6:00, Fri; WADL

10:00, Sun

Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri

Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun

Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-

DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior

WDLH 8:30, Sun

Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun

Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri

Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC

8:30, Sun

Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSW/

KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30,

8:30, Sun

Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun

Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun

Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun

Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun

Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun

Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun

Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

West Point WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT

8:30, Sun

Hannibal WDEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun

Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri

Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30,

8:30, Sun

St. Joseph WBJO 8:30, Sun

Montana, Billings KTVO-DT 8:30,

8:30, Sun

Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-

DT 10:30, Sun

Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun

Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun

Helena KMTF-DT 10:30, Sun

Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun

Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings

KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun

Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30, Sun

North Platte KWPL 8:30, Sun

Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30, Sun

Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT

9:30, Sun

New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri

Binghamton WBXI 9:30, Sun

Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV

10:00, Sun

Elmira WBE 9:30, Sun

New York City WPXN 6:00, Fri;

WLNY 10:00 Sun

Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri

Utica WBU 9:30, Sun

Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun

North Carolina, Durham WRPX

6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun

Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri

Greensboro WGPX 6:00, Fri

Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCT-

DT 9:30, Sun

Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri

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Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun
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Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun
Steubenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun
Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSB 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
Sioux Falls KWSB 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXK 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Arillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun

Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun
Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPKV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPKR 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun
Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun; KVOS 8:30, Sun
Spokane KGPK 6:00, Fri
Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLFX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WBPB 9:30, Sun
Weston WVFX-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30, Sun
Cheyenne KCHW 10:30, Sun
Riverton 10:30, Sun

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Belgium TV Vlaanderen channel 62 11:00 am, Sun
Germany KDG channel 840 11:00 am, Sun; TalkTalk TV channel 510 11:00 am, Sun
Ireland Sky channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; UPC channel 204; 10:00 am, Sun
Italy Sky Italia channel 518 11:00 am, Sun; Tiscali TV channel 518 11:00 am, Sun
Mediterranean Eurobirdi 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time
Middle East Eurobirdi 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun
Netherlands Ziggio channel 505 11:00 am, Sun
Poland Cyfra+ channel 105 11:00 am, Sun
Portugal ZonTV Cabo channel 210 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun
Romania UPC channel 146 12:00 am, Sun
Spain Hispstat 1.092V 11:00 am, Sun
Switzerland Nakoo channel 63; Cablecom channel 151 11:00 am, Sun
United Kingdom Sky: Channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; Freestat channel 210 10:00 am, Sun; Virgin Media channel 613 10:00 am, Sun

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 Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET, Sun
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 Grace Television Network 11:00 ET, Sun.
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Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Maritime Provinces CHF 7:30, Sun

Ontario, Toronto

WADL 10:00 Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00, Sun

Quebec, Montreal WYNY 10:00, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00, Sun

CARIBBEAN

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

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What's so 'hallowed' about HALLOWEEN?

Creepy goblins, ghosts and demons, witches on brooms, spiders and bats, flickering jack-o'-lanterns, eerie costumes and parties. Did you ever stop to wonder where the tradition of Halloween began? How did it come to be such a normal part of our culture? Is it an innocent childhood rite of passage, or something more sinister?

Halloween means "hallowed evening." But hallowed by whom? It can be traced back long before Christian times to paganism and worship of Samhain, lord of the dead. Let's be honest. One only has to look at Halloween costumes and decorations to see that they celebrate death, devils, witches and darkness—practices expressly forbidden in the Bible. True Christianity stands for the opposite of these things! Christians are supposed to conduct themselves in a way that exemplifies light and life, not darkness and death.

Did you know the Bible talks about a fall festival that is hallowed, or holy, to God? Isn't it time you learned the truth? Request our free reprint article "**What's So 'Hallowed' About Halloween?**" and our free booklet **Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?**

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