



*Will Obama's
Green Energy
Plan Work?*

**UKRAINE
GAS CRISIS**

What You
Need to
Know



**Young
old age!**

MARCH 2009

THE PHILADELPHIA

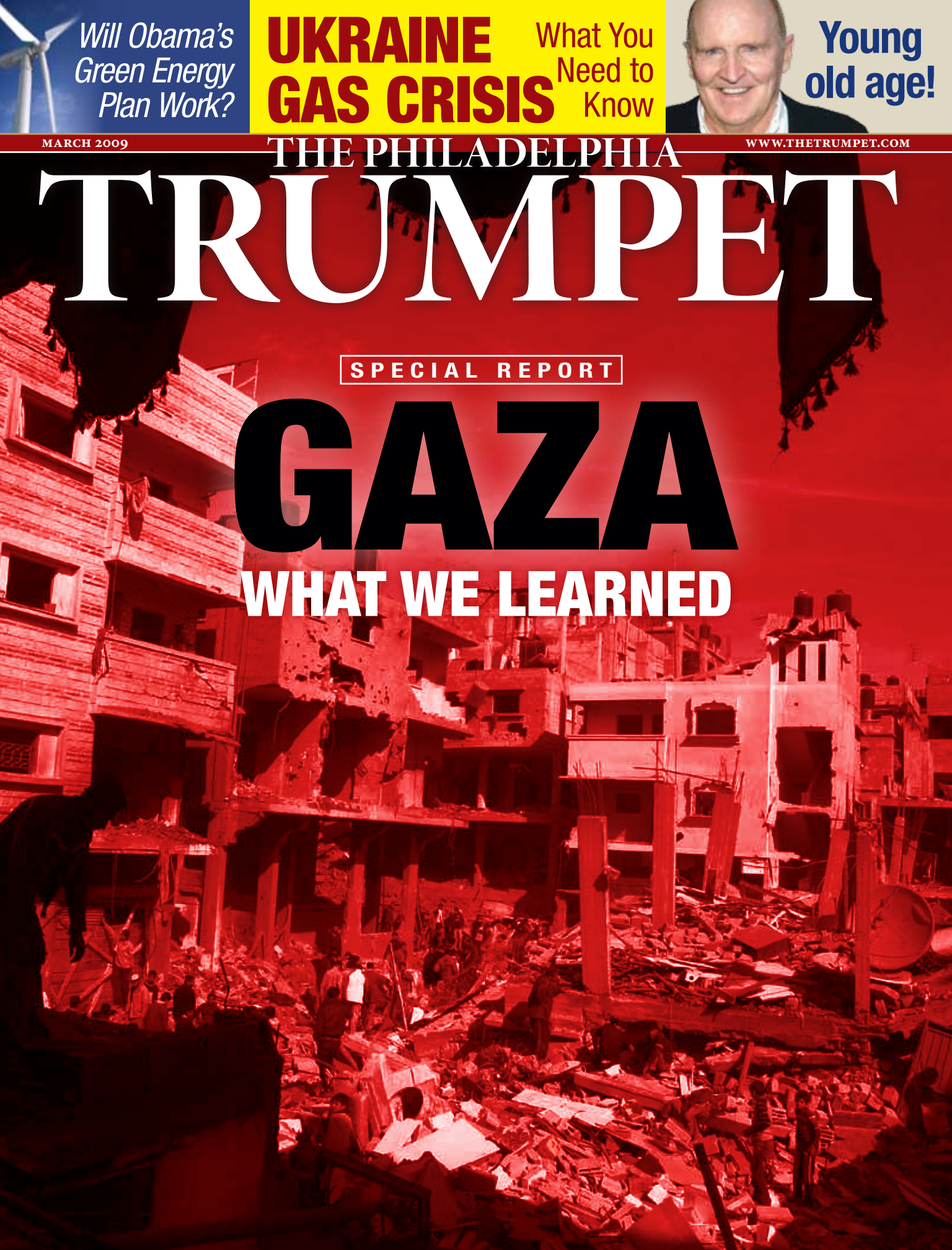
WWW.THETRUMPET.COM

TRUMPET

SPECIAL REPORT

GAZA

WHAT WE LEARNED





6

4

32

24

37

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 FROM THE EDITOR
The Modern Romans
- 16 WORLDWATCH
- 34 TELEVISION LOG
The Key of David
- 36 LETTERS
- 37 COMMENTARY
The Inaugural

WORLD

- 2 **How Ukraine's Gas Crisis Fulfilled Prophecy**

SPECIAL REPORT: LESSONS FROM GAZA

- 6 **The Déjà Vu War**
- 9 **Israel's Gift to Hamas**
- 10 **Why Arabs Wanted Israel to Win**
- 11 **Iraq Sides With Iran**
- 12 **Egypt Beyond Mubarak**
- 13 **The Israel-Turkey Alliance Is a Trap**
- 14 **Europe Seizes Its Opportunity**

- 26 **Is Mexico About to Collapse?**

ECONOMY

- 4 **The Green Energy Dream**
- 20 **Welcome to America's Economic War Zone**
- 22 **Your Standard of Living**

LIVING

- 15 **Old Age: The New Young!**
- 24 **Do You Respect Your Mate?**

SOCIETY

- 32 **A Softer Approach to Fighting Terror**

RELIGION

- 28 **BOOK EXCERPT**
© Philadelphia Church of God, Part One

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

COVER The war in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas
STAFF Publisher and Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry
Executive Editor Stephen Flurry
News Editor Ron Fraser
Managing Editor Joel Hilliker
Contributing Editors Mark Jenkins, Ryan Malone, Brad MacDonald, Robert Morley, Philip Nice
Associate Editor Donna Grieves
Production Assistant Michael Dattolo
Research Assistants Adar Kielczewski, Aubrey Mercado, Andrew Miiller, Richard Palmer
Proofreaders Nancy Hancock
Circulation Shane Granger
International Editions Editor Wik Heerma
French, Italian Deryle Hope
German Hans Schmidl
Spanish Edition Editor Carlos Heyer

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2009 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The Trumpet has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

CONTACT US Please notify us of any change in your address; include your old mailing label and the new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit any letter for clarity or space. **Website** www.theTrumpet.com **E-mail** letters@theTrumpet.com **Phone** U.S., Canada: 1-800-772-8577; Australia: 1-800-22-333-0; New Zealand: 0-800-500-512. Contributions, letters or requests may be sent to our office nearest you: **United States** P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083 **Canada** P.O. Box 315, Milton, ON L9T 4Y9 **Caribbean** P.O. Box 2237, Chaguanas, Trinidad, W.I. **Britain, Europe, Middle East, India, Sri Lanka** P.O. Box 9000, Daventry, NN11 1AJ, England **Africa** P.O. Box 2969, Durbanville, 7551, South Africa **Australia, Pacific Isles** P.O. Box 375, Narellan, NSW 2567, Australia **New Zealand** P.O. Box 38-424, Howick, Auckland, 1730 **Philippines** P.O. Box 1372, Q.C. Central Post Office, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1100 **Latin America** Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, U.S.

The Modern Romans

The Roman Empire thrived when its citizens valued marriage and family. It fell when they stopped cherishing the family.

WHY DO GREAT NATIONS OR EMPIRES FALL? WHY DO superpowers fall? It is a fact of history that all world-ruling empires have collapsed. But *why*?

There is a cause for every effect. The great historian Edward Gibbons wrote about the fall of the Roman Empire, the greatest of all the world-ruling empires. If you study Gibbons's work, it's obvious that America and Britain are headed in the same direction!

In his masterpiece, *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Gibbons identified five major causes that contributed to the fall of the Roman Empire: first, the breakdown of the family; second, increased taxation; third, an insatiable craving for pleasure; fourth, an unsustainable buildup of armaments; fifth, the decay of religion.

One of the greatest historians of all time is telling us *how* and *why* ancient Rome fell. Don't the conditions surrounding Rome's fall sound eerily similar to the conditions prevalent in the United States and British Commonwealth today?

History shows that the strength of any nation depends on the strength of its families. Family is the rock-solid foundation on which a country's superstructure is erected. That was the case for both America and Britain.

Rome in its heyday was affluent and had the mightiest army on Earth, just like America today. Back then, when people talked about Rome falling, they were scoffed at and scorned. When Seneca, the famous Roman, warned that Rome would fall—even telling people *why* it would fall—the people ignored him. In the words of Seneca, one of the foundational reasons Rome would fall was the fact that “*they divorce in order to remarry. They marry in order to divorce.*”

Seneca warned that family breakdown would destroy the Roman Empire!

Don't the conditions surrounding Rome's fall sound eerily similar to the conditions prevalent in the United States and British Commonwealth today?

Couldn't Seneca's warning just as easily apply to America and Britain today? Divorce and family disintegration are rampant in these nations.

“Largely forgotten today is the fact that the home is the basic foundation of any society. *It is the most influential element in national character.* It lays the first groundwork for learning individual character, values, goals, morality, self-control and loyalty.

“The *early* Romans basically understood this. And it was a force that helped Rome grow in power and stature” (*The Modern Romans*, Ambassador College, 1975; emphasis mine throughout).

In his book *Rome: Its Rise and Fall*, Philip Van Ness Myers wrote, “*First, at the bottom as it were of Roman society and forming its ultimate unit, was the family. ... The most important feature or element of this family group was the authority of the father.*”

Rome, like the United States, was built on a foundation of

strong, stable families in which the father was embraced as the chief authority!

Myers continued, “It would be difficult to overestimate the influence of this group [family] upon the history and destiny of Rome. *It was the cradle of at least some of those splendid virtues of the early Romans that contributed so much to the strength and greatness of Rome, and that helped to give her dominion of the world.*”

STRONG NATIONS ARE UNDERPINNED BY STRONG FAMILIES.

The father was the nucleus of the early Roman family. He led his sons and daughters and was an example of the virtues they were to develop. E.B. Castle wrote about the Roman Empire in his 1961 book *Ancient Education and Today*: “The [early Roman] boy's upbringing was founded on a profound conviction of the power of example, *first of the father himself* as a representative of virtues peculiarly Roman, but also of the great prototypes of Roman valor in the boy's family and national history who were presented to him as men worthy of admiration.”

Tacitus, a Roman historian of the early empire, wrote, “In the good old days [that is, of the republic], *every man's son, born in wedlock*, was brought up not in the chamber of some hireling nurse, but in his mother's lap and at her knee. And that mother could have no higher praise than that she managed the house and gave herself to her children” Society valued the women for rearing, educating and loving the children, and giving them the time and tender care they needed. “Religiously and with the utmost delicacy she regulated not only the serious tasks of her youthful charges, but their recreations also and their games” (ibid.). “*The idea of entrusting the training of a future Roman citizen to the incompetent guidance of a slave was repellent to the Roman mind at this time*” (Castle, op. cit.).

God says that's the way it ought to be: that families need to stick together (Matthew 19:4-5). Husbands and wives must work to *bind* their marriages together. God said that in marriage you ought to *cleave* to one another and become one flesh.

But the Romans, like Americans today, began to turn to a new morality that no longer valued marriage and the family. This caused them to lose respect for marriage and family.

Today, no-fault divorces are about as easy to get as going to the supermarket to buy your groceries. That's exactly what happened to Rome. As E.B. Castle wrote, “Added to this initial cause of family disruption”—that is, business trips taking the husband out of the home for long periods as trade and wealth increased—“was the consequent easy attitude to the marriage tie, *the increasing frequency of divorce, and growing freedom and laxity in women's morals, all of which ended in a loosening of the old family unit in which the best in Roman character had its roots*” (ibid.).

History shows clearly the foundational reason for the fall of the awesome and mighty Roman Empire. We ignore this history at our peril.



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

See **ROME** page 31 ►

How Ukraine's Gas Crisis Fulfilled Prophecy

Do not overlook the deep significance of this event! BY BRAD MACDONALD

LAST AUGUST, WHEN RUSSIA invaded the tiny nation of Georgia, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote that "Russia's attack on Georgia ... marks the *beginning* of a DANGEROUS NEW ERA IN HISTORY" (emphasis mine throughout).

Dr. George Friedman from Stratfor said this about it: "The war in Georgia ... is Russia's public return to great-power status."

Forcing Georgia back into the Russian sphere of influence was *stage one* of Putin's plan to return Russia to "great-power status." And it was successful, thanks in no small part to GERMANY'S COMPLICITY (For all the details, read "Russia's Attack Signals Dangerous New Era" from the October 2008 issue.)

For a short while, the Georgia invasion dominated global headlines. A handful of astute analysts captured the magnitude of the event and how it demonstrated the confidence and dark ambition of the Kremlin.

Then the financial crisis of September 2008 struck, and the media began to neglect Russia's history-altering actions. With world leaders and journalists focused on economic crises, pressure on Vladimir Putin subsided, and the former KGB operative was left alone to concoct STAGE TWO of his grand strategy to promote Russia as a global power.

After recognizing stage one of Putin's plan, Mr. Flurry anticipated what the next stage might be: "Will a crisis occur over Ukraine?" he asked *last October*. "That area is the breadbasket of Russia, and surely it is willing to wage war over that as well."

Mr. Flurry got even more specific. "Russia has Germany—and all of Europe—over a barrel. *Cutting off part of the flow of gas to a country would wreak havoc*

on the economy!" he said, implying that a gas crisis with Europe might well be used to carry out STAGE TWO of Putin's plan: to wrest Ukraine from Europe and back into the Russian sphere of influence.

HE WAS RIGHT!

Russia's Memo to Europe

When Russia reduced its natural gas exports to Ukraine on January 1, initial reports indicated that the spat would stay between Kiev and the Kremlin, would be short-lived and would not majorly impact Europeans. European countries, with supply lines and tanks at full capacity, weren't overly concerned about another mid-winter energy crisis like the winter 2006 debacle.

Early reports were wrong.

Three days after the first reduction, when it was apparent Ukraine was not hurting like Russia had hoped, the Kremlin cut supplies further. Still, that wasn't enough. The next day, Moscow stopped natural gas shipments through the last large operating pipeline through Ukraine, cutting off all gas flowing to Europe via Ukraine.

Europe was embroiled in a major energy crisis, again. It didn't take long before the heat and lights went out up and down the Balkan Peninsula, Bulgarian consumers were told to switch off gas stoves, and Slovakia declared a state of emergency. Meanwhile, deep cuts to supply in Greece, Macedonia, Hungary, Croatia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, France, Germany and Italy affected millions and cost European industry billions.

Tensions soared. Like the homes of countless Europeans, relations between Russia and Europe cooled, fast. For three weeks diplomats and politicians scurried furiously. The Kremlin argued that its

beef was with Ukraine, not Europe. That was diplomatic drivel. Moscow was well aware that the EU imports 25 percent of its gas from Russia, *80 percent of which flows through pipelines dissecting Ukraine*. When Russia punished Kiev, it *knew* the pain would resonate across Europe.

Truly, the energy crisis was *more* than a mere spat between Kiev and Moscow over money. It was a concerted effort by Russia to rope Ukraine and tug it away from Europe and back into the Russian sphere of influence.

"Ukraine hems in the south of European Russia so thoroughly that any hostile power controlling Kiev could easily threaten a variety of core Russian interests, including Moscow itself," Stratfor analyst Peter Zeihan explained. "Ukraine also pushes far enough east that a hostile Kiev would sever most existing infrastructure connections to the Caucasus. Simply put, *a Ukraine outside the Russian sphere of influence transforms Russia into a purely defensive power*, one with little hope of resisting pressure from anywhere. *But a Russified Ukraine makes it possible for Russia to project power outward, and to become a major regional—and potentially global—player*" (January 13). Without Ukraine, Russia's efforts to become a dominant international power are doomed to failure!

Vladimir Putin's Kremlin was sending Ukraine—AND ALL OF EUROPE—a message: UKRAINE BELONGS TO RUSSIA!

The message took root among some European leaders quickly. Within a few days of the crisis beginning, European Commission President José Manuel Barroso gave Ukraine a fairly blunt warning: "Ukraine says it wants to be closer to the

EU. If it wants to be closer, *it should not create any problems for gas to come to the EU.*"

That must have been music in the ears of Putin.

The Leader of Europe

Considering how Germany led Europe in restoring ties with Russia after the Georgian crisis, it was hardly surprising to see Germany surface as the central player in efforts to find a solution to the gas crisis.

It has become increasingly evident that Germany wields by far the most influence over European policy and effectively dictates EU foreign policy. Perhaps the most important lesson from the Georgian crisis of last August is that *Germany* is the mediator between Russia and Europe, and the European nation that Russia most fears and respects.

Unsurprisingly, as the gas crisis intensified it became more evident that the solution would undoubtedly run through Berlin. By Saturday, January 17, nearly three weeks after the crisis began, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and her Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, had reached a preliminary agreement for Russia to restore gas supplies to Ukraine and Europe. Less than 48 hours later, a formal agreement had been signed, and the lights and heat were back on in Europe.

The reconciliation was surprisingly sudden. A myriad of deals and discussions had occurred between every shade of politician and diplomat from Europe, Ukraine and Russia in the 17 days preceding that meeting. They had all failed—*until January 17.*

So what changed?

Notice what Stratfor reported that weekend. "Two very telling details about [this deal] reveal the future of Ukraine and Russia's relations with each other, and with Europe.

"First, as we noted while following the negotiations, this energy crisis was never about the big public summits involving the Russian and Ukrainian leaders and the EU, *but the behind-the-scenes deals being struck by the real power brokers: Russian Prime*

Minister Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and German Chancellor Angela Merkel" (January 19).

Did you catch that? All the wheeling and dealing between Russia and the EU and Russia and the host of European countries it met with didn't matter. The solution to the crisis was forged behind the scenes between RUSSIA AND GERMANY!

The date of those meetings won't be lost on regular *Trumpet* readers. "On January 16, Putin [conducted a meeting] with Merkel and then returned to Moscow where he met with Tymoshenko—*with a deal struck soon after*" (ibid.). The solution

A DEAL WITH RUSSIA THAT WILL SEE UKRAINE RETURN TO THE RUSSIAN FOLD!

For Germany, the Russian gas crisis was a spectacular opportunity!

By abandoning Ukraine in a deal with Russia, Germany simultaneously cemented its understanding with Russia and its position at the heart of Europe. By securing the agreement that got gas flowing into Europe again, Germany won goodwill from its neighbors, proved its credentials as the central mediator between Russia and Europe, and furthered its case to be the mouthpiece and trendsetter of Europe, the dictator of European foreign policy!

By unilaterally striking a deal with Russia, Germany put other European states in a bind, forcing them to decide what to do about Ukraine. "There are many countries in Europe, like Poland, that were not willing to give up their support of a Western-oriented Ukraine, as Germany seems to have done," Stratfor wrote. "But many have received their warning from Russia, which has shown it is willing to do more than tinker with energy supplies" (ibid.).

Each European nation is being forced to make the decision: Follow the precedent set by Berlin and release Ukraine to the Russians

in return for lights and heat—or oppose Germany, upset Russia, and stand in the dark and cold with Kiev.

How prophetically significant were these events! They cast a bright light on the continued growth of "great power" Russia—on the ultimately doomed effort by Ukraine to escape Russian control—on the location of the dividing line between Russia and Europe—on the shrewd and portentous deal-making between Moscow and Berlin—on the stark need for Europe to aggressively seek energy from other sources—and on the undeniable, inexorable rise of Germany as the leader of Europe. Readers of the *Trumpet* have been encouraged for years to watch for all of these trends—because each of them was foretold millennia ago in the pages of biblical prophecy! ■



All the wheeling and dealing between Russia and the EU and Russia and the host of European countries it met with didn't matter. The solution to the crisis was forged behind the scenes between Russia and Germany!

to Europe's gas crisis was hatched in Berlin on January 16—in private meetings between leaders from Russia and Germany—and then basically imposed on Ukraine the next day, January 17, in Moscow!

How did Germany assuage the Russians? "The players [Germany, Russia and Ukraine]—and their true roles as power brokers—are important, for they are the only ones who really understand and are willing to commit to what needed to be done in order to get the natural gas flowing again: *Return Ukraine to the Russian fold*" (ibid.).

Time will likely prove Jan. 16, 2009, a significant date in the Russo-European relationship. That was the date Germany—in a deal akin to its deal with the Kremlin over Georgia a few months earlier—STRUCK

The Green Energy Dream

Solar panels and wind turbines: Will President Obama's green economy work?

BY ROBERT MORLEY

THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED “green dream team” has taken office. Alternative energy is a pillar of President Obama's economic recovery plan and a defining issue of his presidency. Such energy, he says, will reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, clean up the air, and provide millions of jobs.

“We have heard president after president promising to chart a new course,” he said in December when he announced his new energy and environment team. “This time has to be different. This time we cannot fail.”

Clean, abundant, inexpensive energy would be a fantastic benefit to America. But how attainable is it?

Fully 2.5 million “green” jobs will be created, the president claims, as part of his plans for a massive economic revival. He will put “Americans to work building wind farms, solar panels and fuel-efficient cars,” he said. President Obama says he will also modernize the electricity grid, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and preserve national resources.

So America is poised to embark on what may become the biggest energy infrastructure revolution in the history of the world. It will have to be that big if green energy is going to make a dent in America's fossil-fuel addiction.

Let's examine the viability of these noble-sounding plans based on current realities.

How Much Is Enough?

Fossil fuels, the unloved dirty energy sources, go far beyond oil. Petroleum ac-

counts for about 40 percent of America's energy consumption. Natural gas and coal provide the U.S. with another 46.5 percent of its power.

With nuclear energy producing an additional 8.4 percent of the mix, only 6.8 percent of America's energy currently comes from renewable sources.

So you see the challenge we are facing if we are to green up America. The U.S. will need to develop a veritable ocean of renewable energy.

But not all renewable energy is considered green energy. For example, the green lobby generally opposes hydropower development because it floods land. Greens are also against biomass energy production because it often burns wood and produces waste. Environmentalists are growing in opposition to biofuels such as ethanol because these fuels not only use food crops, but they also promote greater land tillage and deforestation.

That leaves only three main options for Obama's green energy dream: geothermal, solar and wind power.

This presents a big problem. None of these options can live up to the hope that Americans are being led to place in them.

Geothermal power plant construction can take many years before electricity production results. From obtaining a permit to completing construction, it generally takes a minimum of five years to build a plant, but it can take much longer.

So the ramp-up time for a national push could be significant—especially considering how many facilities would need to be constructed.

America currently has geothermal power plants pumping out electricity in every state of the union. But many are old and are producing decreasing amounts of electricity. Many may need to be replaced soon. At the same time, if all the plants already in the planning and permitting stage—around 100—make it into production, America's geothermal capacity will double. That's good, but unfortunately, geothermal energy currently accounts for only one third of 1 percent of America's energy consumption. Even doubling America's geothermal capacity only ups the share of energy production to barely over *half a percent*. So geothermal energy by itself is probably not the solution for America's energy problems—at least not in any reasonable short- or medium-term time frame.

More Realities

That is probably a big reason Obama, in his green-energy economy press conference last December, specifically mentioned solar and wind power. The lead times to construction can be much shorter, and you don't have to spend years exploring for



geologically favorable formations.

But a society based on solar and wind power is probably a fantasy too. And one that Americans have fallen for before.

After the OPEC oil embargoes of the 1970s, the price of oil skyrocketed. Politicians repackaged themselves as proactive visionaries. On June 29, 1979, President Carter called for a “national commitment to solar energy.” He set a goal of producing 20 percent of the nation’s energy from various solar sources by the year 2000. Congress declared war on fossil fuels, passing the Energy Conservation Act of 1978. The media were filled with stories of solar-heated houses and multitudes of solar-powered devices. Scholars wrote articles about the economics of solar energy and how the days of oil were over.

What was the result? The full complement of solar energy collection equipment built since 1974 produces about 0.08 percent of America’s energy—8 parts in 10,000. Not even a tenth of 1 percent of our energy comes from solar power!

Wind power falls into a similar range of energy production. The combined power-generating capacity of every single windmill (and there are thousands), every photovoltaic solar cell on every rooftop, and every thermal solar energy plant across America equals 0.4 percent of America’s energy consumption. That number is astounding for its smallness. Despite 30 years of Carterism, taxpayer subsidies, mandates forcing energy utilities to use alternative energy, and the hundreds of billions of dollars invested so far, green energy isn’t even on the meter.

If America wants a green energy economy, it is going to have to SPEND. And spend. And spend like never before. President Obama’s plan to designate \$15 billion a year over 10 years will barely scratch the surface of what is needed. If America wants an energy revolution, taxpayers are going to have to pay and pay and *pay*, because trillions of dollars’ worth of energy infrastructure in America will need to be phased out and replaced.

An Economic Albatross

Here is the scale of what an energy revolution entails. As of 2001, California had 3,200 huge windmills covering vast mountainsides and desert passes. “All together, they produce—at a rare full wind—about 300 MW,” University of Connecticut physicist and author of *The Solar Fraud* Howard C. Hayden noted, “which is about one quarter as much power as a moderately large nuclear power plant pro-

duces, and is less than 10 percent of the electricity the small state of Connecticut consumes.” So even if the state of California, the nation’s leader in wind power, quadrupled its wind-generating capacity, it would be the equivalent of building just one nuclear power plant.

Moreover, private enterprise won’t make the switch to green power willingly. Why? For the same reason the free-market economy has passed on the idea for decades: It doesn’t make economic sense.

That is why the Carter energy revolution was such a failure. It mostly boils down to cost-benefit analysis. In a world

In a world of international competition, the environment takes a backseat, and green energy is an economic albatross.

of international competition, the environment takes a backseat, and green energy is an economic albatross.

Electricity produced from the sun and wind is more expensive than electricity produced from coal and natural gas. Solar energy costs about three times as much as coal, according to some estimates. And wind power, while not as expensive as solar, has two additional major disadvantages. Initial construction costs are much higher than for traditional power plants, which means it takes a lot longer to earn a return on investment. Also, wind power is unreliable. When the wind doesn’t blow—and sometimes it doesn’t for days—the lights go out and you don’t get paid.

So as a general rule, the only time these green energy production facilities get built is when the government intervenes—through mandates, subsidies, taxation and other means—to make green energy competitive. Unfortunately, government intervention always costs money. Taxpayers and businesses pick up the tab through higher energy bills and higher tax rates. And, in some cases—as with ethanol production—higher food costs too.

Those higher costs lead to other problems.

If businesses were required to pay the real cost for green energy, many would become uncompetitive. Many strategic industries such as refiners, metal fabricators, steel producers, chemical manufacturers, and pulp and paper producers require abundant cheap energy. And you can guarantee that countries like China and India—nations that have fewer

environmental qualms—would take full advantage of higher costs in the U.S. to attract any new industry. Make energy more expensive in America, and even existing industry could well close up shop and head overseas to countries that embrace cheap energy sources. Then America would be spending even more money importing products made by foreign companies. And how does it help the economy if the new 2.5 million green energy jobs are cancelled out by unintended job losses in other sectors?

It boils down to this: Higher energy costs reduce the efficiency of the economy. Any way you look at it, that means

fewer jobs and a lower standard of living.

Choosing to pursue clean energy for moral or environmental reasons is one thing, and some may consider it worth the cost to Americans to live with less air pollution. But pretending that it can eliminate our fossil fuel dependence or solve or improve our economic problems is, at best, wishful thinking. At worst, it’s a dangerous lie.

The fact is, with current technology, green energy cannot run America, or the world, at the level it runs on now. That is what the real science says. We live in a world set up to run on fossil fuels. Green energy just does not provide the return on investment that coal, oil, natural gas or nuclear power do.

A Real Energy Revolution

Of course, clean energy for all nations is something that should be aspired to. In fact, God says we should be good stewards of the environment. God put man on this Earth to dress it and keep it. That certainly didn’t include polluting the environment.

When mankind rejected God’s way of life, God cut mankind off from His revealed knowledge. And in his greed, man chose to exploit the cheapest form of energy—fossil fuels. Thus the world’s whole system of energy infrastructure and economy was built on a faulty foundation.

Today, it would only be economically possible to embrace green energy if there were much better technology available—or if some Force from above was to level the playing field.

See **GREEN** page 34 ►



SPECIAL REPORT

Lessons F



The Déjà Vu War

Israel has been here before—and made the same mistakes. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

IT MAY SOUND FAMILIAR: A POWERFUL MODERN army fighting a ragtag group of ill-equipped, yet elusive and well-connected, terrorists. The stronger foe finally responds to incessant acts of terror against its civilians by retaliating forcefully, supposedly inflicting massive damage on the terrorist infrastructure. In the end, however, the assault finishes with a whimper as troops retreat.

The terrorists, meanwhile, survive the firestorm intact, declare victory over the larger foe, win sympathy and legitimacy from Western apologists, enjoy sky-high approval ratings across the Arab world and begin the process of rebuilding a much stronger arsenal in preparation for the next round of fighting.

The latest chapter of this all-too-familiar story happened recently in Gaza.

Israel's Wound

For more than 15 years, Israel's enemies have used the peace process, which began in Oslo in 1993, to destroy the Jewish state.

Israel unilaterally withdrew its army and even forcefully uprooted its own people from Gaza in 2005. The move was hailed the world over as a bold step toward Palestinian statehood and peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs. Fundamentalist Islam, however, viewed the retreat as yet another victory in its ongoing

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED? The damage Israel's military inflicted on Hamas in the Gaza Strip did not achieve its purpose and will prove to be counterproductive.

From Gaza

war against the West and one step closer to its goal of eliminating the Jewish state.

Within months of Israel's evacuation, Palestinians rewarded the most extreme wing of their governing body at the ballot box, handing Hamas 56 percent of the seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council. The international community initially responded with outrage. The United States, the European Union and the United Nations all refused to formally recognize or interact with Hamas.

But with substantial economic and military support coming from its puppet master in Tehran, Hamas survived diplomatic isolation and continued serving Iran's strategic interests. In June 2006, for example, Hamas gunmen raided an

overwhelming favors this two-state "solution," seemingly blind to the obvious fact that a Palestinian state *already* exists alongside Israel—in Gaza.

And it hasn't solved anything.

Last year, as the Bush administration pushed for a final-status deal between Mahmoud Abbas and Ehud Olmert, and as the international community pumped \$1.7 billion into the Palestinian Authority, Hamas undertook a massive buildup for war against Israel.

In December, the war came. In response to Hamas's barrage of rockets and mortars on Israeli targets, Israel launched Operation Cast Lead. Despite the success of the opening salvo of airstrikes, it was clear from the beginning that Israel's retaliation against

Jordan. It showed the true colors of Israel's ally Turkey, whose leaders condemned Israel's actions perhaps more harshly than those of any other country.

It showed that anti-Semitism is more virulent than ever around the world as ugly demonstrations in city after city slammed Israel and supported Hamas. It showed the Western media—not to mention the Arab media—is as biased as ever, reporting Hamas-controlled information as fact and regurgitating the terrorist group's propaganda as hard news. It showed the United Nations living up to its track record with blanket condemnation of Israel and blanket exoneration of terrorists.

It has enabled Europe to further establish itself as a player in the peace process—

The primary goal of Israel's operation was to stop rocket fire from Gaza—and the rockets never did stop.

Israeli Army post located near the Israel-Gaza border, killing two IDF soldiers and kidnapping another. It was the first time Palestinian terrorists had kidnapped an Israeli soldier in 12 years.

Israel retaliated with Operation Summer Rains, an aerial assault that was supposed to pressure Hamas into returning the captive. Within weeks, however, Israel's attention abruptly turned to its northern border with Lebanon, where Hezbollah had kidnapped two more Israeli soldiers while simultaneously launching a massive rocket barrage on the Galilee.

Hezbollah's victory in the Second Lebanon War further emboldened Hamas in Gaza. In June 2007, Hamas turned the Palestinian unity government on its head in a bloody assault against its Fatah rivals in the Gaza Strip. The civil war cut the Palestinian governing body in two. It left Mahmoud Abbas's Western-backed Palestinian Authority in control of the West Bank—which Israeli forces still occupy—and the Iranian-sponsored terrorist wing of Hamas in complete control of the Gaza Strip.

Incredibly, Israel responded to the formation of a sovereign, terrorist state in Gaza by simply *ignoring* Hamas—and the 5,000 rockets it launched on Israel since the 2005 disengagement. Moreover, Israel promised *more* territorial concessions to Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority. Within weeks of the violent coup in Gaza, Israel began another round of negotiations with the PA aimed at handing over the West Bank and parts of Jerusalem to help create a Palestinian state that would exist side by side with Israel.

The international community

Gaza—and the rockets never did stop.

the rocket attack would not turn out well for the Jewish state. Israel began its campaign intent on deterring Hamas from doing two things: firing rockets from Gaza and smuggling illegal weapons from Egypt. It only wanted to *weaken* Hamas. And just like the Second Lebanon War, it was in a race against time—Israel had to weaken the terrorists before governments around the world and the weight of global public opinion would pressure Israel to cease fire.

In announcing the ceasefire on January 17, Olmert declared that Israel had achieved its goals. This claim was unconvincing, however, since the primary goal of the operation had been to stop rocket fire from Gaza—and the rockets never did stop. Hamas still managed to fire about 30 rockets into southern Israel the day of the ceasefire. Within three days, Israeli troops left Gaza—leaving Hamas to pick up where it had left off. Thousands of Hamas supporters attended rallies to celebrate the victory.

The Gaza Litmus Test

The Gaza war certainly revealed Israel's lack of will in using its awesome power. But it revealed several more critical lessons, as this issue of the *Trumpet* will thoroughly explain.

It showed the Muslim world dividing into two blocs: those that support Iran—like Iraq and the masses on the street in countries like Egypt—and those that don't support Iran, and are even *afraid* of Iran's power—such as the "moderate" governments of countries like Saudi Arabia and

and possibly as a force on the ground.

Perhaps the biggest lesson is that the real victor was Hamas's enabler: *Iran*.

More than ever, Iran's proxy Hamas emerged as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian cause, in the eyes both of Palestinians and of regional actors. Israel no doubt had hoped—as had Fatah, initially—that striking Hamas would leave the supposedly moderate Fatah-controlled Palestinian Authority as the only credible leadership for Palestinians to rally around. It should have known better. Resistance to Israel has always been a vote-getter for terrorists-turned-politicians—as Hezbollah and even Hamas have already clearly demonstrated. The upshot is that support for Hamas is growing among Palestinians in the Fatah-controlled West Bank. Through its assault on Gaza, Israel has, in fact, unwittingly helped secure Hamas's future takeover of the West Bank.

"It may take some time," one columnist wrote in a Beirut newspaper, "but Hamas will take over the West Bank."

By simply resisting Israel and surviving, Hamas's popularity skyrocketed. Despite what might be considered a tactical loss, Hamas—and Iran—gained an enormous strategic victory.

All of which means this: Israel suffered yet another loss.

But the most important and inspiring lesson of the Gaza war is this: It means the climax of end-time events is very near—events that will culminate in Jerusalem with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! ■

Israel's Gift to Hamas

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

WHEN ISRAEL LAUNCHED OPERATION Cast Lead, the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas actually blamed *Hamas* for the war. It was an extraordinarily revealing sign. Abbas was essentially admitting that in order to secure a Fatah-led unity government for all Palestinians, *Israel* had to CRUSH Hamas.

At the beginning of the Gaza war, Fatah fully expected that to happen. "Hamas is very nervous because they feel that their end is nearing," one senior Fatah official said. Abbas even instructed his PA officials in Gaza to prepare for the likelihood of returning to power.

These dreams were soon dashed.

After 22 days, Israeli military officials declared a unilateral ceasefire even while admitting that Cast Lead hadn't delivered a knockout blow. Much of Hamas's stockpile of rockets and other weapons is intact. And only a few hundred fighters—a fraction of its 15,000-man army—were killed.

This is not good news for Israel.

Of course, the spinmeisters in Jerusalem tried to characterize Cast Lead as a decisive victory for Israel. The undeniable truth, however, is that because Hamas *resisted* Israel and *survived* the crisis, the group's popularity on the Arab street—including the West Bank—is sky-high. Hamas "is coming out of this war with huge political gains," said Naji Sharab, a political science professor at the al-Azhar University. "On the Palestinian scene, it has succeeded in embodying the resistance during more than 20 days."

This is not good news for Fatah.

Abbas Must Go

Less than a week into the Israeli-Hamas clash, in yet another revealing sign, Mahmoud Abbas promptly reversed course and demanded Israel "immediately stop the aggression." He *had* to denounce Israel's raid in order to save face on the Arab street. By that point, gruesome images and footage of Palestinian suffering and death were flooding Arab television airwaves.

In the West Bank, Arabs were viewing the Israeli aggression as an assault *not on Hamas*, but against ALL Palestinians. "When it comes to Israel," one West Bank resident said, "we are all Hamas."

So despite Israel's attack, Hamas gained several enormous STRATEGIC victories by

simply weathering the storm. Besides its growing popularity on the Arab street, it has tightened its stranglehold on the people of Gaza and obtained international legitimacy *while simultaneously delegitimizing the Western-backed Abbas administration.*

Palestinians elected Abbas to a four-year term in January 2005. Abbas says legislation passed since then allows for a fifth year in office—an argument Hamas defiantly rejects. The general consensus among Palestinians is that Abbas must go. Even *before* Cast Lead, one poll indicated that 68 percent of Palestinians wanted Ab-



bas to step down at the conclusion of his four-year term, which ended in January.

After making two devastating miscalculations—assuming Israel had the will to win in Gaza and that Palestinians would rally their support around Fatah—Mahmoud Abbas, politically, is finished.

"Israel hoped that the war in Gaza would not only cripple Hamas," the *New York Times* wrote, "but eventually strengthen its secular rival, the Palestinian Authority, and even allow it to claw its way back into Gaza.

"But with each day, the Authority, its leader, Mahmoud Abbas, and its leading party, Fatah, seem increasingly beleaguered and marginalized, *even in the Palestinian cities of the West Bank*, WHICH THEY CONTROL. ...

"The more bombs in Gaza, the more Hamas's support seems to be growing at the expense of the Palestinian Authority, already considered corrupt and distant from average Palestinians" (January 14; emphasis mine throughout).

What a stunning turn of events. At the beginning of the war, Israeli officials boasted about the remarkable success of their opening salvo of airstrikes, and the PA was drawing up plans to reinstall Fatah officials in Gaza. Yet within *three weeks*, we witnessed another Israeli retreat and the rapid

advancement of Iranian-backed radical Islamism, this time into the West Bank.

What Next?

Right after Hamas's violent overthrow of Gaza in June 2007, the *Trumpet* editor in chief wrote to supporters of our work and said the bloody civil war among Palestinians "should be sending alarm bells throughout the Western world." Iran, he went on to say, had just taken over Gaza. In trying to help our readers grasp just how FAST prophetic events were moving, my father wrote, "Iran is moving lightning-fast to conquer the Middle East. It is *pushing* violently at anybody who gets in its way. This nation is being frighteningly effective on every front. And to this point, no nation or groups of nations has had the will to confront its acts of war."

As our regular readers know, the "push" he mentioned is prophesied in Daniel 11:40. Right now, no one is willing to confront the Iran-led Islamic "king of the south." Eventually, though, the European Union will rise against the king of the south and come after it like a whirlwind.

The fuse that ignites this explosive clash is lit in Jerusalem. That's what makes the fallout from the war in Gaza so electrifying, prophetically speaking.

"What is going to be Iran's next move?" my father asked in the letter mentioned above. "Probably, to take over the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Fatah Muslims have the upper hand over Hamas in East Jerusalem, but their control is shaky. Hamas could and probably will *get control of the West Bank soon*, as they did in Gaza. Expect Iran to ignite the capturing of East Jerusalem ..."

Iran's East Jerusalem conquest is prophesied in Zechariah 14:2. Since God says it will be a violent takeover, the implication is that Israel will, to some degree, fight back when violence erupts in its capital city.

For a while, under Ehud Barak's government in 2000 and more recently under Ehud Olmert, Israel has willingly offered to negotiate away East Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. But now, with Iran's Hamas state setting its sights on the West Bank and Jerusalem, together with the possibility of Israelis electing a harder-line, "keep Jerusalem united" government, the path is now clear for a series of spectacular prophecies to unfold in rapid succession—beginning with Hamas's West Bank power grab!

These future events are thoroughly explained in our booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*. Study that booklet—and WATCH Jerusalem. ■



IRAN'S FOOTSOLDIERS
Palestinian militants train in Gaza to open another front in Iran's war on Israel.

Why Arabs Wanted Israel to Win

BY JOEL HILLIKER

AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, with predictable unanimity, demanded that Israel immediately stop defending itself against the rain of rockets on its people, some Muslims, deep down, wanted to see the Jews give the terrorists in Gaza a good sound thumping. They hoped for this because they knew Hamas's survival would be a victory for Iran—and they want Iran put down.

These Arabs have watched with concern as the Hamas-Iran relationship has blossomed over a period of years. Today, Iran is Hamas's biggest sponsor. It has come to use the organization the same way it uses Hezbollah in Lebanon: as a weapon to advance its own ambitions.

The Iranian-funded makeover of Hamas from being merely one of several competing jihadist groups to becoming the most popular force among Palestinians has instilled fear in Arab states throughout the region. They view that achievement as being of a piece with Iran's infiltration into Iraq, its influence over Syria, its sway over several Sunni nations in the Persian Gulf, and its authority over Hezbollah, which now has a veto in the Lebanese government. Most of all, these neighboring Arab governments deeply fear Iran's nuclear program that progresses in spite of all international efforts to stop it. They know the Iranian mullahs want not only to defeat Israel, but also to foment radicalism among Muslims throughout the region in pursuit of their

broader revolutionary goals.

That is why they were so anxious about the outcome of the Israel-Hamas war. Egypt's president, Hosni Mubarak, actually told a group of European foreign ministers that Hamas "must not be allowed to emerge from the fighting with the upper hand." Even *Iranians* upset with their government sent hundreds of messages to Israel's Minis-

try of Foreign Affairs Persian-language website; its editor, Menashe Amir, said they demanded for Israel "not to stop the war, to go to the end and to finish Hamas."

These were unlikely cheers for Israel. But to these people's chagrin, Israel's offensive only *helped Iran's cause* by igniting sympathy for Hamas within Muslims everywhere. This was the last thing the governments of nations like Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia wanted. They bore harsh criticism from their peoples for not doing enough to support Hamas or to stop Israel.

The division of the Arab world into radical and "moderate" camps is growing more pronounced. Iran is doing all it can to claim leadership over the radicals, and the Gaza war provided a plum opportunity. Iran rallied popular opinion with its harsh condemnations of Israeli aggression. It staged mass anti-Israel and

anti-American protests. To agitate their less-radical neighbors even more, Iranian leaders hurled insults at Arab leaders who were unwilling to take similar actions, accusing them of complicity with "the Zionist enemy." Some encouraged the people to revolt against their leaders. In one extreme case, they actually called for *assassination*. An organization founded and supervised by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard put a *million-dollar bounty on President Mubarak*. Should someone accept the commission, it wouldn't be the first Iranian-inspired assassination in Egypt's history; the *Trumpet* has speculated for over a decade about whether Tehran might stage a follow-up to its murder of Anwar Sadat in 1981 in order to flip Egyptian politics in its own favor.

Iran's overall strategy is unmistakable. Gaza is one of several fronts—Lebanon, the West Bank, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt—on which Iran is fomenting strife and going on the offensive. And according to a recent report by the French parliament, the Islamic Republic will cross the nuclear threshold *this year*. Is it any wonder the mullahs chose this moment to unleash Hamas and divert the world's attention onto a more pressing problem in Gaza?

These concerned Arab leaders recognize what is really going on: Iran is pushing to be the undisputed *king* of the region, which threatens their own positions. That is why they hoped Israel would press its

These Arab leaders recognize the truth: Iran is pushing to be the region's king.

advantage and deal Hamas a deadly blow.

That, Israel did not do. The beating it inflicted on Hamas will only buy a bit of time. It will not stop Iran from advancing in its broader aims, because neither Israel, nor the U.S.—nor any other nation, group of nations or international body—has shown itself willing to take Iran on directly.

The scenario we see unfolding—Hamas being battered but not eliminated, Israel failing to pursue true victory and suffering increased international scorn anyway, Iran emerging unscathed and able to continue pursuing its broader war—not to mention the possibility of Egypt suddenly becoming radicalized and falling in step with the Iranian regime—is one the *Trumpet* has forecasted for nearly 15 years. ■



Iraq Sides With Iran

As the U.S. leaves, Iran steps in. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

“THE ZIONISTS ARE DOING what Hitler did during World War II, when they attacked innocents in a barbaric manner.”

It is hardly surprising that a leading Iranian politician would utter such a brazen statement. But what about this quote: “We ask Arab countries and all Muslims to cancel their diplomatic relations and stop all contacts—private and public—with this murderous regime, which continues its painful aggression against peaceful, unarmed civilians.”

Such a demand would not be surprising if, for example, it had come from the Jew-hating radical despot Mahmoud Ah-

madinejad. But it did not. Instead, it came from the democratically elected, supposedly peace-loving, American-friendly Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Shia make up 60 percent of Iraq’s population. The Associated Press has called Sistani “perhaps the most influential figure in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion” (Dec. 29, 2006). And this man is calling for Muslims to “take practical steps” against Israel.

Maliki visited Iran for the fourth time in January, where he met with Ahmadinejad and other top leaders. “We believe Iran is Iraq’s great neighbor and also its *best and most important partner* in all fields of cooperation,” he said on his trip (emphasis mine throughout). Not America—Iran.



ON-SIDE

Ahmadinejad (left) shakes hands with his cooperative Iraqi counterpart.

(National Interest Online, Oct. 30, 2008).

America’s activities in the Middle East have actually served to benefit one of its worst enemies. “The consensus in the Middle

If it came to a war between the United States and Iran, Iraq is saying it would be on Iran’s side.

East,” wrote Baer, “is that Iran has turned the Iraqi and Afghan wars into MAJOR STRATEGIC VICTORIES.”

The result? A deadly powerful Iran. As Baer put it, “Holding sway over a third of the Middle East and blackmailing 55 percent of the world’s oil reserves, IRAN IS LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE A SUPERPOWER.”

Who could have foreseen Iraq siding with Iran against the U.S. and Israel so soon after *being liberated by America*?

Actually, someone did.

Iraq’s “Most Important Partner”

It is not just Maliki who is speaking out. The spiritual leader of Shiite Muslims in Iraq, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, declared this *fatwa* against Israel: “Mere verbal expressions of condemnation and disapproval of what is being done to our Palestinian brethren in Gaza, and of solidarity with them, mean nothing before the immensity of this horrific tragedy to which they are being subjected. The Arab and Muslim worlds are called upon, more than at any past time, to take practical steps in order to stop this continual aggression and to break this cruel blockade that has been imposed on that proud people.”

“The most powerful [Muslim] country in the Middle East is *Iran*,” wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in an article titled “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” “Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world?”

In this article, Mr. Flurry stated that Iraq could easily fall to Iran. This was all the way back in December 1994. Why did he say this? Because of Bible prophecy!

Many today ridicule and mock the Bible. Certainly few would rely on it to forecast geopolitics. Over in Iraq, however, your Bible is being proven true! ■

All this came just days after American troops pulled out of the Green Zone in Baghdad. From now on, January 1—the date of the pullout—will be “Sovereignty Day,” a national holiday in Iraq.

“More and More Like a Superpower”

Robert Baer, a former CIA officer in the Middle East, detailed just how Iran is *already* the most powerful influence in Iraq. “Those who think we have won Iraq are fooled,” he wrote. “The United States can do nothing to contain Iranian proxies in Iraq short of a full and permanent occupation”

“The most powerful [Muslim] country in the Middle East is *Iran*,” wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in an article titled “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” “Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world?”

In this article, Mr. Flurry stated that Iraq could easily fall to Iran. This was all the way back in December 1994. Why did he say this? Because of Bible prophecy!

Many today ridicule and mock the Bible. Certainly few would rely on it to forecast geopolitics. Over in Iraq, however, your Bible is being proven true! ■

“The most powerful [Muslim] country in the Middle East is *Iran*,” wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry in an article titled “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” “Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world?”

In this article, Mr. Flurry stated that Iraq could easily fall to Iran. This was all the way back in December 1994. Why did he say this? Because of Bible prophecy!

Many today ridicule and mock the Bible. Certainly few would rely on it to forecast geopolitics. Over in Iraq, however, your Bible is being proven true! ■

The scriptural explanation for this forecast, as well as many other prophecies about the future of the Middle East, can be found in Mr. Flurry’s free booklet *The King of the South*.

Egypt Beyond Mubarak

BY BRAD MACDONALD

THE GAZA WAR exposed an alarming truth about one of Israel's most important neighbors: just how precarious is Hosni Mubarak's control over Egypt.

The war trapped Mubarak in an unenviable, unwinnable position. On one side was Israel, with whom Egypt is locked in a peace treaty; America, from whom Egypt receives billions of dollars in aid; and Mubarak's own fears that supporting Hamas would embolden the Muslim Brotherhood (the radical Egyptian Islamist party that has close ties to Hamas) and loosen his slippery grip on power. On the other side were millions of Egyptians, much of the Muslim world, and regional radical Islamic national governments and groups, which embraced the efforts of their Hamas brothers and were irate at Mubarak's refusal to condemn Israel and lend Hamas a hand.

"Rarely has an Arab leader been so widely perceived as backing Israel and the United States against the Palestinians," the *Washington Post* reported (January 10). Mubarak's fortitude was impressive. Not long after war erupted he told a group of European foreign ministers that Hamas "must not be allowed to emerge from the fighting with the upper hand." And despite intense criticism, he refused to condemn Israel, banish its ambassador from Egypt, pull Egypt's ambassador from Israel or allow free passage of goods and people in and out of Gaza via Egypt.

But that resistance came at tremendous personal cost.

The "mood on the streets of Cairo feels somber, dark, dejected," observed *New York Times* reporter Michael Slackman (January 9). Aware of the people's disgruntlement, Mubarak increased security measures across the nation and arrested dozens of Muslim Brotherhood members.

"Over three days of interviews here, people seemed deflated about the public criticism their country had received, let down by the failure of their own government to help the Palestinians and sickened by the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians, not only combatants but many women and children as well," Slackman continued. "Over and over, Egyptians said they felt the only ones they could trust were the Islamists—not their government" (emphasis mine throughout).

The schism between the public and the government was a gift to the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's primary opposition party and the mother of Sunni terrorist groups in the Middle East. Challenging the government—while simultaneously serving Egypt's millions of disadvantaged through charity work—has the Brotherhood's popularity soaring. Outwardly, most Egyptians submit to Mubarak's harsh rod. But in their hearts, it's the beliefs and promises of the Muslim Brotherhood that they support and admire!

Muslim rage at Mubarak resonated far beyond the gentle shores of the Nile. "Death to Mubarak" was a common chant among the multitude of violent anti-Israel demonstrations that erupted across the planet. In Lebanon, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah called on Egyptians to rise up against Mubarak. "Can



the Egyptian police kill millions of Egyptians?" he asked on satellite television December 28. "Of course not. You, the Egyptian people, go, and open the border. *I am calling for a revolution in Egypt.*"

Iran is giddy over developments in Gaza, particularly the *unifying effect* they have had on Muslims worldwide and the pressure they put on moderate Arab governments such as Mubarak's. "Through Hamas, Tehran can possibly reach the ultimate prize, the Egyptian faithful," wrote Reuel Marc Gerecht in the *Wall Street Journal* (January 7). Hamas's popularity among Palestinians resonates strongly in Egypt, Gerecht wrote, and hence "the uncertainties in Egypt are greater now than they have been since the assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981."

In addition, the president's age and poor health mean he won't be around much longer. "His jet-setting son or a general may succeed him. *Neither choice will resuscitate the regime's legitimacy*, which has plummeted even among the highly Westernized elite," Gerecht continued. "The popularity and mosque-power of the Muslim Brotherhood, which would likely win a free election, continues to rise." And the Gaza war contributed to this trend substantially.

For Israel, the transformation underway in Egyptian politics is extraordinarily dangerous. One week after Hamas overran the Gaza Strip in June 2007, Dr. George Friedman wrote: "The only thing that could threaten the survival of Israel, apart from a nuclear barrage, would be a shift in position of neighboring states. ... THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT NEIGHBOR ISRAEL HAS IS EGYPT."

The replacement of Mubarak's relatively moderate, pro-Israel government with an anti-Israel, anti-Western, Iran-friendly regime in Egypt would be a NATIONAL SECURITY NIGHTMARE FOR THE JEWISH STATE.

Astoundingly, this scenario is one that *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has been warning about for over 14 YEARS!

"The radical Islamic movement, led by Iran, is very strong in Egypt," Mr. Flurry wrote in December 1994. "This religion will probably take control ... very soon."

What led Mr. Flurry to that dramatic declaration? A passage in Daniel 11 that we refer to often—of an imminent clash between an Iran-led "king of the south" and a German-led "king of the north."

Verse 42 describes Egypt's fate when that European power wipes out Iran: "He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: *and the land of Egypt shall not escape.*" The time sequence of this prophecy indicates that before the violent Daniel 11:40 clash can occur, a radical Islamic government will be established in Egypt, and an alliance be formed between Cairo and Tehran! As Mr. Flurry wrote in 2001, "Daniel 11:42 indicates Egypt will be allied with [Iran]. ... I believe this prophecy indicates we are to see a radical change in Egyptian politics!"

The Gaza war has weakened President Mubarak's tenuous grip on his nation, and exposed more fully the extent of support that Iranian-led radicalism has among the Egyptian populace. We are about to witness the downfall of Hosni Mubarak, the emergence of a radical Islamic regime in Egypt, and the beginning of the terrifying Egypt-Iran alliance that God said would precede the eruption of war across the Middle East!

Although the increased likelihood of a radical Islamic uprising in Egypt is sobering, it is also electrifying. Just read into the next chapter of Daniel's prophecy. It shows that this event—which the *Trumpet's* editor in chief has been prophesying for 14 years—precedes the most joyous event in mankind's history, the return of Jesus Christ!

To learn more, request your free copy of *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.



POLITICALLY CORRECT

In Turkey, "Kill Jews" is the conventional wisdom.

The Israel-Turkey Alliance Is a Trap

Will Israel realize it?

BY JOEL HILLIKER

AMONG THE MANY TRUTHS THE war in Gaza exposed, here is one: Israel's alliance with Turkey is a trap.

Israel inked a mutual defense agreement with Turkey in 1996. Among its benefits, the deal linked the two countries' militaries in joint training, provided Israeli arms to Turkey (\$2 billion worth as of 2007) and granted Israel's air force overflight privileges.

Far more, the deal gave Israel a much-needed, highly respected ally in a neighborhood full of enemies. Those itching to pick a fight with Israel simply haven't been eager to contend with Turkey's million-man army, the second-largest force in NATO after the United States. The *Islamic Affairs Analyst* went so far as to say that Israel's foes—most notably Iran—respected Turkey enough that the Jewish state's survival was all but assured as long as the pact held up.

But there's the rub. Just a glance at events in the past couple of years shows that this deterrent effect has weakened. Israel's enemies have started to turn loose.

Not coincidentally, over that same period, Turkey has shifted from being a hedge against those enemies to actually *supporting* them. Nothing made this clearer than did the Gaza conflict.

This is a grave loss for Israel. It is also a clarion warning about what to expect from Turkey in the future, if only the Jews would heed it.

"We Will Kill You"

Thus read a notice scrawled on one of the largest synagogues in the Turkish city of Izmir. Public graffiti screamed messages like "Kill Jews" and "Israel should no longer exist in the Middle East." Large, angry protests filled the streets of cities across the country, including a rally of 200,000 in Istanbul square.

As Israeli forces pounded Gaza, this is how the people of Turkey responded.

"There haven't been such widespread and spontaneous anti-Israel sentiments before," wrote columnist Sami Kohen of the Turkish daily *Milliyet*. "It's not just the Islamic circles. It's also the secularists and the nationalists. The protests have been representative of the whole of Turkish society. I don't remember seeing such a public reaction on any other issue before."

After years of walking the line in

allying with the West, Turkey is increasingly embracing its Muslim identity. An early sign of just how much came in 2006, when Hamas won the Palestinian elections. Where most of the world turned its back on the terrorist group, Turkey not only recognized it as a legitimate government, it also accepted a Hamas delegation in Ankara led by the group's leader in exile, Khaled Mashaal. Since then, Turkey has elected a former Islamist as its president, become one of the few Mideast governments to recognize Hamas's administration in the Gaza Strip, been an almost lone voice protesting Israel's attack on a Syrian nuclear facility, and established political and economic ties with Tehran.

Remarkably, none of this alarming behavior raised much concern within the Israeli government. When Prime Minister Ehud Olmert decided he wanted to secretly pursue a peace deal with Syria last year, he used Turkey as the mediator, as if Turkey's respect for Israel's interests had remained just as it was in 1996.

Olmert's blind pursuit of a peace pact with an avowed enemy of Israel—Syria—drawing on the help of a country that is supporting and cooperating with more avowed enemies—Hamas and Iran—is deeply revealing, and prophetically relevant. This tendency to invest faith in sources that warrant no faith is a *grievous wound* in Israel's national character. As devastating as it has been for Israel to this point, it will yet prove to be far more so.

"A Black Stain"

Despite Turkey supposedly being the Jews' strongest ally in the region, its reaction to Israel's counterattack on Hamas—not just in the street but also by the government—was on par with *Iran's*.

"What Israel has done is nothing but atrocity," President Abdullah Gül said. "Al-

Turkey's reaction to Israel's counterattack

was on par with Iran's.

lah will sooner or later punish those who transgress the rights of innocents," said Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Of Olmert, with whom he had been working on the Syria peace deal, Erdoğan said, "He betrayed me and harmed the honor of Turkey." And to Olmert and Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, he said, "History will judge you with what you have done as having painted a black stain on the history of humanity."

In Ankara's view, Israel bore *all* the blame for the Gaza war. " Hamas abided by the truce. But Israel failed to lift embargoes," Erdoğan said—a ridiculous lie. He refused to take calls from Olmert until Israel stopped the war.

Meanwhile, Turkey was more than happy to accommodate Hamas and its terrorist sponsors. The president and prime minister met with Iranian envoy Saeed Jalili amid the hostilities. Turkish and Hamas officials, including Khaled Mashaal, directly met in Damascus at least twice during the war. Having just joined the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member, Turkey pledged to be Hamas's mouthpiece in the United Nations. It also called on the UN to impose sanctions on Israel.

This is no friend of Israel! That is the patent truth. Nevertheless, Prime Minister Olmert's office dismissed questions about whether the Turkish-Israeli alliance is fracturing. "Our relations won't be hurt," his staff said, "they will remain strategic." They explained that the leaders were simply posturing for the people in order to position themselves for coming elections.

Even if that laughable assumption were true, shouldn't the fact that the Turks hate Israel so deeply that their leaders *must* denounce the Jews in order to retain popular legitimacy be of *supreme concern* to Israel regarding the value of this alliance?

This tendency within Israel to brush aside such ugly reality *contains the seeds of the death of the state!*

"Meeting Is Impossible"

Israel's ambassador to Turkey, Gaby Levy, requested an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Erdoğan during the conflict. He was rebuffed—told that a meeting was impossible as long as attacks on Gaza continued. So what did Israel do? Ehud Olmert asked German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Middle East envoy Tony Blair to mediate between Israel and Turkey!

That's right: Israel asked Germany for help to try to preserve an alliance with a country actively working with Israel's enemies against Israel's interests.

The problem with Turkey is *not* simply a matter of Turkish leaders needing to *appear* to snub Israel in order to appease their people. The problem is far deeper and is ignored at Israel's peril.

And Israel's problem is *NOT* a lack of enough mediation and diplomacy!

See **TURKEY** page 27 ➤

Europe Seizes Its Opportunity

BY BRAD MACDONALD

AMERICA IS SUPPOSEDLY ISRAEL'S strongest ally. But compared to previous conflicts, its response to the Gaza war was tragically mute.

Europe's response was the opposite: It exploited the Gaza war to ramp up its involvement in Middle Eastern politics. The *Jerusalem Post* called the arrival of a European Union delegation on January 5 "the first serious external diplomatic involvement since the Gaza fighting began" (emphasis mine throughout).

Where U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice didn't visit Israel for *three weeks* while the war raged, European leaders were booking flights within days. By the 10th day of the conflict, *two separate* European peace delegations were en route to the region—one a French venture headed by President Nicolas Sarkozy, the other an EU mission headed by the Czech Republic (which assumed the presidency of the EU January 1).

Much of the reason for America's sluggishness was President Bush's understanding that his administration was about to be replaced by another that would likely view the Middle East through a different set of glasses. Nevertheless, the vacuum created by America's absence provided an opportunity, and Europe took it.

"Europe has to play a bigger role in the Middle East, and we believe we can," said Eric Chevaller, a French government adviser. "We are eager to work with the United States ... *but we cannot wait.*" A spokeswoman for Javier Solana put it more candidly: "If you have a European delegation, and you don't have a U.S. delegation, then *the EU will be more visible.*"

Capture the spirit of those remarks. Europe considered the Gaza crisis a *prime opportunity* to undermine America's geopolitical influence in the Middle East and establish itself as the foremost alternative as a foreign mediator.

Not to be outdone by France and the EU, Germany also sent a delegation to the area to try to broker an agreement between Israel and Hamas. Foreign

Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier hadn't been there 24 hours before it appeared he'd had some success. Regarding a proposal to provide Egypt help in training and equipping its police force, Reuters reported, "*The German offer is the first proposal that appears to address Egyptian objections to stationing foreign troops on its border with the Gaza Strip*" (January 10). Around the same time, when asked if the German government would be prepared to send troops to Gaza, govern-



STEINMEIER

ment spokesman Thomas Steg said "the government has made clear it is aware of its responsibility *and will not shy away from its responsibility.*"

After Israel and the U.S. signed a pact on January 16 aimed at prevent-

ing weapons from being smuggled into Gaza, Germany—along with France and Britain—offered to send warships to help. German politicians favor sending troops to Gaza—in fact, they have sought to establish a presence around Israel for several years. Back in 2002, when Chancellor Gerhard Schröder first raised such a possibility, he was backed by much of the German political class—as well as by Palestinians and, astonishingly, Israelis.

From a prophetic standpoint, the energetic entrance of Europe, *particularly Germany*, into the Gaza crisis is electrifying to watch. One of Jesus Christ's signature prophecies regarding the end of this age was that there would come a point when Jerusalem would be "surrounded by armies"—and that this would be a signal "that the desolation thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20). Put this together with other prophecies regarding the downfall of the Jewish state, and it can be determined that these armies are, in fact, *European* armies, and that their presence around Jerusalem signals an imminent and catastrophic double-cross.

Europe's growing military presence in the region and discussion of expanding its role even further is a clarion signal of the fulfillment of this pivotal end-time prophecy.

For more information, request a free copy of *Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany* by editor in chief Gerald Flurry.



BY RON FRASER

“YOU’RE ONLY AS old as you feel,” the saying goes. Signs are that the older are feeling younger than the older felt some years ago!

Though our post-World War II culture has relentlessly celebrated youth (the term *teenager* did not exist before the war), today the 80-year-old is akin in lifestyle to yesterday’s 50-year-old.

As Daniel Gross remarked in *Newsweek* magazine last summer, the tendency for senior citizens to maintain and even increase involvement in the activities of their more youthful years is changing our perception as to the value of age over youth (June 16, 2008).

Take, for example, the number of heavy hitters in the seniors’ age bracket who are still vitally active in today’s corporate scene. A brief look at the most high-profile yields the following:

Carl Ichan, 72, corporate raider and hedge fund analyst.

Kirk Kerkorian, 90, still an active investor, having piled up huge stakes in Chrysler, GM and Ford.

Jack Welch, 72, an active adviser to his successor at GE.

Rupert Murdoch, 77, media mogul, having beat much younger competitors in the grab for MySpace.com, now involved in the makeover of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Warren Buffet, still active at 78 as investor, businessman and philanthropist.

T. Boone Pickens, who at 80 heads a \$4 billion hedge fund and maintains a high profile in the debate on alternative sources of energy.

OLD AGE: The New Young!

Gross describes such high-achieving senior citizens as the marathon men of business, compared to the younger sprinters who “thrive during bubbles,” only to drop by the wayside when, as has happened recently in such dramatic fashion, the bubble bursts. He credits their staying power and overall success as being significantly due to hard-earned experience.

“Unlike their younger counterparts, today’s headline-making grandparents have experience managing through the last serious oil shock and prolonged period of pain in the 1970s,” Gross wrote. This has a tendency to produce a stoicism in those who have weathered the storms, seen good times and bad times, and come through it all to make a success of their lives.

From where did Western society inherit the mentality that once a person reached his mid-60s he should retire?

Back in the 1880s, in the process of establishing the world’s first social welfare system, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck set 70 as the age when he considered people too feeble to work. At the time, the average life expectancy of Europeans was around 45 years of age! His successor,

Kaiser Wilhelm, reduced the retirement age to 65. That arbitrarily became the standard retirement age in Western society.

Retirement was never a factor in the life of our mentor in founding the *Trumpet* magazine, Herbert W. Armstrong. He was already 60 years old by the time that his radio broadcast, *The World Tomorrow*, first aired on Radio Luxembourg, opening the way for the gospel message to reach nations other than just the United States. He was in his mid-70s when he began to travel internationally to meet world leaders. He was 85 years of age when the greatest period of his long ministry began to reach its peak during the final seven years of his highly energized life! During those last seven years, he jetted around the world having private audiences with world leaders and addressing large groups in a multitude of nations on all five continents.

Herbert Armstrong died “with his boots on” in his 94th year, still active to that moment as pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God and president of all its corporate entities.

What an example.

In times like these we have recently entered, we need the encouragement that can come from the examples of such as Herbert Armstrong. During his long and productive life, he experienced “both how to be abased, and ... how to abound,” as the Apostle Paul related of himself (Philippians 4:12).

Request your free copy of *The Seven Laws of Success* by Mr. Armstrong. It certainly is a book for the times! It will teach you vital lessons with which to be armed to weather the storms ahead. ■



WELCH

MURDOCH

KERKORIAN

EUROPE

Israel's GAZA WAR RE-vealed a lot about Europe. First it showed a lack of unity in the European Union. Karel Schwarzenberg, foreign minister of the **Czech Republic**, which currently holds the EU presidency, and French President Nicolas Sarkozy led two competing delegations to the Middle East to try to solve the crisis. The result was that two different leaders were talking to the same people in the Middle East, both claiming to represent Europe. This situation exposed the need for a single, powerful head of the EU. Such a leader will appear soon.

The Gaza war also revealed how anti-Israel and anti-Semitic many in Europe are. Firebombings, anti-Semitic rallies and attacks broke out on the Continent. **A wave of anti-Israel demonstrations hit Germany**, with roughly 10,000 protestors marching in Frankfurt on January 3 carrying banners equating the Israeli offensive with a second Holocaust. The crowds chanted "Gas the Jews!" and "Merkel out!" In a poll commissioned by the German magazine *Stern* in light of the Gaza conflict, 49 percent of Germans said that Israel is an "aggressive" country. Fifty-nine percent said it was ruthless in its pursuit of its interests. Thirteen percent rejected Israel's right to exist and 60 percent rejected Germany's "special relationship" with Israel because of the Holocaust. So, while Chancellor Angela Merkel may believe the two nations have a "special relationship" and support Israel, most of the German people do not.

The Vatican has suffered several setbacks in Europe. The European Parliament passed a resolution January 14 that promotes abortion and



gives same-sex couples more rights. The resolution calls for all governments to ensure women have the "right to reproductive and sexual health." According to the *Daily Mail*, "Opponents claim the wording is a euphemism which is often used to include abortion on demand." The resolution also calls for member states that allow same-sex unions to recognize similar unions made in other EU nations. Watch for this move to elicit a response from the Vatican.

In traditionally Catholic **Spain**, Prime Minister **Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero** has been a thorn in the Vatican's side for years. He opposes the Catholic Church on almost every issue. He has pushed for more liberal abortion laws, legalized homosexual "marriage" and easier divorce, and demanded that the Vatican cease meddling in state affairs. Recently, Zapatero's

secularist government upheld a court ruling ordering the Spanish city of Valladolid to remove all crucifixes from a local school. Watch for the Vatican's backlash against such policies to increase. Already it is rousing popular support in Spain. Hundreds of thousands attended a Catholic mass in Madrid in December designed to promote traditional family values. In early January, the spokesman for the Bishops' Conference of Spain, Juan Antonio Martinez Camino, declared that the bishops would support public protests to oppose the government if it continued to support liberal abortion laws.

Europe's economy continues to suffer. Rating's agency

Mexico

Venezuela

Ecuador

Brazil

Bolivia

Standard & Poor's downgraded **Greece's** credit rating from an A to an A- on January 14. The agency also warned Spain, **Portugal** and **Ireland** that it might lower their credit ratings. Germany's export-led economy is suffering as well. Inflation reached 2.6 percent

last year, the highest for 14 years. To help combat the situation, Germany agreed on a €50 billion stimulus package January 12. The European Central Bank (ECB) lowered the eurozone interest rate to 2 percent,

its lowest level ever, on January 15. The cut was designed to stimulate Europe's economies in the face of "worse than expected" economic





indicators, according to senior economist at ING Peter Vanden Houde.

The ECB wants supervisory power over international banks. On January 9, ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet said the bank is considering taking on a bigger regulatory role. In the last edition of the *Trumpet*, editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote about how the ECB and Germany would use this financial crisis to gain more power. This is beginning to happen.

MIDEAST

THE TALIBAN AND AL QAEDA insurgency in **Afghanistan** is intensifying, with 2008 being the worst year for coalition troops in Afghanistan since the war started in 2001. The security situation in northwest **Pakistan** is also fast deteriorating, with terrorist activity increasing. As a result, the reliability of America's supply route through Pakistan to Afghanistan is declining—as is Pakistan as an ally.

This is prompting the U.S. to consider changing tactics. As part of a new strategy, the U.S. is looking to establish alternative supply routes to decrease its reliance on Pakistan. Central Command chief Gen. David Petraeus traveled to Central Asia in January for talks with regional leaders on matters relating to the war in Afghanistan—presumably about alternative logistical arrangements that would require these countries' cooperation. The problem is, any feasible alternative supply routes would also require a green light from **Russia**. “[T]he linchpin,” says Stratfor, “is working out an agreement to use Russian territory. This presents an even more profound challenge than Russia’s real (but not unlimited) capacity to meddle in its periphery” (January 14). Such a scenario would give Russia a huge amount of leverage to use against an American superpower that is rapidly losing power and influence in the world.



Meanwhile, **the U.S. announced December 20 that it would send an additional 20,000 to 30,000 troops to Afghanistan** within six months, almost doubling the number of U.S. troops there. Even so, it is unlikely to make a real difference on the ground in a country where 130,000 Soviet troops once failed. Rather than seeking to achieve a decisive victory, Washington more likely hopes to make a psychological difference as per the surge strategy in **Iraq**, where the U.S. then negotiated with the Sunni insurgents and brought them into the political process.

In fact, U.S. envoy William Wood said at the end of December that the United States backs an Afghan government plan to draft Afghan militias

to help in the fight against the Taliban. Wood said that even with the additional 30,000 U.S. troops, the coalition force would be insufficient to protect Afghan villages. Under the proposed program, volunteers chosen by community councils would be trained and armed to fight the Taliban. It is far from certain that such a strategy would work. The Taliban holds the high ground in Afghanistan—and whatever course the war in that country takes, the Islamist group is likely to stay. Shortly after World War II, Herbert W. Armstrong predicted, based on Bible prophecy, that America had won its last war. America’s foray in Afghanistan is just the latest example of a still-powerful, yet weak-

willed, nation being unable to achieve a decisive victory.

ASIA

THE KREMLIN IS USING commercial considerations to cloak the political ambitions it has on its western border. On the first day of the new year, Russian Prime Minister **Vladimir Putin announced on Russian state television a complete cut of all natural gas supplies to Ukraine.** This cut was allegedly the result of a pricing dispute between Russia and its former Soviet satellite. The truth is, however, that Moscow has had three years to come up with an arrangement with Ukraine and could have chosen to cut gas supplies at any time in the summer. That Putin chose to make the cut in the dead of winter shows he is wielding natural gas as a weapon in an attempt to pull Ukraine back into his sphere of control. As one senior Lithuanian official put it, “You have to become a vassal state; then you get what you want” (see story, page 2).

Ukraine is the last great piece of unclaimed real estate between two rising empires, Russia and the European Union. By cutting gas, however, the Russians are trying to undermine the credibility of Ukraine’s pro-Western leadership. The strategy seems to be working. By the 13th day of gas cuts, Ukrainian opposition parties were already calling for impeachment proceedings against President Viktor Yushchenko. An increasing number of Ukrainians are blaming Yushchenko and his pro-Western allies for antagonizing Russia, and are starting to look to pro-Russian politicians like opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich for solutions. This is exactly the reaction Vladimir Putin wanted when he ordered the gas taps to be turned off. Tension remains high be-



EMPTY PIPES

Gas workers rely on Russia’s benevolence to keep western Europe warm in winter.

tween **India** and Pakistan in the wake of the November 26 Mumbai terrorist attacks. India deployed troops along the Pakistani border in December, and Pakistan responded in kind, withdrawing 20,000 troops from its Afghan border and redeploying them along its border with India. This troop movement represents one fifth of all the forces Islamabad had dedicated to fighting the Taliban in the northwest of Pakistan. “This is a serious blow to the war on terror in the sense that the whole focus is now shifting toward the eastern border,” said former Pakistani general and military analyst Talat Masood. “It will give more leeway to the militants and increased space to operate” (Associated Press, Dec. 26, 2008).

Then, on January 14, the Indian Congress threatened to cut ties with Pakistan if it does not increase its investigative cooperation regarding the attacks. **Indian Army chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor** went so far as to threaten military invasion if diplomatic and economic

initiatives fail to result in action against those responsible for the attacks.

The Japanese government is seeking to pass a bill that would allow its naval forces to take on a more aggressive role in world affairs. This bill would eliminate current restrictions on Tokyo’s naval forces and allow them to aggressively fight pirates anywhere in the world, whether they are attacking Japanese vessels or not. It would also give the Japanese Defense Ministry the authority to dispatch naval forces without asking permission from the Diet. Since World War II, the Japanese military has operated under a constitution that renounces war as a sovereign right and limits the use of force to a strictly defensive capacity.

Japan is currently evolving away from its pacifist constitution and taking on a much more aggressive military role. As Tokyo continues to sideline its pacifist constitution, its massive defense force could quickly evolve into one of the deadliest offensive forces on Earth.



AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA

THE MILITARY RULER OF **Guinea**, Lansana Conte, died Dec. 23, 2008. He came to power in 1984 and “stayed in power by using violence to instill terror in the citizenry and by incorporating dissidents into the government, only to discard them later after discrediting their public personas” (Stratfor, Dec. 23, 2008). That style of dictatorial rule will continue in Guinea: Capt. Moussa Camara immediately declared himself Guinea’s new leader and offered to hold presidential elections—in two years. The establishment of “big men” in Africa has consistently held the continent in the depths of misery despite its abundant natural resources.

Similarly, the power-sharing deal that Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe made with the Movement for Democratic Change has not been implemented as Mugabe maintains his hold on the

government. **Zimbabwe**'s downward spiral continues. According to Human Rights Watch, dozens of activists have been abducted in recent months. **The cholera epidemic in that country has infected more than 30,000 people**, according to the World Health Organization. The plague is also affecting **South Africa**, where over 1,300 people are suspected of having cholera. The United Nations estimates that 60,000 Zimbabweans will contract the disease, and the Red Cross has deployed seven emergency teams normally reserved for major global disasters.

Brazil signed a \$12 billion defense deal with **France** on December 23. The deal includes 50 EC725 helicopters from Eurocopter subsidiary Helibras and four Scorpene-class submarines. According to Stratfor, this is leading to the construction of a Scorpene-class nuclear submarine. All this equipment will be manufactured in Brazil. This deal adds to the helicopters and aircraft carrier Brazil purchased from France last year.

Ecuador's government has decided to default on its \$3.9 billion of foreign debt. This will greatly restrict the country's access to capital, especially with international credit markets already seizing up. There is speculation that it may abandon the dollar as its currency.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez expelled the Israeli ambassador from his country in early January. On January 15, both he and Bolivian President Evo Morales broke diplomatic ties with Israel altogether as a protest against its military action in Gaza. **Bolivia** and **Venezuela** are both developing relationships with **Iran**.

In addition, Chavez is not convinced his country's rela-



tions with the U.S. will improve under President Barack Obama. If Obama disrespects Venezuela, Chavez warned, Caracas will "continue our fight against imperialism." He also claimed that the U.S. is plotting against him from Puerto Rico and threatened to expel a U.S. Embassy official. Chavez already expelled the U.S. ambassador to Venezuela in September. Anyone who thinks the anti-U.S. climate in Latin America is simply opposition to President Bush had better think again.

The kidnapping crisis within **Mexico** was graphically highlighted on December 10 when Felix Batista, a U.S. consultant invited by law enforcement to deliver presentations to police and businesses on anti-kidnapping strategies, was himself kidnapped. Stratfor speculated that the kidnapping "could have been intended as a message from organized crime groups that no one is safe" (Dec. 16, 2008). The U.S. Department of Justice stated in its "2009 National Drug Threat Assessment," released on December 15, that Mexican drug traffickers "represent the greatest organized crime threat to the United States" and that drug trafficking in most U.S. cities is controlled by Mexican drug cartels. The U.S. consumes 44 percent of the world's narcotics, according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. It is easy to look at the problem and simply blame

the drug traffickers, but as the late Herbert W. Armstrong would often say, there is a cause for every effect. The causes of the huge U.S. drug problem are deeply connected to moral decline. America's craving for drugs is what causes demand. Eliminate demand and the market would die.

ANGLO-AMERICA

PRESIDENT OBAMA CHOSE California megachurch evangelist Rick Warren to deliver his inauguration invocation, but found himself absorbing wrath from angry homosexuals miffed at Warren's opposition to homosexual "marriage." Obama responded by choosing **Bishop Gene Robinson** to deliver the prayer on the first day of the inauguration festivities at the Lincoln Memorial. An openly practicing homosexual activist, who recently got "married," Robinson has caused great division inside the Anglican Communion. His inaugural invitation—and that of a homosexual marching band—along with Warren's, was intended to celebrate America's "diversity of faith," according to the Inaugural Committee.

Also in January, a federal court forced the state of Louisiana to recognize a homosexual adoption. Two California homosexuals sued to have both their names on their adopted boy's Louisiana birth certificate. Louisiana refused, since both same-sex adop-

tion and same-sex "marriage" are illegal in that state. The federal government decided otherwise. The case brings the homosexual agenda into Louisiana through the back door, and experts say it provides legal grounds for future lawsuits to mandate recognition of homosexual "marriage" in other states.

Experts are predicting the most American retail store closings in 35 years for 2009, about 160,000 by the end of the year, and 200,000 more next year as the Great Recession grinds on. This in spite of the fact that the Federal Reserve cut interest rates from 1 percent down to an unprecedented 0.25 or lower—even zero. Banks have still been reluctant to lend money, sensing that the smartest thing to do in today's economy is to hold onto your cash.

In mid-January, the Senate voted to release the second half of the Treasury's bailout plan—\$350 billion—with few strings attached. The Treasury then announced it would spend those funds on a bailout of Bank of America. This came on the heels of the House unwrapping an \$825 billion package including tax cuts and boosted government spending.

Britain was deemed unworthy of the euro in January. The European Central Bank said that because of its public deficit and unstable currency, the **United Kingdom** could not join the euro yet even if it wanted to. Fitch ratings agency predicts that Britain's debt will jump from 44 percent of gross domestic product in 2007 to 68 percent by late 2010. Writing for the *Telegraph*, Ambrose Evans-Prichard said, "It usually takes a war to do such damage."



Where is the economy going? Here is a hint: helmets and bandoliers required.

Welcome to America's Economic War Zone

BY ROBERT MORLEY

IT'S A NO-MAN'S-LAND. THE PATHS ARE ambush havens. Dangers lurk. Trip wires and land mines sleep in the underbrush. This isn't the Burmese jungle. This is the American economy.

Even the economic gurus are confused. The economy is in uncharted territory, and navigating past the pitfalls and minefields will be like fleeing war-torn Sudan into the Congo.

Said simply: The world faces "total" financial detonation. That's the conclusion of the governor of the Bank of Spain. "The lack of confidence is total," he said in December. "This is the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression."

Why is the Bank of Spain governor so pessimistic? Let's take a look.

The Point of No Return

America faces a new reality, says Bill Gross, the founder of Pimco, the biggest bond trading house in America. While 2008 will be remembered for its massive stock market crash, "it was really much, much more," he says. "[W]e ... face a new reality, recession may be replaced by a near depression" (*Fortune*, Dec. 11, 2008).

The mother of all debt bombs has detonated, \$7 trillion in U.S. wealth has been obliterated, and America's financial center lies in ruin.

Many of the most famous names in American-style capitalism are casualties. It began when 86-year-old Bear Stearns, a company that survived World War II and the Great Depression, blew up practically overnight. That explosion was only the first in a chain reaction that left IndyMac Bancorp, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch & Co., Washington Mutual and Wachovia Corp. dead and covered in debris. Other towers of high finance like Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Citigroup are severely wounded and could die. Many more, such as the \$5.2 trillion Fannie and Freddie mortgage twins and insurance gi-

ant AIG, are walking zombies—alive only as long as the government continues to infuse cash into their hemorrhaging balance sheets. General Motors' financial arm, Chrysler Financial and American Express are also now taking direct infusions from taxpayers.

The gaping crater left in the nation's now-discredited financial core is a stark, blaring announcement to the world that THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAS PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN. The world as we know it is radically transformed.

America will never again dominate global finance.

This destruction has left a power vacuum in the world of borrowing. Interbank lending has frozen up despite the Federal Reserve taking the unprecedented step of lowering the interest rate to between 0.25 and zero percent. Banks are insolvent and don't trust each other enough to lend among themselves, let alone to other commercial and private borrowers.

In fact, banks are calling in their loans and are refusing to roll over old loans. Money is being pulled out of the economy. This is what the *credit crunch* is. The *Wall Street Journal* reported in November that half of all U.S. companies are at risk of failure because they may not be able to borrow more money. That's right: HALF of corporate America could fail over the next couple of years if the credit crunch is not alleviated.

Consumers are now being picked off too. Debt levels remain high, and wages are stagnant. Credit card companies are tightening requirements and home equity lines of credit are no longer available to many.

Retirement plans for millions of Americans are shot. The *most severe* stock market crash since 1929 has wiped out pension plans across the country. Year-end accounting may soon reveal how massively underfunded the plans have become. Pension benefits will be cut, more taxpayer bailouts

will be sought, and even some states and cities could be pushed into bankruptcy.

Job Sector Breached

Making matters worse, job losses are intensifying. Global think tank LEAP/E2020 expects an "explosion of unemployment" in the U.S. and around the world.

As of December, over *half a million jobs are disappearing per month*, and the economy has been shedding jobs since December 2007. Official unemployment in the U.S. stood at 7.2 percent, but this statistic is the narrowest measure and does not include those who are underemployed or those who have given up searching for work. The less-reported *real* unemployment number is approximately *twice* the officially quoted statistic. By the end of the year, the real unemployment rate will "NEAR THE ALL-TIME 1930S DEPRESSION HIGH OF 25 PERCENT," predicts Roger Wiegand, editor of *Trader Tracks*. The rustbelt states will probably be even worse off. Already 11 million Americans are receiving food handouts and related welfare, Wiegand noted. And the Greater Depression is only beginning.

Will government-run job-creation programs solve the problem? History suggests they will be inefficient and wasteful. President Barack Obama's promise keeps growing: He said his administration will create 2.5 million jobs, then 3 million, and as of January, 4 million. But how, exactly? Merrill Lynch economist David Rosenberg notes that, outside of the housing construction sector, the bulk of the joblessness is in financials, retail/wholesale, leisure/hospitality and health/education. "And if investment bankers, shopkeepers, bell captains and medical chart technicians have anything in common, it is that they don't have much experience in shovel-ready activities," he said (*Investors Insight*, Dec. 22, 2008).

Four million jobs makes good headlines, but you need people with the *skills* to build ocean ports, public transit infrastructure, electrical grids and "green" technologies. And, for the most part, it is not engineers and scientists who need the jobs. Some jobs will be created—but even if Obama is 100 percent successful—at the current rates of job losses, Obama's taxpayer-created jobs will only replace the jobs that will be lost by September this year.

And jobs will continue to be lost.

Mortgage Mayhem

Despite the Federal Reserve's successful effort to drive 30-year mortgage rates

down, the housing market remains in free fall. And it may be about to get much worse. Subprime was only the beginning.

“The trouble now is that the insanity didn’t end with subprimes. There were two other kinds of exotic mortgages that became popular, called ‘alt-A’ and ‘option ARM’” (CBS, Dec. 14, 2008).

The subprime crisis involved about \$1 trillion worth of mortgages. Alt-A and option ARMs together total around \$1.5 trillion. The bulk of these mortgages reset and/or revoke their low teaser rates in 2009 or 2010. That means that monthly payments for many people will rise. And, says respected fund manager Whitney Tilson, “The defaults [on these types of loans] right now are incredibly high. At unprecedented levels. And there’s no evidence that the default rate is tapering off. Those defaults almost inevitably are leading to foreclosures, and homes being auctioned, and home prices continuing to fall” (ibid.).

So far, government-endorsed plans to prevent foreclosures are failing. An astounding 55 percent of borrowers whose mortgages were modified to help keep them in their homes during the first quarter of 2008 were already delinquent only six months later.

What this means is that the job market will be nothing but a meat grinder for the foreseeable future.

Since a consumer’s biggest asset is his house, when house prices fall it makes people much less willing to borrow and spend. According to housing analyst Robert Shiller, house prices could easily fall an additional 15 percent over the next couple of years. Home prices have already fallen 25 percent from their peak.

Unsurprisingly, Christmas retail sales plummeted this past year, making for one of the worst holiday sales seasons on record—and that was despite unprecedented markdowns.

If retail sales continue to plummet, commercial real estate is sure to take a hit as stores close up shop. That could mean additional big losses in commercial real estate for banks.

Here Come the Helicopters

The collapsing economy, destroyed banking sector, free-falling housing market

Dropping money bombs from helicopters will blow massive craters in both the dollar’s credibility and purchasing power.

and rising unemployment is bad news for the dollar. But the *trillions* the government has proposed in stimulus packages means the dollar has been abandoned.

In what may prove to be an incredibly profound development, the Federal Reserve has announced its intention to monetize the national debt. In December, it said in a policy statement it was “evaluating the potential benefits of purchasing longer-term treasury securities.”

Strap your helmet on tighter. This is Zimbabwe policy.

The U.S. government is broke. Its debts are so massive that, going forward, it will increasingly have to rely on the printing press to finance expenditures. That is what the Federal Reserve was signifying in the above statement (i.e., the

Fed will create new money and lend it to the U.S. government by purchasing treasuries). Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke became famous for once stating that if economic conditions became too bad, money could always be dropped from helicopters to stave off deflation and get people spending again. Despite the fact that dropping money bombs from helicopters would blow massive craters in both the dollar’s credibility and purchasing power, it looks as though the Fed is arming its attack fleet.

According to John Hussman of Hussman Funds, a dollar rout may already be in the making. In his Dec. 22, 2008, article “The Dollar Crisis Begins,” he indicated that if the Fed begins purchasing the U.S. government’s debt, it may end up buying more treasuries than expected “in order to absorb the supply from foreign holders set on dumping them.” When the Fed creates new dollars, it devalues existing currency. That means it makes U.S. treasuries,



which are denominated in dollars, worth less too. This provides a powerful incentive for treasury owners to sell their holdings.

A number of factors could cause the dollar to devalue. But if treasury holders begin selling, the increased supply on the market could really trigger a dollar crisis.

And there is nothing like a falling dollar and a global economy in crisis to ignite a trade war.

A weak dollar typically means that Americans purchase fewer foreign-made goods, while foreigners purchase more U.S. goods. This is generally seen as a benefit to American manufacturers and positive for jobs. But global economic conditions are eroding so rapidly that many nations are trying to devalue their currencies in order to grab trade. In addition, America's manufacturing base is already pretty well shot. America's economy mainly produces services and other less-tangible goods that are less essential to a

global economy in lockdown mode.

Is the world about to embark on a beggar-thy-neighbor policy of competitive currency devaluation to boost domestic exports? History indicates that, in times of economic crisis, governments tend to go down this road. The effects on global trade could be disastrous.

First Shots of Trade War

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in a speech to Congress back in November 2007, warned that America risked triggering "economic war" with Europe if it attempted to *devalue* its way out of economic trouble by allowing the dollar to plunge in value. "Those who admire the nation that has built the world's greatest economy and has never ceased trying to persuade the world of the advantages of free trade expect her to be the first to promote fair exchange rates," Sarkozy said. "The dollar cannot remain solely the problem

of others. If we're not careful, monetary disarray could morph into *economic war*. We would all be its victims."

When Sarkozy talks about economic war, what he means is tariffs and subsidies—and a lot of financial fallout that will affect *your* bank account.

During the Great Depression, countries sought to protect their domestic industry by limiting trade. This greatly intensified and prolonged the downturn.

The winds of trade war are blowing.

"The Fed keeps telling us they will not repeat the mistakes of the 1930s, yet they continue to repeat the very same mistakes—on steroids," writes investment adviser Mike Morgan. "The only difference this time is we have labeled the mistakes with different names and explain things away with magic dust" (Dec. 20, 2008). Today's new code for subsidies is "bailout."

What is the difference, Morgan asked,

HE WAS RIGHT!

Your Standard of Living

Is the world now witnessing what Herbert Armstrong prophesied 30 years ago? **BY RON FRASER**

"THE foundation of our bloated service sector economy, supported by overseas savings and production, is now giving way," wrote Peter Schiff of Euro Pacific Capital. "It is all part of the process of an *unprecedented decline in America's standard of living*, which is the inevitable result of years of living beyond our means" (emphasis mine throughout).

Schiff wrote that in April of 2008. How much worse conditions have gotten since!

Have the prophecies of Herbert W. Armstrong been fulfilled, or have they not?

You may well call him a man ahead of his time, but had any heeded Herbert Armstrong's words back in 1980, they may well have avoided the massive losses suffered through the profligacy and mass fraud of the past 40 years that have decimated the American and British economies.

Almost 30 years ago, he wrote an article headlined, "Prepare to Greatly Reduce Your Standard of Living!" "It's time you knew the real meaning of the present inflationary spiral, rising interest rates, and fears of entering a severe depression," the article began.

"There is far more to all this economic concern than appears on the surface. Its roots even penetrate back into ancient history and biblical prophecy. ...

"What does it all really mean? What does it portend for the relatively immediate future?"



ARMSTRONG

"We in the United States have enjoyed the most prosperous living standard of any nation in all the history of mankind. There is a reason for this unmatched prosperity that came to us. There also is a reason for the devaluation of the dollar in foreign markets, for our present abnormal inflation, and the fear in financial and government circles that we may well be in *the beginning* of the most severe economic depression in history. ...

"[T]he stranglehold of inflation and other economic disturbances are tightening around our necks. This trend is going to reach out and greatly reduce *your* standard of living, in the next two years or more" (*Plain Truth*, March 1980).

For many it did, in the crisis of 1982.

But did we then see the light? Did we fully recognize the basic *laws* that we were flouting, the breaking of which would eventually lead to an even *greater crisis* in the future? *No*. We just cranked up the credit and began transferring our industry into foreign lands offering cheap labor, transforming our former net-export-status economy into that of a net importer—a sure recipe for disaster!

The result? Factory closures in the U.S., mass transfers of jobs offshore and the conversion of that which once constituted our own gross domestic product into the GDP of foreign countries. *Their* GDP *skyrocketed* even as *ours plummeted* and our national debt blew out beyond all comprehension.

Now the piper must be paid, and there's no cash in the kitty to meet that demand!

But as Herbert Armstrong warned, "[W]hat is happening to us now is much more than purely economic causes and effects. ... There is a far more important *cause* behind the Anglo-American rise and fall than

between the auto bailout and foreign government subsidies to industry?

The same day that the White House announced the \$17.4 billion automaker bailout/subsidy, the U.S. began legal action against China at the World Trade Organization for supposedly subsidizing its industry. Tensions are heating up.

“We continue to believe that trade protectionism, competitive devaluations and military conflicts are the major risks for investors for 2009—this is, after all, the most broadly based global recession (according to the IMF, not just us) in the post-World War II era,” warned David Rosenberg. “Since the G-20 meeting in ... October, five of those countries—Russia, India, Indonesia, Brazil and Argentina—have announced their intentions to raise import tariffs or otherwise restrict trade” (op. cit.).

Vietnam, China, France and the European Union have also recently strength-

ened import taxes, duties, subsidies or export rebates.

Global leaders say they don’t want a trade war. Most economists and business leaders don’t want trade war, and the average worker certainly doesn’t want trade war—but trade tensions could easily ignite soon regardless.

This is most likely going to be a tough year. That is what the best experts say. More importantly, that is what God’s Word says.

The Bible prophesies that *Europe* will emerge the big winner out of the current economic crisis—at America’s expense. Revelation 13:16-17 show that a European power is destined to totally control the world’s economies and become the next global superpower as America topples.

God has said in His Bible that He will take away every one of our national blessings and replace them with curses—because of disobedience to Him (Leviticus

26). As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, “We have to learn that material goods are not the SOURCE of happiness. ... Our peoples have basic lessons yet to learn. The TRUE VALUES are spiritual.”

The prosperity and blessings that America and other English-speaking nations have enjoyed as a result of their forefather Abraham’s obedience are being taken away by God because our peoples have failed to acknowledge the Source of those national blessings. “PUNISHMENT implies correction,” Mr. Armstrong wrote. “Correction means a change of course. ... God is going to keep multiplying chastening—correction—upon our peoples *until* they *do* turn from their evil ways—until they turn to the ways that *cause* peace, happiness, prosperity, all the *good things!*”

And that is why we warn of America’s impending fall. ■

mass machine production and labor union action producing a greater diffusion of wealth. There is a far greater *cause* that is now starting in rapid descent to *bring down your present standard of living*” (ibid.).

If only we had heeded him then! How much pain and suffering these Anglo-Saxon nations could have evaded.

But it was not to be so. Herbert Armstrong explained it thus: “The United States and the British peoples did inherit the *national* and *material* promises of the birthright promised unconditionally to Abraham. Therefore God has *fulfilled* His unconditional promise of the birthright to Abraham [Genesis 12:1-3].

Few listened back in 1980 to Herbert Armstrong’s prophecy of the inevitable fall of the Anglo-Americans.

“Once fulfilled, in the British and Americans, retention of it by us became *conditional* on our performance.

“And *what have we done* with all this vast wealth, economic prosperity and world power?

“We have made physical *science* the new messiah—our false god—which boasted we no longer needed to wear the swaddling clothes of superstition, or lean on the crutch of religion. *Science* promised to deliver us from all our troubles! But it failed utterly, and only produced the weapons of mass destruction that can now erase all humanity from the Earth.

“Our educational systems worshiped at the shrine of the false god of *evolution*, making it the foundational approach and basic *concept* upon which all *knowledge* is based! Evolution is the atheist’s attempted explanation for the presence of a *creation* without a *Creator!*

“Our governments have been corrupt. Our business, industrial, economic and commercial systems have been shot through with deception, dishonesty, selfishness” (ibid.).

Three decades after Herbert Armstrong penned those words, they are becoming headline news across the world!

Michael Morris, a journalist at the World Bank, in an article headlined “The Total Collapse of America,” wrote, “The root of this entire mess in America is the total collapse of the fundamental core that made America great, the morals, ethics and accountability for one’s actions that ruled our society until the recent past. The chief cause of this abandonment of these principals is our justice system and system of laws that are now governed by greed, political agendas and deception of ‘right and wrong’” (OpEdNews.com, Oct. 7, 2008).

Morris at least gets close to the real cause of America’s *collapse*. Yet Mr. Armstrong got to the real core of the matter, taking the argument up to the ultimate level of control over human affairs, the *spiritual* realm: “We have adopted the *way of life* of Satan—utter selfishness, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, competition in every walk of life—business, politics, sports, society—leading to violence and destruction! We have rebelled against the authority of *God* over us, worshiping the false gods of science, evolution and greed. We have gone the *way of Satan!* And Satan is the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4).

“And now, *for our own good*, an all-wise and all-loving God is about to *punish* our nations, in order finally to bring us to *Him!* ... In Leviticus 26:19, God said of *our people, today*: ‘And I will break the pride of your power!’” (op. cit.).

That is the *reality* behind America’s collapse today!

Few listened back in 1980 to Herbert Armstrong’s prophecy of the inevitable fall of the Anglo-Americans. Those few who did heed, and *prove*, and *believe* and *act* on those words, have been saved much of the pain and increasing suffering now being heaped upon these peoples.

Those who did not heed, or who just simply *forgot*, would do well to note one additional prophetic statement Mr. Armstrong made in that article that applies directly to the days we are presently living through: “I warn you, *prepare* to greatly reduce your standard of living! Even *greater* punishments are to follow!” ■

Request a free copy of Herbert Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for an in-depth study of these prophecies that are leaping into full perspective.



HOW WOULD YOU FEEL as a wife if your husband—in front of powerful people—wouldn't admit he was married to you? Or what if you couldn't have children and, to remedy the situation, your husband impregnated a woman close to you?

That's the position one woman found herself in.

Her husband ended up becoming one of the great men of history, revered by his descendants till this day. That man was the Hebrew patriarch Abraham. His story is recorded in the Holy Bible.

And what does the Bible tell us about his wife, Sarah? Does it mention how she had trouble taking him seriously? How she couldn't respect him? How she kept throwing his mistakes back in his face whenever she wanted to get the upper hand in the relationship? No. The New Testament says simply that "Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord" (1 Peter 3:6).

What a remarkable woman to give her husband such respect and deference *despite* his human deficiencies.

I contrast that story in my mind to a young woman whom my wife and I spoke to recently. In lighthearted conversation, she joked about how dense and unobservant her husband was. That is the common attitude in our society. You see it in how women (married or single) emasculate and run down their male companions.

At the same time, many husbands dismiss their wives' feelings, hopes and dreams so they can get back to what they think is important.

Marriages today often suffer from a LACK OF RESPECT.

Is your marriage happy? Is it simply satisfactory? Or does it seem beyond repair? Does it seem any efforts you make to upgrade it are ignored or put down?

Don't give up!

There is something you can do. It requires *respecting and honoring* your mate. Attitudes of respect and honor, while they manifest themselves differently in the husband and wife, nonetheless *must* be there for any marriage to be happy.

But, you might say, my mate would never sit down with me, read an article like this and talk it over afterward. That's the beauty of this marriage remedy.

Do You Respect Your Mate?

BY RYAN MALONE

It can work *regardless* of what your mate does. Start employing these attitudes, and watch it—even if only subconsciously—inspire changes in your mate. Watch to see if he or she doesn't begin to reciprocate the respect.

How the Husband Respects

The husband's main obligation is to LOVE his wife. By love, I do not mean some fuzzy emotion. Love is an action word that is an *outgoing concern* for the one loved. It is the way of serving, giving and sacrificing.

Deep down, what man, when he has first found that special lady, doesn't desire to help her in any way he can—to hear her out, to offer her a ride, to lift something heavy, to do anything to make her comfortable? And yet, how many men ignore those feelings later in the marriage?

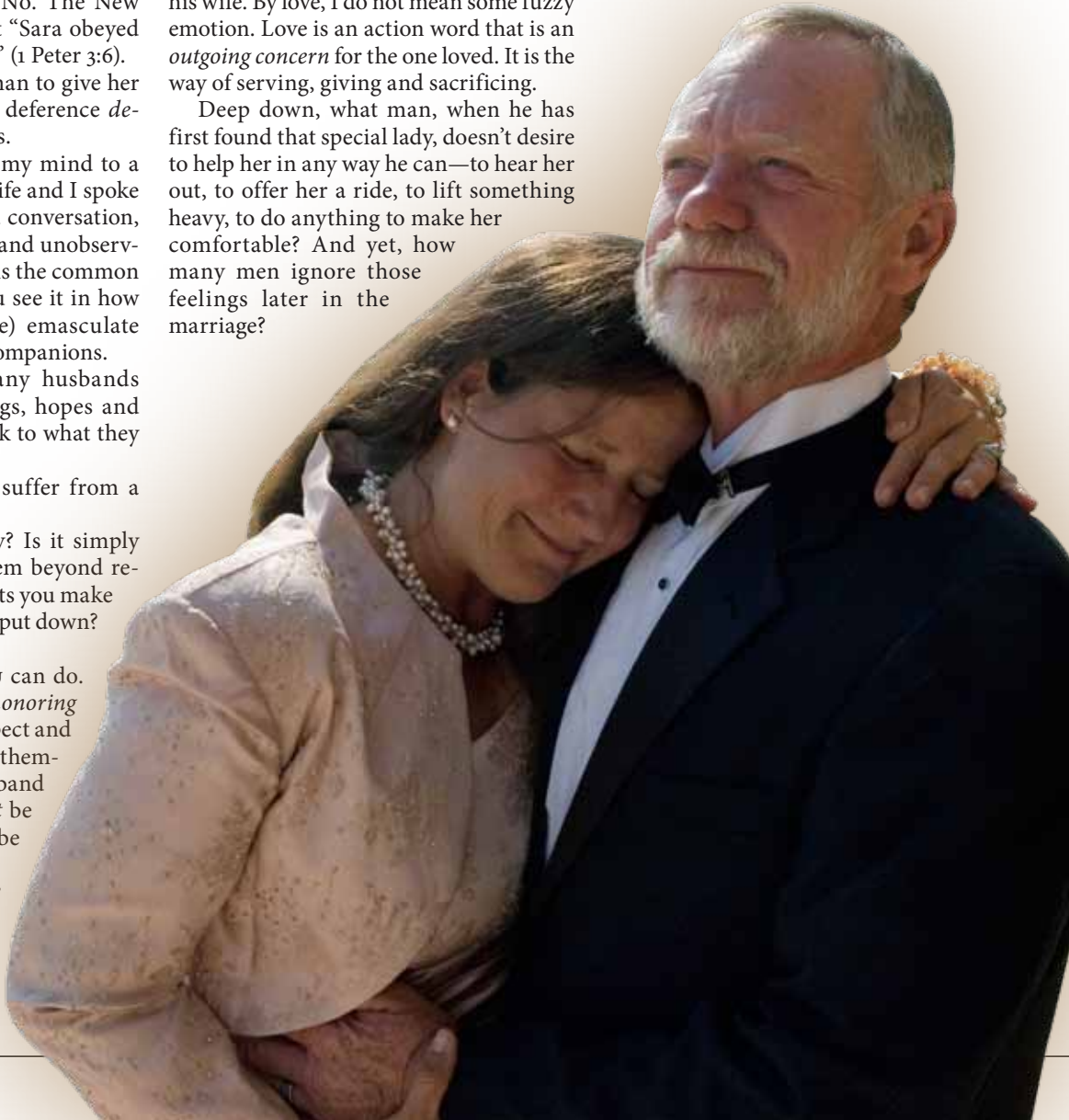
The husband must take the lead in sacrificing, giving and serving the wife and family. He must put their needs ahead of his own.

A woman who sees her husband acting in that fashion, and who feels so honored, is bound to respond well.

The Apostle Peter, who wrote about Abraham's wife, Sarah, said only a few sentences later that husbands are to "honour" their wives (1 Peter 3:7). He used a Greek word that refers to how some-

thing is valued or priced.

Husbands, part of recapturing that honor in your marriage is realizing the *priceless value* of your wife! Can you put a price on everything she has done for you and the family? Look for those ways she has sacrificed and given to you. She is far more valuable than any salary, promotion



or material status you could achieve.

You may actually want to list all these marvelous acts of your wife, like the chronicler did in Proverbs 31. This chapter not only illustrates the ideal marriage relationship, it goes into great detail about the wife's accomplishments (verses 12-28). She clothes the family, makes certain real-estate decisions on behalf of the husband, manages a staff of assistants, and rises up early, among many other things.

The description ends: "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" (verse 28).

A Proverbs 31 HUSBAND will lead his children in honoring and praising his wife.

Peter says another part of honoring the wife is dwelling with her "according to knowledge." Husbands: To excel at honoring and respecting your wife, strive to understand things from her point of view—be aware of her hormonal fluctuations, her physical limitations, her dreams and desires. You can show her how you truly value her priceless role by being a sounding board and by trying to understand her world.

In 1 Kings 3, King Solomon told God his greatest desire, as he embarked on his rule of Israel, was "an understanding heart to judge thy people ... for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?" (verse 9). For some time, that attitude helped Solomon be a great king. The principle is that *any great leader will strive to understand those he leads*. Solomon really had an awe for God's people. He respected them.

Likewise, a husband who is honoring his wife will strive to see things from HER point of view. Strive for that "understanding heart"!

How the Wife Respects

I realize some of this may sound antiquated or even be infuriating to the brazen modern woman. But do not most women, deep down, crave to be honored, appreciated, understood and cared for? What woman, if her husband began honoring her that way, wouldn't simply collapse in his arms from delight in being treated like this?

In like manner, what man wouldn't cherish receiving such appreciation and admiration from a woman? The fact is, men *deeply desire* respect from women.

Yet how often do you hear a wife carrying on about her husband's shortcomings—how he handles the children, his weight, his inability to take out the trash or his intelligence with other domestic issues. By doing that she destroys the attitude of respect that would draw her

husband to her and bind the relationship!

Wives, look beyond the flaws. Remind yourself of why you grew to love him in the first place. There was a time where things he did or said *amazed* you. There was a time when his skills and abilities inspired a certain AWE in you. Can you recapture that?

That's what the Bible says the wife is to do: to "REVERENCE her husband" (Ephesians 5:33).

The Greek word for *reverence* is *phobeo*, from where we get our word *phobia*, a fear of something. It is usually used in the New Testament as "fear" or "afraid of," much of the time to describe our "fear of God." So, the type of fear we should have toward God—not being *terrified* of Him, but rather being afraid to disobey or disrespect Him—is that which the wife should have toward her husband.

Yet today, not only do most women not have that attitude, but many men are *literally afraid* of their wives. They are afraid to show any real backbone for fear of what the wife might do or say. Though there still may be a few men in society who really "lord it over" their wives and command the wrong kind of fear in them, the reality is that, generally, the women "lord it over," browbeat and nag the men! It all started about 6,000 years ago when Adam, who was with his wife (Genesis 3:6), was afraid to tell her that heeding the serpent and eating of the forbidden fruit was wrong!

Wives, do you honor, respect and hold your husband—at least his purpose and position in the family—in the highest esteem and even a little bit of AWE? Would it damage the marriage if you were *afraid* to say a demeaning word to or about him? Would it do harm if you *feared* rebuking or nagging him as you would fear doing so to God Himself? (Ephesians 5:22).

Proverbs 12:4 says a woman who makes her husband ashamed is as "rotteness in his bones." Denying him respect is the quickest way to turn him away from you.

Peter tells the wives to follow obedient Sarah's example. Sure, calling him "lord" is foreign in our day, but we're talking about an ATTITUDE OF RESPECT. Think about all the ways in which you can respect your husband, conveying that *attitude* even if you don't utter those words. Would that not INSPIRE the lagging husband to begin to improve? Would it not impress upon him the responsibility he has to care for you—to ensure that he appreciates you and looks out for you?

The Scriptures do not say that you are to give him this respect only if he deserves

it. You could find any number of things about your husband's character to pick apart and thereby conclude that he is unworthy of such respect. Strive to look beyond his flaws and deficiencies. Focus first and foremost on the heavy responsibility he has been given. If he is having trouble fulfilling his duties as a husband, he may need your support, admiration, encouragement and respect MORE than at any other time! Genuinely praise him to his face and also to others when he is not around. That is your God-given responsibility.

Both Attitudes in Action

You may be surprised at how one mate employing these points can inspire the other. Even if it starts with one, the ultimate goal is a marriage where *both parties* strive to respect and honor each other like this. Study Proverbs 31, which paints a picture of exactly such a marriage.

Verses 11 and 16 read, "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. ... She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard."

This husband honors his wife, empowers her decision-making and encourages her to be educated. He is not intimidated by any of that. This wife reverences her husband and takes utmost care with decisions, knowing she represents him and his reputation. She educates herself in the best way to make those decisions. And having to reverence him in her decisions doesn't make her feel slighted—rather she feels fulfilled.

She is intelligent, cultured, productive and diligent. The husband does not hide her; he shouts her praises for all to hear, as verse 28 says. Most translations show that the end of this verse is a lead-in to the next verse—that is, here is what he says about her: "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

Verse 26 says that she "openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." She is capable of offering great counsel, and he values that counsel.

Verse 23 shows that he is "known in the gates" among the leaders of the land. Her reverence for him allows him to be respected in society too.

Strive for a Proverbs 31 marriage! Both husband and wife are better equipped to find their success in life when they each have this righteous respect toward each other! Apply these principles of honoring and respecting your mate, and watch your marriage thrive! ■

LOSING BATTLE The government destroys a tiny fraction of the cocaine flowing through Mexico.

Is Mexico About to Collapse?

Oil, drug money, and enablers all impact the economic probability of Mexico's survival.

BY ROBERT MORLEY AND JOEL HILLIKER

“FOR EACH ONE OF MINE THAT YOU kill, I will kill 10 soldiers.”

That was the note that accompanied the severed heads of eight soldiers and a former state police director.

The beheadings were not done by al Qaeda, nor did they occur in some little-known region of Afghanistan. These men were horribly mutilated and murdered by Mexican drug lords.

But the deaths were bought and paid for with American money from American citizens.

Who Will Rule Mexico?

The government of Mexico is locked in a life-and-death struggle for control of the nation. Over the past two years, over 6,000 police officers and other public officials have been assassinated. Drug lords are waging an all-out battle, and civil war threatens. Who will rule Mexico?

The simple economics suggest the government doesn't stand a chance.

It gets down to this: Mexico is in atrocious financial shape. Unemployment is high and escalating. Mexicans living in the U.S. are sending less money home. Food prices are pinching budgets, and social unrest is escalating. The list goes on: Mexico's metals and mining industry

is getting hammered. Commodity prices have plunged, and exports have constricted due to the global economic slowdown. On top of all that, the government is about to lose much of its single most important and vital source of money—oil revenue.

In contrast, the incredibly violent and ruthless drug cartels, which are trying to overthrow the government, are funded by the biggest, most free-spending, and addicted market in the world: U.S. consumers. Also assisting the cartels are American black-market arms smugglers.

The big money is backing organized crime. Who do you think is going to win?

Mexico's Budget Drying Up

A whopping 40 percent of Mexico's budget is derived from oil sales. As the third-largest supplier of oil to America, Mexico sends most of its oil north to gas stations across the United States.

Since last year, however, oil prices have plummeted from near \$140 per barrel to less than \$40. Earlier, when oil was costlier, the Mexican government locked in contracts to sell its oil for \$70 per barrel. By the end of 2009, those contracts will expire. If oil prices don't rebound, the government could easily see 15 percent or more of its total budget disappear.

But the problem is much worse than that. Mexico's oil production is also plummeting, so the budget deficit could be even greater. Total oil exports to the U.S. plummeted about 17 percent in 2008, and that followed double-digit declines in 2006 and 2007.

Government mismanagement has added to these geological constraints, which means production probably won't recover anytime soon, if ever. If trends continue, analysts predict that Mexico could *cease exporting oil* within four years!

This is a huge issue for Mexico. Oil revenue bankrolls the war against the drug cartels. And even at current budget levels, it is still not clear whether the government is winning or losing.

Two years ago, Mexico was forced to employ its *army* to battle the drug lords since its domestic police forces were deemed too corrupt. However, as the analysts at Stratfor have noted, the longer the war drags on, the more infiltrated and corrupt the *army* will become. Morale, which is chronically low during the best of times, is being pushed to the breaking point.

It is not just a battle against drugs, guns and crime, but also against time. And time, as well as money, is on the side of the drug runners.

The Money Supply

America is the world's largest cocaine consumer, and about 90 percent of what is sold in the United States comes from Mexico. In fact, Americans spend \$142 billion a year on illegal drugs, which is fully 44 percent of global consumption. And most of the distribution networks into and throughout the U.S. are dominated by Mexican criminal groups, according to the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

With so much money in play, these drug cartels are getting stronger, better armed, bolder and more violent. They are spending their cash on cross-border tunnels nine stories underground—on semi-submersible vessels that can evade radar and travel at 20 knots.

"The cartel has become far more brutal," says the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Alan Poleszak. "Civilians used to be off limits but now it kills wives and children, and tortures in new ways. Beheadings are recent, too. They walked into a disco and dropped three heads in the middle of the floor to prove the cartel still rules" (*Times*, June 15, 2008).

Yes, thanks to America's drug addiction, Mexico is in the thralls of a full-scale war that is killing its policemen and public officials at *more than triple the rate* that the Iraq War is killing U.S. troops. Three towns have seen the entire police force quit out of fear of the gangs.

Alternatively, cartels invest some of those American billions into *putting the authorities on their payroll*. Using these two tools—lethal violence and filthy riches—they have been extremely successful in harassing and bribing government officials into compliance. "Government officials are human," writes Stratfor's George Friedman, "and faced with the carrot of bribes and the stick of death, even the most incorruptible is going to be cautious in executing operations against the cartels. ... There comes a moment when ... government officials, seeing the futility of resistance, *effectively become tools of the cartels*" (Stratfor, May 13, 2008; emphasis ours). Already in many Mexican cities, the police and politicians have been bought off; drug lords rule.

When that happens enough, the state ceases to function as a state.

In Mexico, the nation's rule of law is turning into the law of the jungle.

The U.S. State Department has issued travel alerts, warning that American tourists could face the "equivalent to military small-unit combat" if they cross the border.

Adding a layer of shame to the situation is this fact: The cartels are getting almost all of their weapons—over 90 percent—from *the United States*. The cartels will pay top dollar for these arms—including high-powered assault weapons and grenades—and unscrupulous American gun smugglers have proven willing to oblige them. "If I don't do it, someone else will. That's the bottom line," one American told the BBC of his wicked business.

Unsurprisingly, the bitter fruits are spilling back over into the U.S. The geographic location of Mexico in relation to the U.S.—and the porous border between the two countries—provides Mexican drug cartels comparatively easy access to the American market, which is the biggest in the world. And the U.S. Department of Justice acknowledged in a December report that Mexican drug traffickers "represent *the greatest organized crime threat* to the United States."

Outspent

Last June, the House of Representatives approved \$1.1 billion in drug war aid to Mexico. The deal, which was announced in October 2007, included a plan for the U.S. to send helicopters and technical assistance over a three-year span.

This money will change little. Aside from the possibility of that aid being diverted by military and police forces that are on the pay of the cartels, it simply does nothing to address the *fundamental cause* of the whole problem.

One-point-one billion in counternarcotics efforts will simply be *dwarfed* by the *nearly HALF TRILLION that junked-out Americans will pay to the cartels* over those three years!

Unless something changes, the economics suggest that Mexico's war for survival may be a lost cause.

Things will likely get much worse. Mexico is one of two countries that "bear consideration for a rapid and sudden collapse," the U.S. Joint Forces Command on worldwide security threats said in a January report. The other country is Pakistan.

America's increasingly unstable southern neighbor is in the middle of a war for its survival, and the situation could melt down quickly. Our Mexican readers would do well to be wary of these conditions.

And at a time when America's economy is also facing collapse, an unstable neighbor is the last thing America needs. ■

Israel's problem is that it continues to seek help from nations willing to trample on its interests. If Israel would open its eyes, it would recognize that about Turkey.

It would also realize it about *Germany*.

Biblical prophecy reveals the inevitable outcomes of these relationships.

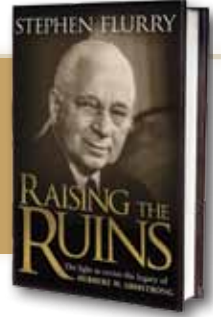
It shows that a Muslim-Jewish war is about to erupt—initiated by Islamic forces clearly unrestrained by Turkey or anything else. That conflagration will trigger a series of events leading to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

When the Muslims move to sack Jerusalem, it will provoke a united European bloc of nations to intervene. This bloc will set up armies around Jerusalem—appearing like a "peacekeeping force"—but quickly transforming into a deadly war machine (Luke 21:20). It won't be just Arabs or Muslims that suffer at their hands; this European power will turn its full force on the nations of Israel—including America and Britain. This horrifying double-cross is discussed in Ezekiel 23 (and also in our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*). Many in the Jerusalem area will be trapped!

The Prophet Obadiah recorded an extraordinary prophecy about "Edom," whose modern descendants are the Turks. (Request a free copy of the Trumpet's December 1997 article "Turkey: An Act of Revenge!" for a detailed explanation of this prophecy.) It shows how Turkey, possessing the escape route via land—the Cilician Gates mountain pass—will actually *sell out those Israelis*, as well as Americans and British, who are trying to escape, delivering them into the hands of their conquerors.

This prophecy, foretelling the betrayal of Israel first by a German-led European force and then by Turkey, is not at all difficult to foresee considering the problematic nature of these relationships today. But Israel—credulous, vulnerable, trusting and blind to the very end—*will be ABSOLUTELY SHOCKED* by these monstrous betrayals, simply because it refuses to heed the warning God has supplied within these unbreakable prophecies!

For those attuned to the prophetic truth, however, the unfolding of these events will come as no shock. It will only strengthen their faith in the God of the Bible. And it will increase their anticipation for what is prophesied to occur soon after those nightmares: the dawn of a just and peaceful civilization, the wonderful World Tomorrow. ■



In his book *Raising the Ruins*, available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is part one of the 23rd chapter.

STEPHEN FLURRY
 © Philadelphia
 Church of God
 PART ONE

“PCG’s only ‘right’ is to stand before the bar of justice and have damages assessed against them and attorney’s fees for the wrong that it has committed.”

—Ralph Helge, *Letter to Bob Ardis*

AT THE HEIGHT OF THE DEPOSITIONS IN AUGUST 2002, Ralph Helge wrote to Bob Ardis in an effort to give “accurate information” about the court case. Ardis, a minister disfellowshipped from the PCG in 1997, copied Helge’s letter and sent it to his entire mailing list, comprised mostly of PCG members.

In the letter, Mr. Helge accused Gerald Flurry of “pirating” *Mystery of the Ages*, of misinforming and misleading PCG members, of disobeying and disregarding the laws of the land, of using nearly every trick in the book to disrupt the legal process, among other things. He explained how we initially won at the district court level. Judge Letts said we had a right to distribute *Mystery* because, in Helge’s own words, “wCG was *not publishing it at the time*, and because it was allegedly central to PCG’s religion”

Exactly! If there is one thing the wCG learned during the lawsuit, it’s that they *could not use their copyrights to suppress Mr. Armstrong’s written works*. For all their screaming at the outset of the case—we were “stealing”; we “broke the law”—it turns out that they were the ones misapplying the copyright law. That’s what Helge indirectly admitted to Ardis. We won the first round, he said, only because they were not publishing *Mystery of the Ages* “at the time.” In fact, they had a “Christian duty” not to. But once they realized they couldn’t use a copyright to suppress written works, they concocted a plan to publish them.

Helge told Ardis that the three-judge panel at the Ninth Circuit reversed Judge Letts’s ruling. He failed to mention why—because they developed “plans” to publish—in the form of an annotated version.

Helge then made this astonishing comment: “... Mr. Flurry has made representations to the PCG members, giving the misimpression that there is still the possibility in the case that the

court is going to award PCG the right to pirate the MOA. This is simply, again, misinformation. The case has been finally decided and concluded regarding MOA, and Mr. Flurry, out of sheer desperation, has exhausted all legal remedies available to him. Any attempt of PCG to acquire any court-ordered right to print the MOA is over, done, finished. Legally there is NO PLACE ELSE FOR HIM TO GO ON THIS ISSUE. I don’t know how else I can say it. PCG’s only ‘right’ is to stand before the bar of justice and have damages assessed against them and attorney’s fees for the wrong that it has committed.”

In quick response, our lead attorney drafted a letter to Helge on September 18, saying, “Any competent lawyer knows that these statements are undeniably false, and you in particular know that they are. It is beyond any dispute that the Ninth Circuit’s September 2000 decision did not constitute a final judgment.”

Even at my own deposition in 2002, wCG attorney Allan Browne wanted me to acknowledge that we lost the court case and were therefore found guilty of breaking the law. “[A]re you of the understanding that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that, in terms of *Mystery of the Ages*, we, the Worldwide Church of God, are entitled to damages?” I told him I understood that, but that it was a decision that could be appealed. “Well, are you aware that your counsel filed a petition ... in the United States Supreme Court on that issue and that it was turned down ...?” he asked.

Flurry: “Right. And I’m also aware that we have the right to do that yet again.”

Browne: “Well, after the damages trial is held, is that what you mean?”

Flurry: “Yes.”

Browne: “Okay.”

Flurry: “Is that not true?”

Browne: “Well, I’m not answering questions here today, you are.”

Mark Helm: “He knows it is true. So he won’t answer.”

It was as if they expected us to lay down our weapons and surrender after one setback. The damages trial hadn’t even started yet. And we certainly intended to appeal after that. On top of that, the counterclaim had not yet been decided at the district level, let alone the court of appeals or at the Supreme Court.

Yet, in the summer of 2002, Ralph Helge concluded that we had “exhausted *all* legal remedies”—that there was nowhere else for us to go. I think the underlying message in Helge’s attempt to misinform was this: *Why won’t these guys just give up?* He just wanted all of this to be over, and he boiled over at the fact that we intended to fight them—to take advantage of every possible legal option at our disposal. To Helge, exercising *all* our options was some kind of technical maneuvering intended to thwart the judicial process. He obviously felt much different about exercising all legal options if it benefited *them*, even if it was dubious and dishonest—like when they dismissed their lawsuit in California three weeks after filing in early 1997 because Judge Letts wouldn’t grant their request for a temporary restraining order, hoping a lawsuit filed in Oklahoma would render better results. Or after they realized they were losing at the district level and floated the idea that they would publish an annotated *Mystery of the Ages*—a technical maneuver intended to thwart the judicial process. And later, when the e-publishing scheme was established—not by WCG’s publishing department or Plain Truth Ministries or *ANYTHING* having to do with literature, but *by Ralph Helge’s legal department*, and for the admitted purpose of undermining our argument that Mr. Armstrong’s works were unavailable.

All of this, spearheaded by a man who then accused *us* of thwarting the judicial process.

■ TELEVISION CUTS

Just days before Helge’s letter landed in the mailboxes of many PCG members, my dad called for an Advisory Council of Elders meeting at our headquarters facility in Edmond on September 11. During this meeting with leading ministers of the church, he announced that we would be cutting all of our television stations, except for the cable channel WGN, because of the court case. He said that we were now in the heat of the battle and that our time, energies and finances needed to flow in that direction. He reassured the ministry that if we had the faith of the Prophet Habakkuk, God would eventually give us Mr. Armstrong’s material.

While the decision to cut television costs certainly helped increase the work’s cash flow, it wasn’t made for that reason alone. As our television audience had grown through the years, we were being contacted by an increasing number of respondents who knew very little or nothing about Herbert Armstrong—let alone his teachings. Without Mr. Armstrong’s literature, we felt these new contacts could not be spiritually nurtured until we had a breakthrough in the court case. It is difficult to grasp the full depth of our own literature without the foundational teachings of Mr. Armstrong. The idea was, *let’s win the court battle first, and then concentrate on taking our message to the largest audience possible.* My father also admonished us to educate our members as to why we were involved in this legal battle. He said, “Maybe God wants to

teach the whole church how vital these works are.” To win this battle, every member had to do his part.

A week and a half later, PCG members from all over the world convened at various locations to celebrate our annual fall festival—the Feast of Tabernacles. During the Feast, my dad delivered two messages that were broadcast live, via satellite, to most of the PCG’s worldwide membership. In his first message, on September 22, he said he didn’t think he would ever give a more important message because of what was happening in our work. He went on to discuss the meaning of the court case—saying it was a test for us, but that if we had faith, God would revive this work and give us that literature somehow—some way. To obtain those works, though, he said we had to be willing to fight to the end—willing to do whatever God required of us.

He concluded the sermon by quoting from Helge’s letter to Bob Ardis. Regarding Helge’s comment that we had “pirated” Mr. Armstrong’s works, my dad said it was WCG leaders who had in fact pirated an ENTIRE CHURCH.

In his second live sermon, on September 27, my dad explained that one reason this trial might be dragging on is because God wants us to EXPOSE the WCG. He told the membership that we intended to press forward, fully intent on exposing them every step of the way.

At the end of the sermon, he announced the TV cuts he had made at the September 11 meeting. He told the membership that our message to the world could not be truly effective until we acquired the right to publish Mr. Armstrong’s works. “We must go all out in this court case,” he said.

■ ABOUT-FACE

Two weeks after our fall festival ended, on October 14 (the trial had been pushed back to early December), events took yet another dramatic turn: The WCG offered to sell us *Mystery of the Ages* for \$4 million. It left us in a state of shock. We thought the price was far too high for just one book, but still, that WCG now wanted to sell it outright—with no restrictive license—was unbelievable.

Why—after all the rhetoric about annotation and e-publishing, after Morgan’s ridicule of our March offer to license, after Helge’s scathing editorial about PCG’s hopeless position (“the case has been finally decided and concluded”; “legally there is no place else for [the PCG] to go”; “PCG’s only ‘right’ is to stand before the bar of justice and have damages assessed against them and attorney’s fees for the wrong that it has committed”)—would WCG now *ask us* to settle?

This breakthrough was HUGE.

We felt like we had finally worn them down. Our first thought was to get *all* the works—*Mystery of the Ages* and the 18 we were seeking in the counterclaim. Our second thought was about finances. At the time, we only had about \$1 million cash on hand, in reserve.

So on Monday, October 21, we offered the WCG \$825,000 for *all* the copyrights and first right of refusal to buy any other Armstrong literature they might later sell. They were insulted by the offer and said if we heard laughter coming from Pasadena that night, we would know why. But we were now convinced they didn’t want to go to trial with this. They feared the negative publicity it would bring. It was clear they wanted to cut and run and were hoping to get as much as possible from us in return.

They came back with a \$3.5 million offer to grant us perpetual licenses for *all* 19 works. On the one hand, we were ecstatic because they dropped from \$4 million for *Mystery* to \$3.5 million for *everything* we wanted. But instead of selling them outright, they would be licensed. We were understandably wary of any settlement offer that allowed the WCG to interfere with our plans. But they assured us that we would have control over the literature and that the licenses would be permanent. In researching the matter further, we discovered that a perpetual license was far better than anything we could have obtained from the courts—even if we fought to the end and won in the Supreme Court. In that scenario, the court would have simply ruled that what we did between 1997 and 2000—copying and distributing Mr. Armstrong’s literature—was NOT a violation of the copyright law. But it would not have granted us a perpetual license.

About the only thing we couldn’t do with a license is sell the works to someone else, which we wouldn’t do anyway. But still, we wouldn’t *own* the works. And for as hard as we fought, anything other than “© Philadelphia Church of God” inside the front cover of those books just didn’t seem right. We also didn’t like the idea of any lingering association with the WCG after a six-year lawsuit.

We bumped our original offer up to \$950,000, with the same requests—all 19 copyrights and first right of refusal on anything else.

■ HELGE LASHES OUT AGAIN

Meanwhile, Ralph Helge wouldn’t stop spouting off. The *Journal*, a newspaper reporting on the news of WCG and its many splinter groups, interviewed Helge on October 29. The article that was published in the October 31 issue was loaded with Helgeisms: “In various court rulings over the years, the WCG’s arguments . . . have *overwhelmingly* prevailed” and WCG “seeks to recover costs for attorneys’ fees plus damages from the PCG for *illegally* printing *Mystery*.”

Helge informed the *Journal* that the WCG was now electronically publishing the very works we were seeking in this case. Even the *Journal* expressed skepticism about the sincerity of such a move, wondering if it was simply a strategy employed to undermine the PCG’s position. “Mr. Helge insists the church’s real motive is to make the works of Mr. Armstrong available to the public and that removing the PCG’s legal claim that these works are unavailable is of only secondary importance.”

To admit that removing our legal claim was at least of “secondary importance” was astounding. They never hinted at this in the court proceedings. They made it seem like a genuine attempt to serve the needs of our members. But going back to Helge’s assessment of the lawsuit, why would

the WCG *even need* to make the works available if we were in such an indefensible position? Hadn’t the courts been ruling “overwhelmingly” in WCG’s favor? Were we not left with just one option in this litigation—standing before the bar of justice to have damages assessed against us for our “unlawful” and “illegal” distribution of *Mystery*?

Helge concluded his interview with another personal attack against my father. “Mr. Helge predicted that, whenever the final court hearing adjourns and the PCG is still not allowed to print Mr. Armstrong’s books, ‘I’ll bet he says this is a famine of hearing the Word, that Satan did this . . .’”

He said that two weeks *after* the WCG offered to sell us *Mystery of the Ages*.

Meanwhile, my dad had called for a church-wide fast within the PCG. Members were asked to beseech God for special deliverance in this struggle. He scheduled the fast for the fourth weekend of November.

■ DENIED SUMMARY JUDGMENT AGAIN

The WCG lowered its settlement offer to \$3.1 million, but insisted that the figure was much too low for any discussion about selling the copyrights. Their offer was for perpetual licenses only and we would have to print a disclaimer on the literature saying, “Used by permission of the Worldwide Church of God.” There’s no way we would have ever agreed to that.

We bumped our offer to \$1.5 million—again, for all the copyrights and first right of refusal on anything else they might sell.

Meanwhile, preparations for the December trial had to move forward. In the *Journal* article, Helge had indicated that if the November 6 summary judgment hearing came out in favor of WCG, then the next step would undoubtedly be a “trial to determine attorneys’ fees and damages the PCG would have to pay the WCG.”

But at the hearing, Judge Snyder again denied their motion for summary judgment on the grounds of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Even though they were now e-publishing the works we wanted, the judge said they were “charging too much” for *Mystery of the Ages*. Our attorney pointed out that “although the Ninth Circuit did say that having to ask for a license and presumably having to pay for it couldn’t be a substantial burden, they didn’t say that the Worldwide Church could set the price wherever they wanted.”

“And in fact,” the judge added, “they implicitly suggest that it *has to be available on a reasonable* basis.”

It was yet another sharp blow to the WCG’s already wobbly legal position. Judge Snyder set the next hearing for November 25, when she would consider the arguments of both sides to exclude evidence at trial. ■

Without Mr. Armstrong’s literature, we felt that new contacts could not be spiritually nurtured until we had a breakthrough in the court case.

Today, most people have rejected the law of cause and effect. We think we can discard marriage and family and suffer no consequences—but the history of Rome ought to teach us what the fruits of family breakdown are—and will be!

Jerome Carcopino wrote in *Daily Life in Ancient Rome* that by the beginning of the second century A.D., in general Roman fathers had “yielded to the impulse to become far too complaisant. Having given up the habit of controlling their children, they let the children govern them, and took pleasure in bleeding themselves white to gratify the expensive whims of their offspring. The result was that they were succeeded by a generation of idlers and wastrels”

Take an honest look at Western societies today: Our parenting is exactly the same!

Carcopino continued: “From this time on [in the first century B.C. in Rome], we witness an *epidemic of divorces*, at least among the aristocracy whose matrimonial adventures are documented.”

In Isaiah 3, the ancient prophet warned that family breakdown would be a defining feature in America and Britain before the return of Christ. He also explained how this would come about: “For, behold, the Lord, the [Eternal] of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour ...” (Isaiah 3:1-5).

God said strong leaders, including strong fathers, would be a rarity, and that children and teenagers would rule the family and dominate the culture. Does that sound like society in America and Britain today?

“[T]he child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable” (verse 5). Look around! Is there any doubt children and teenagers rule over the adults and dominate society and culture?

“As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths” (verse 12). It’s a lesson of history: A NATION’S SUCCESS OR FAILURE HINGES ON THE STRENGTH OR WEAKNESS OF ITS FAMILIES. That’s what Edward Gibbons told us, and that’s what God is telling us in Isaiah 3.

In Isaiah’s prophecy the family is so upside down, and the father so anemic that he’s not even *mentioned*. Where are the fathers that God says should be leading their families—the type of fathers that helped make Rome great? In this prophecy, the women are ruling, although even they are being oppressed by the children. In reality, the CHILDREN are leading, just as Gibbons said they were in ancient Rome just before its monstrous collapse!

The history of Rome confirms what the Bible teaches about marriage and family!

In a May 12, 1993, *Washington Post* editorial, David Blankenhorn, founder of the Institute for American Values, was quoted



as saying: “The most important predictor of criminal behavior is ... father absence. It’s boys who don’t grow up with their fathers.” The editorial concurred, saying, “*The two-parent household as the ideal arrangement for rearing children has been universal across both time and geography.*” Understand! The two-parent household has been the best way to rear children—ALL OVER THE WORLD, FOR ALL OF MAN’S HISTORY!

But what has happened in this end time? “Men,” this article said, “have been linked,

through marriage, to their children and the mothers of their children. ... NOT ONLY HAS THE PRIMACY OF MOTHERHOOD NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED; WE ALSO HAVE NEVER DOUBTED THAT CHILDREN NEED FATHERS. UNTIL NOW.” We live in a culture that constantly undermines the role of the father. You can learn more about the attack on fatherhood by requesting a free copy of *Conspiracy Against Fatherhood*.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, MANKIND UNDERSTOOD THAT CHILDREN NEED FATHERS—BUT NOW PSYCHOLOGISTS ARE TRYING TO TELL US THAT THE FATHER IS NOT NECESSARY TO REARING HEALTHY CHILDREN. IN ACTUALITY, WHAT THESE STUDIES AND THE PERVERSIVE ANTI-FATHER MOVEMENT ARE TELLING YOU IS HOW TO DESTROY FAMILIES AND DESTROY NATIONS.

The history of Rome teaches that these people have no idea what they’re talking about!

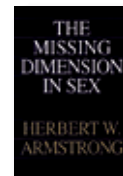
What does the Bible say about the critical role of the father? “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, *God dealeth with you as with sons*; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?” (Hebrews 12:5-9).

That scripture, among many others, tells us that God is a FATHER!

In fact, one of the greatest truths taught in the Bible is that GOD IS A FAMILY! The Bible teaches that human marriage and family are God-ordained institutions, created for a divine and spectacular purpose. Some people understand the importance of family, but even they (in most all cases) don’t really understand the incredible human potential of a person to be born into the very Family of God!

This is such an awesome relationship that we have, and family and marriage have such awesome meaning. We must understand it if we’re ever going to have strong families and strong nations!

You can learn about the spiritual dimension of marriage and family by requesting free copies of *The Missing Dimension in Sex* and *God Is a Family*.



A Softer Approach to Fighting Terror

What message does the president's pick for CIA director send?

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

WHEN THE FAR-LEFT HUMAN Rights Watch applauds the nomination, there is good reason to be gravely concerned about the change that is coming to America. In January, Barack Obama picked Leon Panetta, a former California congressman and White House chief of staff under President Clinton, to be the CIA's next director. Those who endorsed Panetta's nomination praised his sharp intellect, political evenhandedness and exceptional managerial skills. Critics howled over Panetta's near-zero experience in collecting and analyzing intelligence.

The greatest cause for alarm, though, is the weak and naive strategy Barack Obama intends to implement in the war against terror.

For all the Bush policies Barack Obama seeks to change, the ones he is most eager to rework *first* are those that arguably resulted in George W. Bush's greatest achievement as a wartime president: the fact that America has not been hit by a major terrorist attack in more than seven years.

No one predicted that in the wake of 9/11. Yet, thanks in large part to President Bush's decisions to go on the offensive in the war against terror, to approve controversial interrogation methods and to

legislate eavesdropping techniques in order to monitor terrorist communication networks, that is what happened.

All of that will soon change. What Panetta's appointment tells us, Charles Krauthammer pointed out on Fox News, is that "the Obama agenda will likely be to purge and perhaps even persecute anybody in the CIA who had been engaged in those elements which actually saved us over the last seven years" (January 6).

"A Nation of Armchair Torturers"

Obama's first choice to head up the CIA was John O. Brennan. As a longtime CIA insider, Brennan had all the experience Panetta lacks. But he was forced to withdraw his name after left-wing critics dug up statements made by Brennan that *seemed* to defend President Bush and the CIA's post-9/11 operations. Brennan responded to the attacks by insisting that he opposes harsh interrogation measures. But it was to no avail. He was essentially ousted for not being outspoken enough in his opposition to President Bush's counterterrorism policies.

Leon Panetta, on the other hand—like the new president—has strongly opposed the CIA's warrantless surveillance, its international detention program and interrogation techniques like waterboarding, which the new administration equates

with torture. In a piece Panetta wrote for *Washington Monthly* last year, he said that America's widespread support for harsh interrogation techniques in order to extract critical intelligence proves that we have become a "nation of armchair torturers."

Think on that. America is engaged in a war against merciless and radical Islamists and the incoming administration seems to be more concerned about America's torturous behavior? As Mike Baker opined at FoxNews.com, "The country faces a ruthless enemy that has no morals, no limits and no concern for our rights. While we shouldn't and don't stoop to their level by any means, we should reserve the right, when absolutely necessary, to use some techniques that, while not pleasant, don't constitute torture" (January 7).

Last December, when ABC News asked Vice President Dick Cheney if he believed any of the interrogation methods the CIA used against mass murderer Khalid Sheikh Mohammed went too far, Cheney said, "I don't." There was a time, Cheney said, when "about half" of what the United States knew about al Qaeda came from what Mohammed confessed while being interrogated. Cheney said the techniques used on him were "remarkably successful."

Do you believe the use of waterboarding was appropriate in the case of Sheikh

Leon Panetta is not just someone the far left pressured Barack Obama into nominating. Obama chose Panetta because their approaches to fighting terrorism are identical.

Mohammed? the interviewer asked the vice president.

"I do," Cheney responded, adding that the "results speak for themselves."

Indeed they do. "[W]hen a professed enemy succeeds as wildly as al Qaeda did on 9/11," as one commentator wrote last year, "and seven years pass without an incident, there are two reasonable conclusions: Either, despite all the trash-talking videos, they have been taking a long, leisurely breather; or, something serious has been done to thwart and disable their operations. Whatever combination of psychology and insanity motivates a terrorist to blow himself up is not within my range of experience, but I'm betting the aggressive measures the president took, and the unequivocal message he sent, might have had something to do with it" (*Wall Street Journal*, May 30, 2008).

Handing Rights to Terrorists

Of course, this doesn't mean the world is safer now than it was before 9/11. To the contrary, Iran is about to go nuclear. A nuclear-armed Pakistan is no longer a reliable U.S. ally. Iraq has become an albatross for American forces. Russia has re-emerged as a world power, supplying arms to America's enemies. Hezbollah now controls Lebanon. Hamas overthrew the Gaza Strip. And Fatah is on the verge of collapse.

But without question, President Bush's aggressive counterterrorism policies, *particularly in the first few years after 9/11*, helped prevent another spectacular terrorist attack from happening on American soil to date.

How comforting, then, it must be to maniacal terrorists whose war strategy is to torture and murder innocent civilians, to know that the new government in Washington is planning to roll back the Bush administration's more aggressive stance against terrorism to a softer, '90s-style approach to combating radical Islam. In the piece quoted above, Panetta defended the murderers that U.S. forces capture on the battlefield by saying, "[E]very individual has an inherent right to personal dignity, to justice, to freedom from cruel and unusual punishment."

Terrorists, in other words, should have the exact same rights as any law-abiding

American citizen. How RADICALLY DIFFERENT this line of thinking is compared to the outgoing administration!

Consider Obama's support for last year's Supreme Court decision in *Boumediene v. Bush*. The court's decision, Matthew Continetti explained in the *Weekly Standard*, "ruled that non-citizens captured abroad and held in a military installation overseas ... have the same constitutional right as U.S. citizens to challenge their detention in court. ... Hence lawyers, judges, and left-wing interest groups will have real influence over the conduct of the war on terror" (June 23, 2008; emphasis mine throughout).

Obama called the high court's ruling "an important step toward reestablishing our credibility as a nation." His political opponent at the time, John McCain, called it "one of the worst decisions in the history of this country."

Leon Panetta is not just someone the far left pressured Barack Obama into nominating. Obama chose Panetta because their approaches to fighting terrorism are IDENTICAL. In Leon Panetta, the new president has found the perfect man to revert the CIA back to the pre-9/11 law-enforcement style of fighting terrorists—treating attacks as individual criminal acts, rather than acts of war that all flow from the same source.

This signals a dangerous new direction for the United States in the war against terrorism.

What America Lacks

"If confirmed by the Senate," the *New York Times* wrote, "Mr. Panetta would take control of the agency *most directly responsible for hunting senior leaders of al Qaeda around the world*" (January 5).

Besides the military, Ralph Peters wrote, the intelligence community is the "most complex arm of government." In settling on Panetta to head up the CIA, Peters continued, we are "witnessing the initial costs of Obama's career-long lack of interest in foreign policy, the military and intelligence. ... Panetta's appointment is a sop to the hard left, a signal that intelligence will be emasculated for the next four—or eight—years" (*New York Post*, January 7).

After first meeting with his senior

working group on national security last June, Obama told a gathering of reporters that America was "less safe" because of the way George Bush has handled the war against terrorism. Obama said, "I have confidence that our system of justice and that our traditions of rule of law are strong enough to deal with terrorists."

Such a blatant lack of understanding of the nature of America's enemies—and the force necessary to defeat them—reflects a grave lack of will in the incoming U.S. administration. And victory in war only comes when the enemy's will to fight is broken.

Indeed, such a lack of national will has been evident in America's leadership for decades—reflected in the lack of decisive military victories ever since Vietnam. While the Bush administration did take action to defend America from terrorism, still it lacked the will to neutralize the prime source and supporter of terrorism in the world: Iran. Though President Bush made progress in curbing al Qaeda, Iranian-sponsored Islamist terrorism still thrives—be it in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Lebanon or elsewhere. In fact, the latest war in Gaza was essentially a war instigated by Iran against Israel and the West.

This lack of national will is a fulfillment of an end-time biblical prophecy that America—once the policeman of the world—would lose the pride in its power. In fact, God said *He* would break that pride—see Leviticus 26:19. As a result, the nation would be unable to win its wars, despite its strength (verse 20).

Under an Obama administration that will be even less robust in its foreign policy—as demonstrated by proposed policies and appointments—we are about to see a tragically weakened national pride crushed completely. Expect to see the end-time prophecies that foretell the downfall of America—as a result of rebellion against God—accelerate dramatically in the months ahead. Request a free copy of what was Herbert W. Armstrong's most popular book, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, to learn the inspiring outcome of the punishment that is about to come on these nations. ■



As sure as the sun rises and the tide goes out, that day is coming soon.

Biblical prophecy indicates we shall enjoy a vastly different form of energy in the near future. It will result from the dramatic involvement of Almighty God to set this world right side up, establishing a global economy based on agrarian rather than secondary and tertiary industries. With the problem of human nature addressed, energy sources will be pursued and developed free from self-interest and greed, and with high respect for the health of man and his environment.

Our monoculturist food production will be replaced by masses of small holdings, correcting the drift from farm to city: "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it" (Micah 4:4). Small, richly producing localized farms will do away with the need for mass-produced packaging, huge, centralized storage and distribution facilities and the massive energy sources they need to survive. This will lead to localized small industrial enterprises, eliminating the hugely polluting industrial draw on power plants.

The prophets speak of a coming age of peace, justice, judgment and equity. With such a system of government in place (Isaiah 9:6-7), science, technology, capital and labor will enjoy a harmonious relationship such that the vision of author Isaac Azimov will finally be realized: "Hand in hand, science and technology can find new and unlimited sources of energy, clean and safe, and with such energy, we can clean the world, recycle its resources, and reduce its inequities."

Man will then effectively harness the energy sources that have stared him in the face since creation. God made the sun, earth, wind and water for human use. It will take the dramatic intervention of the Creator Himself to turn the world's addiction from polluting energy to those natural sources of energy which God created for the benefit of man and his earthly environment.

Until that time, pipe-dream promises of energy and economic salvation through "green jobs" is a dangerous delusion. It fails to get to the heart of America's economic problems and garners only temporary political gain.

The heart of America's problems has to do with where America's blessings came from in the first place. And why we are losing them today. The true Source of those blessings is where *real hope* lies—not in chasing solar panels or giant windmills. ■



UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

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

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

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

California, Redding KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/WTLH-DT 9:30 am, Sun

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

Florida, West Palm Beach WXPX 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

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

Illinois, Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WREX-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KPFX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

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

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

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

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



North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, CincinnatiWSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXX 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL

12:00 pm, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle-KVOS 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWL-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA

Australia Nationwide Network 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Adelaide, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Brisbane, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Melbourne, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Perth, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Sydney, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel 11:00 am ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
British Columbia, Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

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

CARIBBEAN

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

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

The Last Days

I TOO HAVE NOTICED THAT, LISTENING TO commentators on the news these days, it seems as if they're using the *Trumpet* as a major source for their newsgathering ("Are We Living in the Last Days?", February). Never before has mainstream news brought up the last days scenario as frequently as they do now while still mocking those of us who know the truth. Regarding the old "prophet on a soapbox" cliché, I recently saw an editorial comic in the newspaper. In it, the prophet of doom was holding his sign reading "The End Is Near" while a man comments to his girlfriend, "That used to be funny."

John Hopkin—NORTH CAROLINA

Invasion From Within

YOUR ARTICLE REMINDS ME OF PEOPLE who try to buy off a bully by giving them bits and pieces of their lives ("Invasion From Within," February). One day they realize the bully wants literally everything.

Ken Sack—AUSTRALIA

THANK YOU FOR POINTING OUT WHAT most liberals would gladly claim as "progress" on the part of Britain as it accommodates, even against its own interests, a way of life that is actually contrary to its own history and tradition. While advocates of political correctness celebrate the emerging diversity in British society, the consequences of such will be so ugly they would not even own up to creating this monster. We can only hope that in their political correctness, they would afford the same receptiveness to those who have contrary opinions and those who forewarn them of the palpable adverse consequences of such a mindset.

Zuraida—PHILIPPINES

America's Broken Will

I HAVE READ YOUR ARTICLE ABOUT PIRATES exposing America's broken will with great interest ("Pirates Expose America's Broken Will," February). I'm the CEO of Clipper Projects A/S, who is at the receiving end of this menace. Our vessel CEC Future was hijacked on November 7, and has been held captive ever since. The pirates are operating with impunity and the international community is simply sitting on their hands. As far as we are concerned, this is an international problem and should be dealt with as such; however, *nobody* has so far taken any leadership. You are correct in stating that the Indians have shown determination and action in dealing with

this. So have the Russians, with whom we have been working. Now the Chinese will join the fray, and we hope they will also be less sensitive about the plight of the criminals. We believe there is now a higher concentration of navy vessels in the Gulf of Aden than anywhere else in the world, and still it does not seem possible to use these assets in a coordinated way. The UN and EU have passed resolutions with strong wordings as to dealing with this problem, but as usual, little action has sprung from it. ...

Per Gullestrup—DENMARK

God Haters

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUCH AN EXCELLENT article! ("God Haters," February). I graduated from a technical college with my degree in biology, and it actually strengthened my faith in God. The design of everything, from atoms to the universe, is too perfect to be spontaneous. Studying science made me more interested in learning about God through the Bible because He filled in all the holes to all the theories I learned about. I feel so blessed to have some knowledge about God because it brings me peace and understanding in my life. Thank you all for helping to guide me in the right direction!

Jillian Coppola—NEW YORK

I DON'T LIKE PROSELYTIZERS OF ANY kind. Yet no atheist has ever yet knocked on my door, or stopped me on the street demanding to know if I have let Jesus out of my heart. If fundamentalists are free to proselytize, then so is everybody else. In any case, asking "Why believe?" is not denying you the right to believe. No Christian should fear to be asked that question.

Francis—CALIFORNIA

YOU COULDN'T HAVE CHOSEN A MORE APPROPRIATE title for your article. It seems before it was mostly vain ramblings alongside jargon and ignorance that would spout from the non-believer, specifically the atheist, when confronted with truth. Now, however, it's altogether hatred toward God and anything God-related! You should see their vile assaults and blasphemies in "debate" chat rooms on the matter; it's quite easy to discern demonic activity.

Shaun Spence

I'M AN ATHEIST, BUT I'M NOT A "GOD hater." Not believing in something isn't the same as hating it. I don't call the religious friends I know "atheist haters," for I think they would soon cease to be my friends if I did. Allowing people access to

see both sides of the story (there is a God/there is not a God) allows them to make their own decision about what to believe; isn't that a good thing?

Tim

Dinosaurs and the Bible

THIS WAS REALLY HELPFUL FOR ME TO better understand about the relevance of dinosaurs and their existence ("Dinosaurs and the Bible," February). It was clear and very well explained. Thank you!

Anna Padua—PHILIPPINES

THANK YOU FOR THIS ARTICLE THAT clears up a lot questions I have had on this topic! It was very clear and very factual, proved by the greatest history book of all—the Holy Bible!

E. Leffler—OHIO

The Battle for Sunday

HERE'S A BETTER IDEA ("THE BATTLE FOR Sunday," February). How about the Roman Catholic Church adopt the teachings of the Bible, the only true source of knowledge of Christianity and insisting on the Sabbath day, Saturday, being legislated as the day of rest.

David Young—CYPRUS

WE CAN SEE HOW THE CATHOLIC Church is trying its wings to bring back the Sunday law. We are heading to a second "Dark Ages."

Las—AUSTRALIA

THE BIBLE SAYS "REMEMBER THE Sabbath day to keep it holy." It is one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8). Sunday is not mentioned. Anyway, this is one of the prophecies of the last days. People being forced to go against their religion to follow the Roman Catholic Church. God never chose a specific religion. Those who believe in God will not perish but have an everlasting life! Oh, and the pope is not God. He is another human being like me and you.

Keira—UK

The Radical Left

OUR CONSTITUTION WAS FRAMED BY some of the wisest men who have ever lived ("The Radical Left and the American Constitution," January). It is being destroyed by fools. The Constitution is gasping for life. The whole fraudulent package [of bailouts] may just be what is needed to kill it.

Allen Fulghum—NORTH CAROLINA

Comments?

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

The Inaugural

The speech was brilliantly delivered, but it overlooked some vital fundamentals of America's heritage **BY RON FRASER**

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURAL SPEECH WAS DELIVERED with the eloquence to which we have become accustomed, courtesy of his dominance of the mass media during the run-up to the American elections.

Notwithstanding the 42 percent of the nation that did not vote for him, the president has almost 100 percent backing from those who shape the minds of the nation, the press and mass media. Just as the American media was blanketed ad nauseam with continual repetition of the inaugural speech for days following his inauguration, so we can be sure that the brainwashing industry of the mass media will blitz the airwaves with his ongoing prose during his presidential honeymoon period.

Yet, despite this Obama media frenzy, anyone who failed to see the glaring lack of some of the most vital elements of the American heritage within the new president's inaugural speech is ignorant of the nation's origins, its reason for being, its true history, and its inevitable future.

We can accept that Mr. Obama may be quite sincere in his stated intentions. But as Herbert Armstrong declared, one can be genuinely sincere, yet be *sincerely wrong!*

The new president opened his inaugural speech indicating that he was "mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors." But is Mr. Obama mindful of the true *reasons* for those sacrifices?

Any real student of history knows that the pioneers sacrificed to establish a nation built upon the very foundational unit of a sound society, *monogamous marriage and sound family relationships*. Yet this president espouses as part of his personal political creed the destruction of life in the womb and perverse human relationships such as those condemned by the God whose help he requested at the close of the solemn oath of presidential office (Romans 1:22-25).

Going on to announce to the people that all have the "God-given promise that all are equal, all are free," the President Obama failed to declare the greatest of all qualifiers for the attainment of God-given freedom and equality: that such blessings are only guaranteed by the God of the Bible to those who obey His divine law!

In respect of our multicultural society, and perhaps giving early warning of our future foreign-policy orientation, it was intriguing to hear President Obama refer to the largest *Judeo-Christian* nation on Earth by maintaining that America is "a nation of Christians, *Muslims*, Jews and Hindus," in that exact order, with the *Muslim* interposed between the Christian and the Jew, surely a first for any inaugural presidential speech!

One of the most damning statements in the new president's inaugural speech was his declaration that "We will not apologize for our way of life." Yet that is the very thing for which we ought to be not only apologizing but of which we ought to be deeply *repenting* before our God! It is the American way of life that has led its consumerist binge, that has filled its entertainment with por-

nographic imagery and funded the drug lords through the increasing demand for pushers on its streets. It is the American way of life that has led to the destruction of millions of lives in the womb and to the confusion of gender roles that has rendered our society sick at its very heart and core: the family unit!

Here Mr. Obama is at extreme odds with President Lincoln, who corrected the whole American nation for being "intoxicated with unbroken success" and becoming "too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!" Unlike our new president, Lincoln placed the onus on the people "to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

The orientation of the *self-indulgent* post-baby-boomer mindset (it is understood that the president's inaugural speech was largely crafted by Mr. Obama's 27-year-old chief speech writer) was easily seen in the order in which the president listed the duties of America's citizenry: "We have duties to *ourselves*, our nation, and the world." That, indeed, is a far cry from the order of duties as seen by prior generations of the Anglo-Saxons, raised to see their duty *first* to God, *second* to king or commander-in-chief, and *third* to country. It was taken as a given by better generations than ours that if one fulfilled one's duties in *that* order, then we would be automatically fulfilling our duty to *ourselves*.

As he concluded his inaugural speech, President Obama mentioned that the source of America's confidence was "the knowledge that God calls on us to shape *an uncertain destiny*."

Let us be clear. In the eyes of God, according to His inerrant Word, the destiny of America is *assured!* There is nothing remotely uncertain about it! In these times which President Obama rightly described in his speech as proceeding "amidst gathering clouds and raging storms," you need more than ever before to know your nation's God-rendered destiny!

Read our booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for a clear analysis of the history, current state and guaranteed future of your country. That book will place in complete perspective the 44th presidency of the United States of America! ■



You read the news, but do you understand the trends?



More than 1 million readers in 120 countries look to the *Philadelphia Trumpet* each month for one overarching reason: they seek understanding.

We live in a world of awesome progress, yet threatened with appalling evils. Why this paradox? Since its inception in 1989, when it replaced the *Plain Truth*, the *Trumpet* has explained the *causes* that produce such a dilemma, and the causes that will bring about genuine world peace and prosperity in the near future. The *Trumpet*—as was the *Plain Truth*—is a magazine of understanding.

As a regular subscriber, you too can come to understand why this world is the way it is, and learn the solutions to today's problems! You'll read eye-opening articles like: "How to Pick the Perfect President" • "Beware Global Cooling!" • "How to Teach Your Kids About Money" • "Protecting Your Sexual Health" • "Disproving Evolution" • "Where Are We Now in Bible Prophecy?"—and many more!

The *Trumpet* is peerless among newsmagazines not only for its unique analyses—but also because we offer it *absolutely free*, with no obligation, in the public interest. All you need to do is request it for yourself. Call *now* to start your free subscription, or use the reply card inside this issue. Get beyond the news and understand your world!

THE PHILADELPHIA
TRUMPET
UNDERSTAND YOUR WORLD

- Published in **five languages**
- Distributed in over **120 countries**
- Read by over **1 million**
- Sound **biblical analysis**
- **No outside advertising**
- **No subscription price**

Request your free subscription today!

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

In the U.S. and Canada call
1-800-772-8577

To subscribe online, visit: theTrumpet.com
Or, send an e-mail to: request@theTrumpet.com
Or **WRITE** to the mailing address of the regional office nearest you. Addresses are on the inside cover.

THE PHILADELPHIA
TRUMPET
Post Office Box 3700
Edmond, Oklahoma 73083 U.S.