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**Watch
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Europe!**

The
secret plot
to create a
**SUPER-
PRESIDENT**

WHO WILL BE CHARLEMAGNE?

The president of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and the president of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, could find their jobs merged into a super-presidency.



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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

A Deadly Secret Plot Has Been Uncovered

The plot is fulfilling a great Bible prophecy. It's all about the European Union superpower being hijacked!

WE HAVE BEEN PROPHECYING FOR OVER 70 YEARS THAT a strong dictator is about to rule over Europe. We proclaimed that he would not be voted in by the public. We have also said for *many* years Britain would not be a part of the final European Union.

A recently revealed secret plot shows that all of these prophecies are being fulfilled now!

The British *Express* printed an article on May 4 titled, "EU Plot to Scrap Britain." "Senior Eurocrats are *secretly plotting* to create a super-powerful EU president to realize their dream of abolishing Britain, we can reveal," it began.

"A *covert group of EU foreign ministers* has drawn up plans for merging the jobs currently done by Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, and José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission.

"The new bureaucrat, who would not be directly elected by voters, is set to get *sweeping control over the entire EU and force member countries into ever-greater political and economic union*. Tellingly, the UK has been excluded from the confidential discussions within the shady 'Berlin Group' of Europhile politicians, spearheaded by German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle" (emphasis mine throughout).

This "new bureaucrat" is going to get control of the EU by flatteries—not by being voted into office. That means that he and a few cohorts will hijack the powerful EU. It will be led by Germany, the *only* powerful economy in the Western world.

There may be a few small twists and turns, but this secret plot is going to usher in a fierce dictator! Bible prophecy makes that powerfully clear.

"[T]he plan could create a modern-day equivalent of the European emperor envisaged by Napoleon Bonaparte or a return to the Holy Roman Empire of Charlemagne that dominated Europe in the Dark Ages."

Back to the Dark Ages?

The *Express* secret-plot article continued: "Opponents fear the plan could create A MODERN-DAY EQUIVALENT OF THE EUROPEAN EMPEROR ENVISAGED BY NAPOLEON BONAPARTE OR A RETURN TO THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE OF CHARLEMAGNE THAT DOMINATED EUROPE IN THE DARK AGES. ...

"Euro-M.P. Paul Nuttall, of the UK Independence Party, said: 'This is a truly ridiculous idea that must never be allowed to happen. It sounds as if they are trying to go back to the days of the Holy Roman EMPEROR.'"

For about 70 years we have been prophesying of the Holy Roman Empire and emperor soon to appear on the scene. It will be the seventh and last head of that superpower.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in the 1956 *Plain Truth* magazine that "Britain will be no part of it!"

This very moment, that prophecy is coming true. That is what the secret plot article made very clear. Britain is being kicked out.

Mr. Nuttall said that this Holy Roman Empire idea "must never be allowed to happen." But it can't be stopped because it has God's approval (Revelation 17:17). Our free Daniel booklet explains why. And YOU DESPERATELY NEED TO UNDERSTAND!

This resurrected Holy Roman Empire is going to be the most destructive force ever on Earth. It is time for this world to understand what is happening in Europe!

Referring to the "Berlin Group," Tory Foreign Office minister Lord Howell of Guildford said, "While the UK is not part of that group, we understand that one idea under discussion is a merger of the positions of president of the European Council and president of the European Commission." Lord Howell added: "A merger of the two presidencies would create a potential conflict of interest, undermine the quality of the EU's decision-making processes and upset the institutional balance within the EU." Lord Stoddart said: "These sorts of informal discussions within the EU have a habit of rapidly being transferred into formal proposals.

"Since the government is not party to these discussions, its reservations are academic.

"Such a merger would represent a massive shift of power into the hands of a single, unelected bureaucrat. The government should be taking this far more seriously and voicing its objections very strongly."

He added: "The holder of this new office would be both Europe's political and administrative leader, GIVING THEM FAR MORE POWERS THAN THOSE GIVEN TO THE U.S. PRESIDENT."

The French Election

These secret plotters saw the end of the Franco-German axis coming in the lead-up to the May 6 French presidential election. These two nations had led the EU from its inception. The plotters then moved to help form a German-Italian axis.

Germany and Italy are the first two nations of the 10 nations or groups of nations to form the Holy Roman Empire. The other eight are already a part of the EU and probably eager to join Germany and Italy.

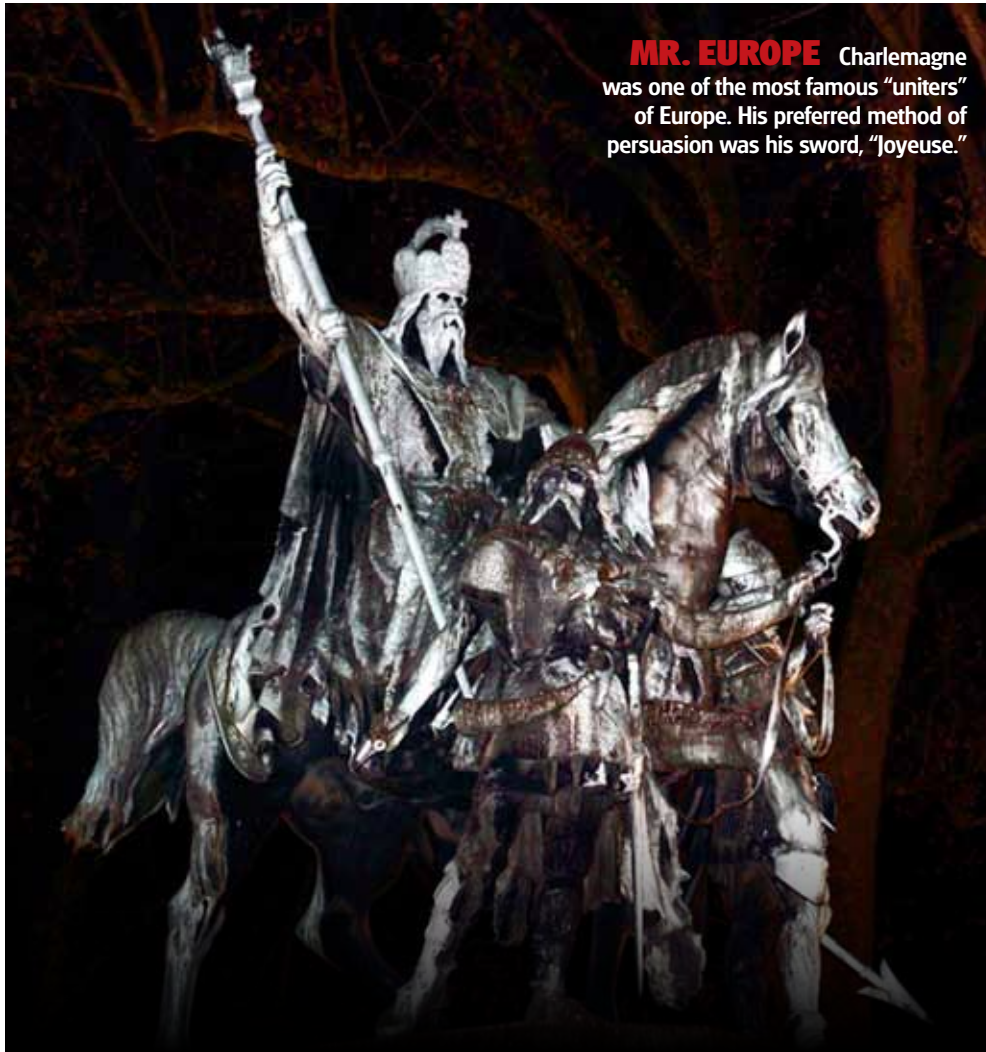
Germany and Italy have been at the heart of the Holy Roman Empire throughout the ages. When Hitler and Mussolini became allies in World War II, it was the sixth head of the Holy Roman Empire. Mussolini even called their union THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE.

This new German-Italian axis—including the worldwide power of the Vatican—is a major shift in Europe's

direction. These two leading nations are going to shock the world as they demonstrate their worldwide ambitions—which they have done in the past. (For more information, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

The secret plot has pushed France aside and Britain out. Now these plotters are working hard to find their strong leader.

We believe we may know who he is and who they are seeking to fill that strongman role.



MR. EUROPE Charlemagne was one of the most famous “unifiers” of Europe. His preferred method of persuasion was his sword, “joyeuse.”

We won’t have long to wait for his appearance. He may play a key role in choosing the other eight nations or kings. Then the world will see the horror of what this dramatic shift means!

“Germany inevitably would emerge as the *leader* of a united Europe,” Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in the November-December 1954 *Plain Truth* edition—a statement that most people only ridiculed. “*All Europe* is actually *ready*—just waiting for the *confidence-inspiring leader*—an international all-European *Hitler*, and it is on the way. That man is there somewhere.”

It’s all happening exactly as we have prophesied for 70 years! It is time for this world to wake up!

“Historical pressures, well apart from Putinism in Russia, are coming to the fore on the Continent—pressures that were long suppressed by the aberrations of World War II, the Cold War, the division of Germany, and the rise of the EU,” National Review Online wrote April 24. “The so-called German problem—the

TENDENCY OF GERMANY QUITE NATURALLY AT SOME POINT TO TRANSLATE ITS INNATE DYNAMIC ECONOMIC PROWESS INTO POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND ABOVE ALL

MILITARY SUPERIORITY—did not vanish simply because a post-modern EU announced that it had transcended human nature and its membership would no longer be susceptible to ancient Thucydidean nationalist passions like honor, fear or self-interest.

“If you have doubts on that, just review current German and southern European newspapers, where commentary sounds more likely to belong in 1938 than in 2012.”

THE YEAR 1938 WAS ONE YEAR BEFORE WORLD WAR II BEGAN.

In World War II, Hitler and Mussolini made Europe and much of the world bleed. But that was only a small dress rehearsal of what is about to occur!

The strongman of Europe could even appear on the scene this year.

A Prophecy for Today

We have been warning our readers to watch for this development for years. I went back and reread an article I wrote on the subject 12 years ago, in our June 2000 issue, based on the Bible’s prophecies. THE UNCOVERING OF THIS PLOT TO CREATE A EUROPEAN SUPER-PRESIDENT MAKES THAT ARTICLE FAR MORE RELEVANT TODAY THAN IT WAS 12 YEARS AGO!

The remainder of this article is essentially a reprint of that article from 2000. Please consider these prophecies in light of what is happening in Europe *right now*.

Let’s turn to the Bible to see what to expect in the time just ahead. Antiochus Epiphanes came to the Jerusalem temple in 167 B.C. The spring of 167 B.C. to the autumn of 164 B.C. was a terror-filled time for Palestine—3½ years of tribulation.

It was only a *type*, however, of the end-time Great Tribulation, also to last 3½ years, to be inflicted on America, Britain and the State of Israel.

“Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle. And in his estate shall stand up a *vile person*, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries” (Daniel 11:20-21). The *Companion Bible* states that the historical portion ends with verse 20. Verse 21 “passes on to the time which is still (1912) future to us.” And it is still future as we write now.

So there will be a future Antiochus—a *vile person*. He will be a *type* of the original Antiochus. We need to see how this will happen.

The Spirit of Charlemagne

“In the year 782, Charlemagne, the king of the Franks, became THE MILITARY CHAMPION OF THE PAPACY, stepping into the vacuum created by the separation of Constantinople and Rome, and defending the papacy from the Lombards who kept threatening it. Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne emperor in Notre Dame Cathedral in 800. The future of Europe was bound up in that event, and THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE PAPACY AND GERMANY

HAS BEEN OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE EVER SINCE” (David N. Samuel, *European Union and the Roman Catholic Influence in Britain*).

What is happening in the European superstate is a mystery to most of the world. But that mystery is beginning to be removed.

Bernard Connolly wrote a bombshell book in 1995 titled *The Rotten Heart of Europe*. For years he served at the heart of the Exchange Rate Mechanism for the EU. He headed the commission unit responsible for monitoring and servicing the system. He labels the European superstate as **ROTTEN**. Why?

He wrote, “It is the battle for control of the European superstate, in which French technocrats confront German federalists, both sides claiming to fight under the **BANNER OF CHARLEMAGNE**. The ‘collateral damage’ from this battle lies mainly in the future, but **IT COULD BE GHASTLY**.”

Who will get control of this great superstate? The battle can be narrowed down to two nations: France and Germany. Do knowledgeable people really doubt who will win this battle? The nation that controls the money will reign supreme.

“Across the Rhine, successive German governments have, in their pursuit of a ‘**EUROPEAN**’ **CLOAK FOR GERMAN AMBITIONS**, been prepared to accept an apparent cession of national monetary authority—as long as the new European monetary authority looks, sounds, smells and acts exactly as the German monetary authority now does” (ibid).

The European Union system has already been called a Trojan horse by a few informed analysts. Mr. Connolly says it is a “**CLOAK FOR GERMAN AMBITIONS**.”

We are all well aware of Hitler’s Third Reich. But did you realize that **CHARLEMAGNE’S EMPIRE WAS THE FIRST REICH**?

Most of the EU leaders are working to “recreate the empire of Charlemagne”—especially Germany. “It was no coincidence that the Belgian government housed the offices and meeting rooms of the EU Council of Ministers in the *Charlemagne building* in Brussels.

“It was no coincidence, either, that Giscard and Schmidt agreed to accept the Belgian compromise proposal at a bilateral summit in September 1978 at Aachen, *principal seat and burial place of Charlemagne*. The symbolism was heavily underlined in both France and Germany; the two leaders paid a special visit to the throne of Charlemagne and a special service was held in the cathedral; at the end of the summit, Giscard remarked that: ‘Perhaps when we discussed monetary problems, the spirit of Charlemagne brooded over us’” (ibid).

The spirit of Charlemagne has returned. This king who ruled the First Reich had to wade through a **SEA OF BLOOD** to achieve his goal of ruling Europe and establishing Catholicism as the state religion!

Get ready for another sea of blood!

‘A Vile Person’

The big question remains unanswered. “In the new empire of Charlemagne, **WHO WOULD PLAY CHARLEMAGNE?** Exactly the same question was implicit, and left unanswered, at Maastricht” (ibid).

Soon the world will know who the modern Charlemagne (or Antiochus) is to be. You can be sure he will have Germany’s stamp of approval. His actions will shock the world far more than the original Charlemagne’s. He will lead the world into the greatest “sea of blood” that humanity has ever seen or even dreamed about! Whether we realize it or not, the Fourth Reich has arrived.

Daniel 8 doesn’t tell us the name of the next Charlemagne. But it does tell us the kind of man he is going to be. And it is the worst news this world has ever received!

However, it leads directly to the greatest event ever to occur in the universe—the return of Jesus Christ!

The German leaders today have a hidden agenda, but even

they will be shocked at the leader who will get control of the European Union.

Mr. Connolly asked, “Who is going to be Charlemagne?”

He said the outcome could be “ghastly.” Actually, it will go beyond “ghastly”—not only for Europe, but for the whole world!

The Bible labels this Charlemagne as “a vile person.”

Otto Von Hapsburg also said, “We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally; this is the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne.”

Daniel says Europe’s leaders will “not give the honour of the kingdom” to the vile person. He is so despicable, the royalty of the Holy Roman Empire today will fight against his coming to power. Still, he will gain control of the EU.

The Hebrew word for “vile” also means despicable and contemptible. *Gesenius’ Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* defines the word as meaning “to trample with the feet.” That is his attitude toward anybody who opposes him.

Another Hitler?

Satan, the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), was the power behind Hitler.

This vile, despicable and contemptible person will come into power much like Hitler did. Hitler was an army corporal during World War II. He had no royal or dignified background. But he won more and more influence with the people and brutally pushed himself into office.

This vile person “obtain[s] the kingdom by flatteries.” He flatters his way into office when he can. He also takes advantage of the European people as they move to the extreme right, politically.

Hitler was undoubtedly possessed by the devil. Those who knew him said he had three personalities. He was charming, at times in a trance and often in a rage!

Like Hitler, this end-time vile person *could* come from Austria. But the power behind him will be the devil, and Germany will be his main tool.

This evil man will come in “peaceably”—or *unexpectedly*.

The Revised Standard Version says of Daniel 11 that he will come in “*without warning*.”

If the EU were to be left in the hands of the present politicians, Europe would probably never pose a real threat. But they are going to lose control to the political “beast.”

According to Revelation 13, there will also be a *religious* beast led by a vile person. He will probably come on the scene in a similar manner.

Both beasts—political and religious—are empowered by the devil, and have “one mind.”

The religious beast will look like a “lamb” (Revelation 13:11)—it will appear harmless.

The last resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will burst on the world scene suddenly, “without warning.” We are the only people who warn the world with God’s message! We must warn Europe that a **VILE PERSON IS GOING TO HIJACK THE POWERFUL EUROPEAN UNION!**

He is a person unworthy of dignity or royalty. Get ready, it’s coming fast.

THIS IS THE TERRIBLE AND FATAL FLAW OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. This awesome world power will fall into the hands of a wicked, contemptible person—a master deceiver.

Unless people heed our words, they will be shocked as never before!

“He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do

that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall FORECAST his devices against the strong holds, even for a time. And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall FORECAST devices against him" (Daniel 11:24-25). Notice the word "forecast." The *New Englishman's Hebrew Concordance* states that it means the *future*. So this man will have *forecasting* ability—a limited prophetic power. Through this man, Satan, who knows Bible prophecy, will forecast his plots.

"And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all" (verses 36-37). He will magnify himself above every god of this world and the true God. That means Satan the devil will possess this man! That is why he is so vile.

Ever since Lucifer rebelled and became Satan, he has spent all his time speaking AGAINST the true God.

Like Hitler, the power behind this end-time vile person will be the devil, and Germany will be his main tool.

'Not by His Own Power'

Daniel also wrote about this man in another of his prophecies. "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up" (Daniel 8:23).

This all happens in "the latter time"—that means today—now! This vile man becomes "a king" of fierce countenance, understanding "dark sentences." What does this mean?

"And his power shall be mighty, but NOT BY HIS OWN POWER: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people" (verse 24). This is all done "not by his own power." He is empowered by the devil! He is consumed with Satan's thoughts—"dark sentences." He destroys wonderfully, or mightily, with nuclear weapons. No suffering has ever been so bad (Daniel 12:1).

"And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand" (Daniel 8:25). The New English Bible reads, "he shall conjure up great plans and, when they least expect it, work havoc on many." Millions—perhaps billions—will be inflicted with his wrath.

He is a master of disguise—coming in what appears to be peace. Those who believe him—friends and enemies—often become victims.

Lange's Commentary adds that he destroys "with suddenness by a malignant purpose."

But look at the gloriously good news. This very king and his evil system will be destroyed by Christ! Then the world will have an all-powerful leader who is LOVE. And He will rule forever.

World Marvels at Beast

"And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world

wondered after the beast" (Revelation 13:3). All the world marvels at the beast. "And THEY WORSHIPPED THE DRAGON which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" (verse 4). Again we see that THE DEVIL IS THE POWER BEHIND THIS EMPIRE. The only way to survive—spiritually or physically—is through God's power!

This time period, which the Bible calls the Great Tribulation, will last for 3½ years (verse 5). "And it was given unto him to make war with *the saints*, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations" (verse 7). Even God's own lukewarm church will be a victim.

Is this serious? Do you see the need to be a *doer* of God's Word? You must act now, while there is time!

"And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon" (verse 11). Here is the religious beast that looks like a lamb. But he speaks like a *dragon*—because the devil empowers him also! That is why the religious leader will also be vile and despicable.

God is about to punish America, Britain and the Jewish nation called *Israel* today for their sins. He is raising up this beast to correct His rebellious people. He will get our attention!

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is" (Revelation 17:8). This beast power is mostly *underground* at present. In the Greek language that is what "the bottomless pit" means.

That is why "they that dwell on the earth shall wonder." *Marvel* would be a better translation for the word *wonder*. It means this beast power was underground until it suddenly burst on the scene, then the whole world was astonished, amazed and shocked. *Suddenly* a new world power was acting like a real superpower!

"And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have ONE MIND, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast" (verses 12-13). The 10 horns are the same as the 10 toes in Daniel 2. They receive their kingdoms for a very short time—3½ years.

THESE 10 NATIONS HAVE "ONE MIND"—THE OPPOSITE OF A DEMOCRACY! That is where the EU is headed!

These 10 kings may be literal kings. If not, they are going to act like kings, with real authority. That is what the massive shift from democracy is about in the European Union. That is why there has been such a rise in right-wing activity. It is fulfilling the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation.

There is a fierce political battle in Britain now over this very issue. Many people in Britain see that the EU is dominated by Germany in a very UNDEMOCRATIC way.

And remember, this political "beast" is labeled that way by God. THE MAN RULING IT WILL BE LIKE AN EMPEROR OVER THE 10 KINGS—AND WILL ACT LIKE A WILD BEAST! THIS COULD NOT HAPPEN IN A DEMOCRACY.

Consider again that I wrote these words 12 years ago, based solely on the Bible's prophecies. Now we are reading headlines about European elites trying to create an unelected super-president who can dominate the political scene and elevate Europe to real SUPERPOWER status!

This role of emperor is the *fatal flaw* in the European Union. The vile person will become the emperor and lead Europe in its most destructive path ever.

He will even lead Europe in an attack against Russia and China, a move that will begin his downfall.

Still, there will be several armies from both sides which remain and will fight Christ at His return. Christ will then destroy these armies and rule the Earth.

So in the end, the bad news becomes the best news ever: the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The Best News Ever

The famous prophecy in Daniel 2 gives us the time frame of this glorious event. The image of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represented a succession of world-ruling empires down through history (Daniel 2:31-45).

"And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. And whereas thou sawest the feet and TOES, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided ..." (verses 40-41). This is referring to the final resurrection of the "Holy" Roman Empire; the 10 toes represent the 10 kingdoms of that empire.

But notice what happens next. "And IN THE DAYS OF THESE

KINGS shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (verse 44).

We are in the time of the *toes* of Daniel's image! These "toes" are now on the world scene and becoming more and more aggressive. And what comes after the toes? "IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS" gives us a *time* element. Jesus Christ will return "in the days of these kings" who rule over the European Union! Christ is going to smash the toes—the European Union, or "Holy" Roman Empire. That will be the end of the Daniel 2 image forever!

Christ must return at this time or there would be no flesh saved alive! (Matthew 24:21-22). I repeat, He *must* return!

Then the saints will be crowned to rule with Christ as His bride (Daniel 7:13-18). What a mind-staggering, wondrous reward God gives to those who do His work today. There will be only one bride of Christ for all eternity! What a magnificent future we have. And it's almost here! ■

Germany Is Growing Resentful and Angry

IT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS THAT EUROPEANS are fed up with Germany, particularly its consistent demand for making cutbacks in order to correct the Continent's economic problems.

But what about the Germans? What do they think of all the anti-German sentiment? And more significantly, how will they respond?

Think about this crisis from the perspective of the average German. Since 2008, his nation has been saddled with the unpopular, high-risk, hugely expensive task of rescuing Europe. The Germans didn't ask for this. And they certainly aren't responsible for the chaos: Neither the government nor the people have taken on suffocating debt or spent profligately on frivolous comforts; the Germans don't take long siestas, work six-hour days or pay themselves annual bonuses for simply showing up to work. To the contrary, the Germans have worked hard, saved their money and wisely lived within their means. Yet, *Germany* is expected to endure tremendous risk and make major sacrifices to rescue its neighbors. It has already forked out tens of billions in bailouts, and is on the hook for tens of billions more.

For what? Germany's European counterparts are thankless, unrepentant—and in many cases, openly hostile.

Viewed from this perspective, one can understand why the Germans are frustrated and resentful. The troubling question is, where will the anger and resentment lead?

The German public's disdain for Greece is no secret. "Germans are now predominantly of the opinion that they

would be better off if Greece left the eurozone," said Carsten Hefeker, a professor of economics and an expert on the euro at the University of Siegen. "Nothing is in writing," said Guntram B. Wolff,



deputy director at Brussels research group Bruegel, "but people really are clearly and openly talking about" Greece leaving. As German daily *Die Welt* put it, "The German citizens are certainly not prepared to finance Greece's vacation from reality." To the contrary, many of them want to give Greece and the other profligate eurozone countries a lesson in reality.

In May, Victor Davis Hanson, a historian and Stanford professor, put Germany's welling resentment in historic context. "There is one general rule about the history of the modern state of Germany since its inception in 1871," he explained. "ANYTIME GERMANY HAS BEEN BOTH UNIFIED AND ISOLATED, ARMED CONFLICT

HAS FOLLOWED" (emphasis added).

Hanson noted the parallels between events leading up to World Wars I and II and events unfolding today. "In other words, serially hurt pride and a loss of deterrence seem to have been keys to the outbreak of the three German wars," he warned. Today, Europe's debt crisis and the growing backlash against Berlin's leadership is once again wounding Germany's pride and arousing resentment and animosity.

As Hanson wrote: "Let's wait and see what happens when Europeans not only default on lots of German-backed loans, but also defiantly announce that they should not have been given them in the first place—and thus should not have to give them back at all. Injury for Germany is one thing; insult on top of it might be quite another."

Again, one can easily identify with Germans' frustration over their reckless, thankless neighbors. Nevertheless, their welling resentment is an alarming trend. You're human; you know where such emotion can lead. And when it comes to Germany, history reveals a unique tendency for deep-seated national resentment to end in intense conflict.

Victor Davis Hanson concluded with a chilling and important warning. "History is quietly whispering to us in our age of amnesia: 'I would not keep poking the Germans unless you are able to deal with them when they wake up.'"

BRAD MACDONALD

THE OLD Rome-Berlin

Chancellor Merkel's replacement of her old political partner Nicolas Sarkozy with Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti hastens the resurrection of Charlemagne's Holy Roman Empire. **BY RON FRASER**

EUROPEAN ELITES HAVE BEEN working for 60 years to bring about two events that are key to European unification. Both events are now in motion.

The first comes from the "Berlin Group," an assembly formed out of a German idea to gather the foreign ministers of the European Union's leading economies—excluding Britain. In April, it recommended that a powerful new presidency be created within the EU—a *super-president*—a veritable "Charlemagne"!

Under the headline "Ministers Ponder Creation of EU Super-President," EUobserver.com reported, "A senior EU source told this website following a meeting of the club in the Val Duchesse stately home in Brussels on [April 19] that the new supremo would have more power than either Herman Van Rompuy or José Manuel Barroso" (April 20). Van Rompuy is current president of the European Council; Barroso is president of the European Commission. The two presidencies tend to clash over EU policy. A "super-president" given charge over all EU institutions would have the power to dictate policy direction.

Shortly after the "Berlin Group" came out with that startling recommendation, the second major event took place. German Chancellor Angela Merkel realized that French President Nicolas Sarkozy was in trouble. Sarkozy was Merkel's partner in pushing for European unification, and was the candidate she endorsed in France's national elections. But Sarkozy, it was clear, was about to lose. So what did she do? She turned to Italy's Prime Minister Mario

Monti to forge a *new alliance* to lead the EU.

These latest moves are *real game changers*, the effects of which will soon be felt *worldwide*. *The balance of power is changing in Europe*, and the fallout is prophesied to have *global effects of massive proportions!*

The Crisis and the Solution

The catalyst for both this super-presidency and this new alliance is Europe's worsening economic crisis, which is also destabilizing Europe's political order. To date, 11 leaders of EU member nations have fallen in the wake of this crisis.

Anticipating the increasing clamor for EU leaders to promote growth in the face of austerity, Mario Monti and Angela Merkel are colluding with European Central Bank (ECB) President Mario Draghi to establish the future of EU economic policy. Merkel's and Monti's staffs have planned several joint German-Italian economic stimulus initiatives that will be brought to the European Council in June. In the process, Socialist Francois Hollande's France is being marginalized.

Chancellor Merkel did more than just verbally affirm her solidarity with Rome. She also did a U-turn on her economic policy, readily agreeing to Rome's line. Draghi has criticized Merkel's fiscal discipline policy, saying that the crisis can't be solved through budget cuts and tax increases alone. Draghi says the circumstances call for "structural measures to favor economic growth." Merkel accepted the critique and formally acknowledged, "We need growth, to be sustained through structural reforms." That was a very real, very public policy reversal from Merkel's previously declared stance.

As the *Trumpet* has said before, *watch*

Monti and Draghi—and *watch closely for Merkel to be increasingly influenced by Rome in her political and economic outlook.*

Prime Minister Monti and ECB head Draghi have *the same Jesuit mind* in their approach to the crisis. Merkel joining forces with them places the EU's purse strings—and the German levers of power—much closer to Rome's grasp.

Expect *Berlin and Rome to dominate EU policy decisions* from here on.

The End of Franco-German Leadership

Since the European Community's inception, joint Franco-German leadership has been a given. France wanted to keep a close eye on Germany to ensure that nation would never repeat its incursions across France's borders such as had occurred in 1871, 1914 and 1939. The postwar French view was that Germany would become the *economic engine of Europe*, while having limited *political influence*. France would take the lead European political role. It seemed an ideal arrangement to the Western allies.

Things continued in that preordained manner until two major disruptions began to fracture the arrangement.

The first was the implosion of the Soviet Union, which had two effects: the reunification of Germany in 1990, and the resurgence of Roman Catholicism in post-communist Eastern Europe.

The second disruption occurred when economic crisis struck Europe in 2008. All of a sudden, Germany, by far the most powerful economy in Europe, found a political voice to match its economic weight.

Using the economic crisis as the catalyst, Berlin began to call the tune for the economic response. The resulting decrees

Axis IS BACK

from Germany's political power base in Berlin and its financial base at the ECB in Frankfurt have left EU nations subject to Germany.

A third catalyst now works to change the whole balance of power in Europe: Nicolas Sarkozy's failure to gain reelection as president of France. This will prove to be a watershed event not only in Franco-German relations, but also in Berlin's political relationship with the EU.

Gone is the lynchpin partnership that had held the EU together since the Treaty of Rome established the European Community in 1957. Before Sarkozy had officially been ousted from the French presidency in the May elections, Chancellor Merkel had already quickly moved to align Germany with Rome. Even before France's new leader took office, Italian Prime Minister Monti had already replaced Berlin's traditional EU political partner.

In place of the Franco-German alliance is a new partnership: a resurrection of the old *Rome-Berlin Axis* of 1939!

To think of that old Axis being resurrected—given the destruction it wreaked just 70 years ago—is a *fearful* thing indeed! Yet this is the *reality*.

And it was all prophesied to be so, in your Bible, millennia ago!

Rome-Berlin Axis Prophesied

Back in 1954, Herbert Armstrong declared, "Nothing can prevent Germany from completely dominating Europe. Soon there will be the prophesied United Europe—the resurrected Roman Empire—with Germans in complete domination. It's prophesied! It is hurling on toward the destruction of America and Britain" (Sept. 18, 1954).

Three years later, he wrote: "No one



MUSSOLINI AND HITLER

The last time Berlin and Rome teamed up, the world had no idea how catastrophic the consequences would be.

else is telling what prophecy says Germany and fascism in Europe are starting under cover. You'll soon see it—THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE—THE RESURRECTED ROMAN EMPIRE!" (Nov. 20, 1957).

No one else was! Herbert Armstrong was the lone voice crying out in a wilderness of confusion and declaring to the world the sure prophecies of God, declaring decades ago that a final resurrection of the old Holy Roman Empire would arise to powerfully disrupt the world again!

In 1978, Mr. Armstrong specifically declared, "Undoubtedly Germany will head the new resurrected 'Holy Roman Empire'" (Aug. 14, 1978).

Months later, he published an article in the January 1979 *Plain Truth* magazine declaring emphatically: "I have been proclaiming and writing, ever since 1935, that the final one of the seven eras of the Holy Roman Empire is coming in our genera-

World War II and be more willing to 'deliver firepower' for NATO and the West" (*Telegraph*, May 9).

Hammond pushed for Germany to forget the past and assert itself again as a military power. He encouraged Germany to demonstrate "a willingness to pick up the burdens that go with having a globally important economy ... recognizing that it can't continue to be the dominant economy in Europe without also significantly increasing its military capability" (emphasis added throughout).

Such a view demonstrates both a woe-full blindness to history and a profound ignorance as to the nature of the Germanic peoples. It certainly shows the paucity of true, visionary leadership in Britain today (Isaiah 3:1-4).

Those with a better grasp of the facts should surely fear any tendency for a revival of that old Rome-Berlin Axis. Let

The liberty of the Germans is a deadlier foe than the tyranny of the kings of Parthia" (*Germania*).

As the German author Adolph Schalk observed, "Thus as long ago as A.D. 98, the Roman historian Tacitus ... already regarded the German people as a force to be reckoned with in Europe" (*The Germans*).

What was the role that Tacitus assigned to Rome in its relationship to the Germans? "Tacitus regarded [the Germans] as overgrown children who needed the strong arm of Roman discipline to keep them in line." Thus arose, with the crowning of Charlemagne in A.D. 800, the Holy Roman Empire.

Rome acted as both spiritual guide and unifying force of those "strangely inconsistent" people for what later became, under Emperor Maximilian I, the *Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation*. The official German record says this about that title: "The term used for the empire, which emerged from the East-Franconian Empire of 962 with the coronation of Otto I as emperor, as of 1512 was officially called the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation—expressing, on the one hand, a claim to power as the successor to the 'Imperium Romanum' of antiquity, and on the other, highlighting the religious role of the emperor. The 'Reich' survived for more than 800 years until ... 1806 ..." (Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, London).

In its wake, it left a trail of blood.

Watch and Pray!

Now, the old *Rome-Berlin Axis* is resurrected. A Bavarian pope at the helm in the Vatican is engaged in a great crusade of "new evangelization." Rome's men lead both the European Central Bank and the Vatican's home base nation, Italy. All that remains to complete the prophetic picture in Europe is for the new "Charlemagne" to arise and pull together the final prophesied 10-nation combine under a "super-president" office such as proposed by the Berlin Group.

These are all key pieces in a formula that will catalyze the ultimate fulfillment of some of the most powerful Bible prophecies for our time! These prophecies foretell of great devastation to be brought upon the Anglo-Saxon nations in the wake of this seventh and final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire!

These most recent dynamic events in Europe indicate that, even as Jesus Christ declared of these times we are living through, more than ever it is time to "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36). ■

Ancient histories should warn us of what is bound to occur when Rome and Berlin connect with the common goal of destabilizing the European order!

tion—a 'United States of Europe,' combining 10 nations or groups of nations in Europe—with a union of church and state!

"The nations of Europe have been striving to become reunited. They desire a common currency, a single combined military force, a single united government. They have made a start in the Common Market. They are now working toward a common currency. Yet, on a purely political basis, they have been totally unable to unite.

"In only one way can this resurrected Holy Roman Empire be brought to fruition—by the 'good offices' of the Vatican, uniting church and state once again, with the Vatican astride and ruling (Revelation 17:1-5)."

That prophesied union of church and state could not effectively emerge till the Franco-German bloc was broken and a new balance of power established in Europe: a *Rome-Berlin axis!* Just such an axis has emerged with Chancellor Merkel's surrendering, at Rome's behest, on her policy for handling Europe's economic crisis.

Blind to the Reality

Few see the historic omens in a revival of the old Rome-Berlin Axis. That was recently made apparent by Britain's defense secretary, Philip Hammond, who encouraged Germany to "put aside the legacy of

those facts speak for themselves:

"On Nov. 1, 1936, Germany and Italy, reflecting their common interest in destabilizing the European order, announced a *Rome-Berlin Axis* one week after signing a treaty of friendship. ... On May 22, 1939, Germany and Italy signed the so-called Pact of Steel, formalizing the Axis alliance with military provisions. ... [T]he German invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, unleashed the European war" (*Holocaust Encyclopedia*).

That summarizes the more recent history of the Rome-Berlin axis. The effects of that Rome-Berlin Axis are summed up in the devastating statistics of the carnage it unleashed in World War II. Of the estimated 60 million slaughtered in that greatest war in history, 29 million are estimated to have been killed in Europe alone. The massive number of injured plus the untold damage to property and the countryside of the Continent must all be included to give a true picture of the cataclysmic result of the most recent Rome-Berlin Axis of just seven decades past.

Yet, even more ancient histories should warn us of what is bound to occur when Rome and Berlin connect with the common goal of destabilizing the European order!

Awful History of Rome-Berlin Alliances

The first-century historian Tacitus put it this way: "The Germans have no taste for peace; renown is easier won among perils. ... [T]hey are so strangely inconsistent. ...



BARK AND BITE
The pope is living up to the reputation he earned as Joseph Ratzinger, notorious hard-line cleric.

The 'German Shepherd' Shows His Teeth

Silencing dissenting priests, clamping down on errant nuns—Pope Benedict XVI is pointing the way forward for the Roman Catholic Church. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

WHEN HE BECAME POPE IN 2005, the German-born Joseph Ratzinger was expected by liberals and conservatives alike to be a tough authoritarian. After all, he was the church's chief doctrinal enforcer, head of the organization once known as the Inquisition. He was the "Panzerkardinal"—"God's Rottweiler."

Then came seven years of what many perceived as a relatively quiet papacy. Now, though, perceptions are reverting back. In increasingly obvious ways, Benedict's Rome is snuffing out dissent, stamping out liberalism and enforcing its brand of conservative Catholicism. Headlines are becoming common about the reemergence of the "real Ratzinger" and the "Return of the Rottweiler."

These muscular moves point to the Roman Catholic Church's future—and are more deeply significant than you probably realize.

How to Celebrate a Seventh Anniversary

In April, Pope Benedict XVI finished the seventh year of his papacy with several bold, polarizing actions.

During his "Holy Thursday" homily, the pope publicly rebuked a prominent group of hundreds of dissident priests and deacons in heavily Catholic Austria. These church leaders had issued a "call to disobedience," openly supported women's ordination and opposed priestly celibacy. Benedict had had enough. In what Reuters called "an unusually direct denunciation," the pope told the group that "We preach not private theories and opinions, but the faith of the church."

The Vatican also announced it was investigating a handful of Irish priests for their liberal views. One priest was banished to a monastery; others are being censored; another who has been openly critical of the church's mishandling of child sex abuse scandals is no longer allowed to print articles.

On April 18, the Vatican released a stinging corrective eight-page "doctrinal assessment" of the organization representing most of America's 57,000 nuns. Four years in the making, the report accused that group, the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR), of "corporate dissent" and corruption by "radical feminism." The Vatican made clear it will forcefully correct the group's "serious doctrinal problems." The report berated the nuns for broadcasting discussions about the ordination of women and ministering to homosexual people. It also lambasted them for, on the one hand, devoting excessive time to "promoting issues of social justice" while, on the other, neglecting to comment on "issues of crucial importance to the life of the church and society," such as homosexual "marriage" and abortion. Now, the LCWR will essentially be on probation for up to five years as conservative bishops scrutinize its practices, supervise its meetings and investigate its ties to various politically active groups.

Predictably, in a libertine world deeply hostile to authority, such moves generate a lot of backlash. (Especially among independent-minded Americans: They called the crackdown on nuns *heart-breaking*, *stunning*, *mind-boggling*.) The pope doesn't care. He is making his stand and daring people to challenge him—stepping out and castigating his critics for being out of step.

Pope Benedict continued his offensive in early May. As several American bishops visited Rome, he told them not to stray from Catholic teaching and reminded them to make sure their teachings are approved by the Vatican.

He then strongly rebuked America's Catholic academia. Catholic colleges and universities have defied the Vatican and Catholic authorities for years. Many have invited dissenting Catholics or even vocal opponents of the church to speak. For



years many have been violating a mandate set up by John Paul II that requires them to appoint only theology teachers approved by the local bishop. "Catholic identity, not least at the university level, entails much more than the teaching of religion or the mere presence of a chaplaincy on campus," the pope said. "All too often, it seems, Catholic schools and colleges have failed to challenge students to reappropriate their faith." Benedict wants Catholic schools to get a lot more Catholic—and fast.

Wooing Conservatives

Meanwhile—in fact, on the very same day it cracked down on the LCWR—the Vatican revealed that it is about to strike a deal with a fringe group of disassociated ultra-traditionalist Catholics that could bring them back into communion with Rome. This controversial group, Society of St. Pius X, broke away two decades ago out of opposition to liberal changes in the church that followed the Second Vatican Council—and the pope wants them back.

The *simultaneous* clampdown on liberal American nuns and embrace of ultra-conservatives is a telling sign. As the *National Catholic Reporter* wrote, "In tandem with Benedict's 2009 decision to welcome traditionalist Anglicans, it's tempting to conclude that his policy amounts to *accommodating dissent on the right and squelching it on the left*" (emphasis added).

To coax the Pius X Catholics back, the pope is offering to reinterpret the Vatican

II changes, which have been a key part of the church's relative liberalism in recent years. While the pope sees some of the Vatican II reforms as important to help draw protesting Christians back into the fold, other aspects he'd like to be rid of.

Even appealing to disgruntled Anglicans helps the pope pull the church to the right. These Anglicans are more conservative than many of their English Catholic colleagues. A flood of new Catholics who are adamantly opposed to homosexual

The simultaneous clampdown on liberal American nuns and embrace of ultra-conservatives is a telling sign.

"marriage" and women bishops is exactly what the pope needs to reform the Catholic Church in England.

The pope is personally involved in that initiative. He donated \$250,000 to the UK Catholic organization that has been set up to receive defecting Anglicans, the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. The group has come out of the Anglican Church with little to no property or funds, making the pope's donation a key lifeline.

These funds could make the church grow much faster. Once members see that they won't be absorbed into a Catholic congregation but will instead be able to worship with former Anglicans in their own buildings, many more may be willing to make the move. And much more of the clergy would be willing to jump if they knew the ordinariate had the money to pay them.

At the start of his papacy, Joseph Ratzinger quietly appointed men of like mind to key posts. In parts of the church—Britain, for example—liberalism was firmly entrenched. With these key offices now filled with Benedict's men, he is going for a wider reform of the church—and doing so quite aggressively.

Looking at these events, the *National Catholic Reporter* drew this conclusion: "The 'German Shepherd,' it would seem, still has some bite."

Why Be Concerned?

On one level, anyone sickened or angered by the world's deplorable moral decline

would find such conviction admirable. However, this is not just anyone, or any organization. This is the pope. This is the Universal Church—with a billion believers and nearly two millennia of portentous history behind it.

In recent years Rome has labored to strengthen and fulfill its fundamental *missionary* purpose: to bring other churches' teachings in line with Roman Catholicism; specifically, to get them to acknowledge and unite under the authority of the pope. Benedict XVI is focused on reviving the historic imperative of the church's universality.

To better understand the significance of Rome's recent assertiveness, one must view it in the context of the church's historical attempts to establish its global authority. This is a church with *global ambition*. And frankly, those periods where it has most aggressively exercised its influence have been some of mankind's darkest.

However, even looking just at this history only provides a partial view. To really see what is taking place, one must also look through the lens of *biblical prophecy*.

The Roman Catholic Church holds a *monumental place* in the Bible's narrative of end-time events. It is described as ascending to once again attain a position of influence such as it has had at several points in its past, uniting with world leaders, summoning armies under the banner of the cross, using its spiritual clout to steer the political and military might of nations into helping it accomplish its goals. Scripture actually portrays this church as a woman sitting on "many waters," signifying a globalist reign.

It also, shockingly, depicts the church as a *beast*—but with a twist. It will not *appear* as a beast: It looks like a lamb—innocent, just and righteous in the eyes of most people. It projects itself as being like the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. This, however, is the worst possible deception: It *speaks like a dragon* (Revelation 13:11)—and it is what comes out of the mouth that reveals the true nature of the heart.

You need to *prove* these prophecies—and *believe them*. They expose what is *truly happening* on today's world scene. They show *God's view* of the Catholic Church and other major players on the political and religious stage, and reveal how He is shaping events to fulfill His purposes.

The Vatican's recent muscularity is only the beginning. Watch closely: This thing is going to grow. Believe it or not, it threatens to shake the world!



ANTIBIOTICS: No Quick Fix

What happens when we treat the effect without addressing the cause?

BY RICHARD PALMER

WE ARE FACING “AN END TO modern medicine as we know it” if current trends continue. That’s the diagnosis of World Health Organization Director General Margaret Chan. “Things as common as strep throat or a child’s scratched knee could once again kill,” she warned in March in a speech in Denmark.

Why the crisis? The world is quickly running out of antibiotics. Bacteria resistant to nearly all known antibiotics are multiplying. Few new antibiotics seem forthcoming. “In terms of new replacement antibiotics, the pipeline is virtually dry,” warned Dr. Chan. “The cupboard is nearly bare.”

Some of these antibiotic-resistant diseases kill half of all people they infect.

How did we reach this point?

Breeding Superbugs

Eighty percent of American antibiotics are used not to treat humans, but farm animals. Why? Antibiotics encourage animals to grow faster, and they suppress diseases.

In mass-scale industrial food production, animals are commonly fed the wrong food and crammed into unsanitary living conditions, so they get sick easily. Recognizing this problem, farmers and meat-packers, rather than addressing the cause and improving the conditions, simply dose their animals with antibiotics.

Scientists have warned for decades that this practice—a constant low dose of antibiotics in a large number of animals—creates *exactly* the environment you would need if you were *deliberately* trying to breed antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

Last year, the Arizona-based Translational Genomics Research Institute tested 136 samples of meat from 26 grocery shops and found high levels of *Staphylococcus aureus*. Ninety-six percent of the staph bacteria was resistant to at least one type of antibiotic. Fifty-two percent of it was resistant to at least three types.

“This is one more reason to

be very careful when you’re handling raw meat and poultry in the kitchen,” warned the head researcher on the study, Dr. Lance Price. “You can cook away these bacteria. But the problem is when you bring in that raw product, you almost inevitably contaminate your kitchen with these bacteria.”

The Food and Drug Administration has acknowledged that routinely feeding antibiotics to animals is dangerous, but it has done little to change the practice. In March, a U.S. district court judge ordered the FDA to do more. But if the FDA restricts or bans the use of antibiotics to stimulate growth (like the European Union already has), the food industry still has to find a way to prevent disease.

“The media’s coverage of the decision has focused on the use of antibiotics for growth promotion,” writes the *Atlantic*. “While ending these uses would be an important step, it would not be sufficient to end the misuse of antibiotics in industrial food animal production. As long as low doses of antibiotics may be continuously fed to food animals to prevent disease, the industrial operations that produce the majority of food animals in this country will continue to serve as giant incubators for antibiotic-resistant bacteria” (March 30).

But that’s a problem we refuse to confront. The quick fix is far too easy.

Popping Pills

Sadly, we often take the same approach in our own lives: We ignore the cause and pop the pill—because it’s easier.

Prof. Sarah Harper, director of the Oxford Institute of Population Aging, warned in March that she saw a future where drugs tackled the symptoms and the original problem was left untouched. That future, in fact, is already here.

Professor Harper contrasted the way governments confront smoking with the



way they address obesity—two “lifestyle epidemics.” Smoking-related deaths have fallen as public health initiatives persuade people to stop smoking, dealing with the *cause*. Deaths related to obesity also appear to be falling, yet obesity rates are rising. Why? In this case, rather than making lifestyle changes, many people are treating obesity with drugs.

“[W]e’re moving to a culture where rather than having healthy lifestyles, we actually can, if you like, pop a pill,” she said. “We have to ask if we wish our future to be one where individuals at increasingly younger ages pop pills rather than eat healthily, stop smoking, reduce alcohol, and take up exercise.”

More and more, the answer seems to be yes. It’s so much easier to take a pill than to *change your life*. But this refusal to confront the causes of the problem takes its toll.

Fixing the Cause

The fact is, there is no such thing as a quick fix. You may be able to ignore the problem and cover up one symptom with drugs—for a time. But just listen to the end of the television commercial for all the nasty side effects along the way. Then realize that using these drugs is actually breeding sicknesses that can *withstand* them.

The real solution is always to correct the *cause* of the problem. To survive, smokers have to *stop smoking*. To get rid of sickness, we have to *keep* health laws like nutritious diet, cleanliness and hygiene, sunshine and fresh air, exercise, plenty of rest, avoiding injury, and keeping a positive mental attitude. Addressing the *cause* of sickness and disease is no quick fix—but it has no side effects! ■

Did you know: God not only has the *power* to heal you, but in His Word, He has also made an ironclad *promise* to heal! Herbert W. Armstrong expounded upon this in his booklet *The Plain Truth About Healing*, which we offer to you free upon request.



MICHAEL PHELPS



USA—SWIMMING

With an arm span three inches longer than his 6-foot, 4-inch height, Phelps was born to be a swimmer. But he hasn't achieved his monumental successes just with his skeletal advantages. In fact, his workouts and 12,000-calorie daily diet are among the most physically demanding regimens maintained by any known athlete. Six hours a day, six days a week, he is in the water, swimming just under 50 miles per week—at remarkable speeds. After winning a record eight gold medals at the 2008 Games, his races will be among the marquee events in London this year.



In Pursuit of Excellence

The elite athleticism of Olympians contains an important lesson for all of us. **BY JEREMIAH JACQUES**

ON JULY 27, AN UNPRECEDENTED number of television viewers—over 4 billion—are expected to tune in to watch the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, making it *the largest TV event in history*. What was the *second*-largest television event? The opening ceremony of the 2008 Games in Beijing.

Starting all the way back in Olympia, Greece, in the eighth century B.C., the Olympic Games have seized the attention of sports enthusiasts and almost everyone else who has watched them. They consistently transcend the typical sports markets, captivating worldwide attention as nothing else can. Modern Olympic Games connect spectators with the global community. They also contain a riveting microcosmic view of

national rivalries and competitions. But the primary reason viewers and attendees flock to the Games is to witness the showcase of sheer, inspirational athleticism.

Ancient Greek Olympians strove to emulate the valiant traits of Homeric warriors. Many of these early participants lived during times of peace, but they were inspired by the strength of Ajax, the speed of Achilles, the vigor of Ulysses, and the *arete* (“excellence” and “character”) of Diomedes. The ancient Greeks’ desire to demonstrate these Homeric ideals of a warrior’s *arete*, even outside of war, propelled many of them to compete in the Olympics. There, through dazzling feats, they pursued glory on the field of athletics instead of the field of battle.

Athletes of the modern technological era strive to eclipse records against the measuring tape and stopwatch in pursuit

of precise, exacting excellence. Their quest for triumph pits them not only against their contemporary competitors, but also against every athlete who has lived and set records before them. This ambitious pursuit cannot be undertaken without great quantities of *arete*.

Race for the Incorruptible Crown

The Holy Bible draws on elite-level athletics to drive home some profound lessons. The Olympic Games were enormously popular during the first century A.D. when the Apostle Paul lived, and his familiarity with competitive sports spawned several of his most effective analogies. Every four years, the Isthmian Games—like the Olympic Games in all points but location—were celebrated in the narrow part of the Isthmus of Corinth. The *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary* says Paul’s sports analogies would have been especially powerful to the church members in Corinth because the



BETH TWEDDLE



GREAT BRITAIN—GYMNASTICS Tweddle trains six days a week for at least five hours a day. Since age 7, she has used handstands, sprinting drills, stretching, squat jumps, ankle-raisers and plyometrics to achieve peak performance capacity. The lion's share of Tweddle's training time is spent performing her routine on the bars, as there is no better way to train for the uneven bars than performing the actual discipline. At 27 years old, she's among the oldest competing gymnasts, but thanks to her rigorous training she is still poised to be a major contender in this year's Games.



USAIN BOLT



JAMAICA—ATHLETICS There's no debate about who the world's fastest sprinter is. Bolt's achievement of this title comes from years of fervent labor: bodybuilding four days a week and sprinting six days a week. In these vigorous sessions, Bolt relies on strideouts, sprints, machine squats, chest presses and leg extensions to focus on strength and endurance. He keeps his 6-foot, 4-inch, 196-pound frame in peak condition by eating six meals a day, consisting of 60 percent protein, 30 percent carbs and 10 percent fats.

Isthmian Games “were to the Greeks rather a passion than a mere amusement: hence their suitability as an image of Christian earnestness.” These competitions were “a subject of patriotic pride to the Corinthians, who lived in the immediate neighborhood.”

Well aware of the Games' enormous popularity, Paul told church members in Corinth that the life of a Christian is similar to the quest for victory they saw in these competitive runners: “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (1 Corinthians 9:24).

Paul pointed out that the stakes for the aspiring Christian are much higher than those of an athlete: “Now they [push themselves] to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (verse 25).

Paul said that he exerted himself to the utmost so that he would not fail to secure that incorruptible crown of eternal life: “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so

fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring [it] into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway” (verses 26-27).

This passage in 2 Corinthians is just one of several places where the Apostle Paul pointed his Christian brethren to the finest athletes of their day. It was an analogy he often employed because these athletes, like today's contenders, were brimming with passion, zeal, and a deep-rooted drive to demonstrate *arete* in their sport—even though doing so required them to bring their bodies into subjection with the most arduous training regimens.

The Bible makes plain that zeal is fundamental to the life of a Christian (Isaiah 59:17), and that self-discipline is an absolute necessity for one striving to live like Christ (Proverbs 25:28). It reveals that Christians must *struggle* to invest their hearts deeply into all that they do (Colossians 3:23), and

must strive to become perfect (Matthew 5:48). And a Christian must do all this *with joy* (Philippians 4:4).

It is true that Olympic competitions can often become a microcosm of the rivalries between nations. But athleticism can also occasion the noblest zeal and passion—and can showcase the heights the human spirit is capable of achieving.

If you join the 4 billion people tuning into the Olympic Games this summer, consider the self-discipline required for these world-class athletes to have achieved such mastery over themselves. Reflect on the sheer effort they exert in their quest for excellence and to bring home a medal. And think on the *spiritual parallels*. Can you exert such effort in your spiritual life? Remember that before you is a race for an incorruptible, eternal prize! ■

WILLIAM WEST/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, GETTY IMAGES



Barbarians Within the Gates

The U.S. is being attacked every day, and most people don't know it.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

ANYONE WHO HAS HAD HIS PERSONAL computer hacked or his credit card or bank account compromised knows something of the danger in our technology-dependent modern life.

But the danger posed by cyber-criminals goes way beyond an amoral nerd hacking your computer and stealing your account numbers, frustrating and debilitating as that would be. In our world, the *majority* of professional communication, intelligence gathering and analysis, research and development, military strategy planning, and banking and finance occurs on a network of connected computers. As a result, the power cyber-criminals wield is disproportionate—and frightening.

Some hackers are now threatening to inflict chaos and destruction on society in general—on our federal and state governments, our banking and telecommunication systems, our private companies, even our militaries. And they're already proving themselves more than capable.

It's Happening All the Time

In April, Global Payments Inc., an Atlanta-based credit card processing company, announced that its network had been breached and that data from 1.5 million credit card accounts had been exposed. This happens regularly. Last year, a cyberattack on one of Sony Corp's online gaming systems breached the personal information of *nearly 25 million customers* and compromised

more than *100 million accounts*.

We learned last December that hackers also broke into the network of Stratfor, a Texas-based intelligence company. Before Stratfor knew what had happened, hackers stole credit card numbers and even *private e-mails* between company employees and correspondence that included private details about clients. It was a nightmare, costly and particularly embarrassing for a company specializing in intelligence gathering and analysis.

But Stratfor and Sony aren't anomalies. Other cyberattack victims include Citibank, Lockheed, Booz Allen, Google, Boeing, EMC and Nasdaq. If it can happen to these giants, it can happen to anyone.

In March, FBI executive assistant director Shawn Henry gave *Wall Street Journal* readers a sobering glimpse at computer hacking in America: "We're not winning." Henry said that America's current countermeasures are "unsustainable."

Citing Mr. Henry, the *Journal* reported that "too many companies, from major multinationals to small start-ups, fail to recognize the financial and legal risks they are taking—or the costs they may have already suffered unknowingly—by operating vulnerable networks." Between 2002 and 2010, the number of hacking cases the FBI handled swelled from fewer than 1,500 to 2,500. That's just the number of major intrusions *identified* and that the FBI is actually *investigating*.

Quantifying the number of illegal electronic incursions into U.S. companies, government departments and public institutions is virtually impossible. First, many companies fail to report electronic breaches for fear of damaging their reputation. Second, many organizations simply don't know they've been infiltrated. In recent testimony before Congress, Richard Bejtlich, chief security officer at Mandiant, a computer-security company, testified that 94 percent of clients that had been targeted by Chinese hackers had *no idea they had been attacked*.

According to Henry, FBI agents regularly come across data from companies whose executives had no idea their system had been penetrated. "We have found their data in the middle of other investigations," he stated. "They are shocked and, in many cases, they've been breached for many months, *in some cases years*, which means that an ADVERSARY HAD FULL VISIBILITY INTO EVERYTHING OCCURRING ON THAT NETWORK, potentially."

Imagine if a criminal was watching everything you did, taking note of your account numbers, your professional correspondence, your private conversations. That's exactly what's happening. These

silent, unseen intruders—many of whom are foreigners—are watching and stealing the financial details, intellectual property and strategies of many American institutions, government departments and companies, including military manufacturers.

Henry recalled a recent case in which hackers broke into the network of a large company and stole *10 years and \$1 billion worth of research and development*. In another instance, Chinese hackers penetrated the electronic defenses of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and accessed everything stored on its system, including information about its 3 million members. Foreign hackers are constantly attempting to break into U.S. companies and steal strategically significant and expensive—if not priceless—intelligence. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, commander of U.S. Cyber Command, calls cybertheft “*the greatest transfer of wealth in history*.”

According to James A. Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Shawn Henry’s warning about America’s vulnerability in cyberspace is *too bright*. Lewis says that America has already “lost the opening battle” with hackers, and he doesn’t believe, according to the *Journal*, there is a “SINGLE SECURE, UNCLASSIFIED COMPUTER NETWORK IN THE U.S.” (emphasis added).

The Power of Hackers

In his book *Cyber War*, Richard Clarke, former counterterrorism expert for three U.S. presidents, laments that while the U.S. has developed *offensive* cyberwar capability, it has neglected developing *defensive* capabilities to ward off cyberattacks, which are growing in number and complexity. America is brilliant at attacking others in cyberspace, he says, but incapable of defending itself from similar attacks. In a statement that will keep CEOs up at night, Mr. Clarke warned that “*every major company in the United States has already been penetrated*” by Chinese hackers operating under the direction of the Chinese government.

In his book, Clarke discusses the threat posed by foreign hackers to America’s electronic infrastructure, power grids, nuclear power plants, government banking and telecommunication networks, even its military command system. He writes that “economically and militarily ... what we’ve lost in the new millennium’s cyberbattles is tantamount to the Soviet and Chinese theft of our nuclear bomb secrets in the 1940s and 1950s. The possibilities of what we stand to lose in an all-out cyberwar—our individual and national security among them—are just as chilling.”

Imagine it: With the flick of a finger,

foreign states could shut down America’s power stations, crash its banking system and paralyze its telecommunication networks!

According to experts, many of America’s government and industrial leaders are woefully unaware of how technology works and how easily it can be exploited. James Lewis says there’s a “kind of willful desire not to admit how bad things are, both in government and certainly in the private sector”

How long before this “willful desire” to ignore the problem results in a crushing cyberblow from our enemies?

Tested to the Full

The *Trumpet* has been warning about America’s vulnerability to cyberattack for nearly two decades. In our January 1995 edition, editor in chief Gerald Flurry recalled the story of Achilles, the Greek hero of the Trojan war who was struck in his heel by an enemy arrow. “America is the greatest superpower this world has ever known. But we have a very vulnerable point in our military—our own Achilles heel,” he wrote. “Exploiting this vulnerable point may trigger the greatest shock in the history of warfare! ... COMPUTER DEPENDENCE IS THE WESTERN WORLD’S ACHILLES HEEL, AND WITHIN A FEW YEARS THIS WEAKNESS COULD BE TESTED TO THE FULL.”

One key end-time Bible prophecy in Ezekiel will likely be fulfilled through cyberwarfare. The prophecy foretells great violence and warfare in America and Britain just prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Ezekiel saw these events in a vision, and wrote that “they have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; BUT NONE GOETH FORTH TO THE BATTLE ...” (Ezekiel 7:14). It appears the trumpet of war is blown in America and Britain, but a nation-crushing tragedy occurs: Nobody answers the call to battle!

Is this because our infrastructure, our banks and homes, our stores and airports, our government and OUR MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE, have been paralyzed by a massive cyberattack?

There are measures you can take to protect yourself personally from hackers. These might include installing an electronic firewall, purchasing software to defend your home computer from attack, or simply refraining from disclosing personal information over the Internet. But ultimately, it’s not the threat of personal cyberattacks that you need to be most concerned about. The more important consideration is, *how can I prepare for the calamities prophesied to come upon America and Britain?*

Did you know there is a physical place of protection from these terrifying events?

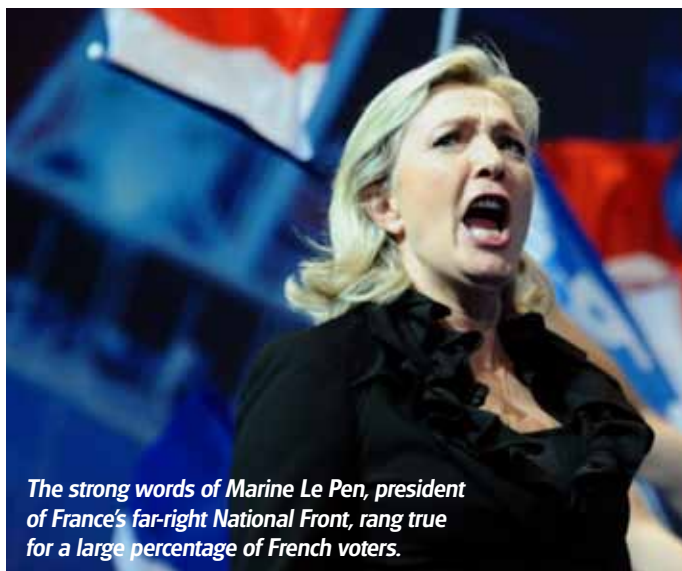


There is “spiritual software” you can install to defend you and your family from the horrors ahead.

Where can you learn more about this protection? More than likely, the answer has been sitting on a shelf in your home: It’s called the Holy Bible.

Maybe you haven’t thought much about the Bible, its authorship, its veracity, and its value to your life. But it’s not too late to ask these questions. This world is careening out of control. You live in extreme and terrifying times. Perhaps your friends will think you’re crazy if you start studying the Bible now. But don’t these crazy, extreme times demand extreme measures, even measures “extreme” as reading the Bible? Go ahead: Reject the mainstream hostility toward the Book and just read it for yourself.

Before you do that, call now and request our free books *Proof of the Bible* and *Mystery of the Ages*. If you study these books along with the Bible, your life will never be the same! ■



The strong words of Marine Le Pen, president of France's far-right National Front, rang true for a large percentage of French voters.

1 | FRANCE 2 | GERMANY Everybody take a step to the right

IN THE FIRST ROUND OF FRANCE'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, the National Front's Marine Le Pen won a record 18 percent of the vote on April 22. Her success came after campaigning against the European Union and immigration. She blamed the EU for forcing France to let in far more immigrants than it can handle, demanding the nation cut its annual immigration from 200,000 to 10,000. Le Pen says she is fighting the "Islamization" of France. Muslims, she warns, "are advancing in the neighborhoods. They are putting pressure on the population. They are recruiting young boys" to fight for Islam.

Several of Le Pen's ideas are becoming mainstream. The leader of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union in parliament, Volker Kauder, said: "Islam is not part of our tradition and identity in Germany and so does not belong in Germany," though diplomatically adding: "But Muslims do belong in Germany." A confrontation between conservative Germans and Islam is brewing as an ultra-conservative Salafist group, "The True Religion," begins a campaign to put a Koran in every home in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The French and German interior ministers published a joint letter calling for "the possibility of reestablishing internal border controls" on April 20. Open borders and the free movement of people are key parts of EU integration. Opposition to it usually comes from far-right parties or perhaps from smaller member countries. This proposal coming from Europe's core countries shows how far to the right they are shifting.

Meanwhile, European countries are becoming less tolerant of immigrants and minorities because of economic troubles, the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance's annual report concluded. "Xenophobic discourse has been mainstreamed during the past decade, gaining increasing social acceptance," warned the report, published May 3. It continued: "Racism and intolerance are on the rise in Europe today, and the resulting tension sometimes leads to racist violence." As Europe's economy worsens, watch for this hatred to grow.

2 | GERMANY First veterans day since WWII

German Defense Minister Thomas de Maizière has proposed that Germany celebrate a veterans day to celebrate its armed forces, on May 22, the date of the foundation of the Bundeswehr in 1956. "As the war generation dies out, the defense minister believes that the time is ready for Germany to come of age as a nation and commemorate the work done by its modern armed forces," wrote the *Times*. It wrote that, for Germany, the move would "end one of its last postwar taboos." Watch for the German military to continue to shake off the stigma of its Nazi past.



"Against the backdrop of our operations and the questions they pose to our society, it is time to speak objectively and openly about our veterans' policy."

THOMAS DE MAIZIÈRE
GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER



French Socialists at party headquarters

1 | FRANCE 3 | GREECE Wild elections rock Continent

An anti-austerity backlash by Greek and French voters rattled the eurozone May 6, causing uncertainty for the markets and for the euro currency.

What used to be Greece's two main parties received so few votes that, combined, they could not form a coalition. Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund may not release the next section of Greece's bailout money. Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras, who did second best in the elections, called the bailout conditions "barbaric." The neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party won 21 seats. Citigroup said there is a 50 to 75 percent chance of Greece leaving the euro.

In France, Socialist Francois Hollande defeated conservative incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy for the presidency. Hollande promises to steer Europe's focus away from austerity and toward economic growth through government spending.

A few weeks earlier, Geert Wilders's Party for Freedom toppled the Dutch government over opposition to austerity. This was a blow to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Spain also seems set to cause problems, with its economy sliding toward a bailout. The status quo, propped up by German loans and European Central Bank printing presses, cannot continue. Expect dramatic changes in Europe soon.

4 | IRAN 5 | BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA Infiltrating Europe's underbelly

Iran employs an unusually large number of employees at its embassy in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as part of its effort to radicalize the majority-Muslim European nation and to extend its reach into the heart of Europe. On May 3, radio talk show host John Batchelor interviewed Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Hoenlein said Iran staffs its Sarajevo embassy with over 400 employees, sharply exceeding the usual number for a facility of its kind. For Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina is becoming "a jumping-off ground," Hoenlein said. Iran's efforts in Sarajevo help demonstrate that the prophesied Islamist "push" against Europe is well underway.

4 | IRAN**More fruitless talks**

Talks on Iran's nuclear program were held in Istanbul between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany on April 14. Tehran agreed to participate in more talks on May 23 in Baghdad. The international community continues the fool's errand of trying to persuade Iran to cease uranium enrichment. Meanwhile, Iran buys more time to advance its nuclear program to the point of no return.



A Taliban suicide bomber's vehicle lies wrecked near a guesthouse in Kabul.

7 | AFGHANISTAN Back with a vengeance

The Taliban launched a complex attack on foreign embassies in the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul, in mid-April. Afghan security forces overpowered the terrorists on April 16, after 18 hours. One police officer and 17 terrorists were killed in multi-prong attacks, which took place in three eastern cities as well as the capital. In addition to several foreign embassies, Taliban terrorists also targeted NATO bases and the Afghan parliament using assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and suicide bombers. The violence shows that the Taliban is far from beaten as the U.S. and NATO draw down their forces in Afghanistan.

6 | EGYPT Deal with Israel is off

The Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company has terminated its contract to ship natural gas to Israel. The company made the announcement April 22, saying that Israel had violated contractual obligations. Israel imports 40 percent of its natural gas from Egypt. Israel and Egypt signed the deal in 2005, and Israeli Energy Minister Uzi Landau said it was a cornerstone of the two nations' peace treaty. However, since the ouster of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last year, it has become a symbol of tension between the two countries. Several presidential candidates, together with the Egyptian parliament and some Arab media, hailed the cessation of the agreement as a positive step reflecting the will of the people. The termination foreshadows the future of Egypt and Israel's tenuous peace agreement.

**8 | ISRAEL
9 | ITALY****Looking for new friends**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hosted his Italian counterpart in central Israel on April 8. Netanyahu discussed Iran's nuclear program and the Middle East peace process with Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti at a meeting in Caesarea. The growing relationship between Israel and Europe is significant in light of Bible prophecy. With the U.S. losing influence in world affairs, Israel is being forced to look for a new protector.

Still plotting to bomb U.S.

A plot by a branch of al Qaeda in Yemen to smuggle an experimental bomb aboard a U.S.-bound plane was thwarted by the CIA and foreign intelligence after it was discovered in mid-April. Intelligence officials said May 7 that the explosive device was seized about a week earlier. It appears a suicide bomber had been sent from Yemen to board a flight to the United States. The head of the Senate Intelligence Committee said the bomb was "a new design and very difficult to detect by magnetometer," which is used in most airports. U.S. officials said al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula had seized territory in the wake of the "Arab Spring" and had established new training camps. This thwarted attack confirms that the terrorist group is still determined to attack the U.S.

**6 | EGYPT****Preacher: Let's take Jerusalem!**

A radical Muslim preacher told thousands of Muslim Brotherhood supporters that Jerusalem should be the capital of an Islamic caliphate, in a video clip released May 7. Safwat Higazi said: "We can see how the dream of the Islamic caliphate is being realized, God willing, by Dr. Mohamed Mursi," the Muslim Brotherhood presidential candidate. Brotherhood officials nodded in agreement. "The capital of the caliphate—the capital of the United States of the Arabs—will be Jerusalem, God willing," Higazi said. Jerusalem is radical Islam's ultimate prize. As Egypt morphs into a radical Islamist state, it is no surprise that this is being openly championed.



"Yes, Jerusalem is our goal. We shall pray in Jerusalem, or die as martyrs on its threshold."

MOHAMED MURSI
MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

6 | EGYPT What will the new constitution look like?

Egypt's Islamists dominate the 100-strong group tasked with writing the country's new constitution. Parliament chose the Constituent Assembly members on March 25. The *Egypt Independent* reported that the "Islamists picked their own as much as they could," and that "[a]ll bankers and businessmen included in the assembly are from Islamist backgrounds, and the bankers work in Islamic banking" (March 25). In response, more than 20 members of the committee, including liberals, secularists and Coptic Christians, walked out in protest. Several lawyers also launched a lawsuit challenging the method of forming the assembly, which has resulted in the courts freezing the assembly.



At the lower house of Russian parliament, strongman Vladimir Putin makes a point so strongly that some lawmakers walk out.

1 | RUSSIA Giving America an excuse to retreat

AS VLADIMIR PUTIN RETURNS TO THE Kremlin, exuding more swagger than ever before, it's becoming clearer that Russia has shifted into a new, higher gear in its quest to rebuild the old Soviet power bloc.

In an especially bold statement just days before Putin's rule became official once again, Russia's top soldier said that if Washington forges ahead with plans to build missile defense facilities in Eastern Europe, Russia will destroy the posts with a preemptive strike.

Last year, then President Dmitry Medvedev said Russia would retaliate militarily if the U.S. failed to reach an agreement with Moscow on the missile defense system. But Chief of General Staff Nikolai Makarov ratcheted the rhetoric up to a new level in his May 3 statement, saying "if the situation worsens," the Russian military will "use destructive force preemptively." Makarov said that if Moscow and Washington fail to reach an agreement, Russia will "be forced to take military and technological measures" to protect itself. Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov warned that such a time is drawing near, saying talks between Moscow and Washington

regarding the shield are "close to a dead end."

Moscow's threats are not empty bluster. Russia is powerful militarily, and its recent threats were timed to coincide with the commissioning of a new military facility in Kaliningrad, its westernmost enclave, near the Polish border. This facility will be capable of monitoring missile launches from Europe and the North Atlantic, and will become capable of offensive measures. U.S. Sen. John McCain lambasted Russia's plans in Kaliningrad, saying the use of missile defense "as an excuse to have a military buildup in this part of the world, which is at peace, is really an egregious example of what might be even viewed as paranoia on the part of Vladimir Putin."

For many years, the subject of U.S. missile defense plans in Europe has been one of the touchiest in relations between Washington and Moscow. The U.S. and NATO say the missile defense system is intended only to counter Iran's missile threat. Moscow rejects this claim, saying the shield could undermine Russia's nuclear deterrent. The Kremlin has proposed running the missile shield jointly with NATO, but the alliance has rejected that offer.

Originally, Washington and NATO had planned to build a beefier version of the missile defense system. But, in order to appease the Russians, President Obama substituted that proposal with the current, less threatening plans. Critics said the substitution meant the Obama administration had effectively given Moscow veto power over U.S. defenses. But the concession wasn't enough for Moscow.

Russia has been displeased with the progress on the revised missile defense system. This displeasure led to President Obama's infamous open microphone gaffe in March, when he told Medvedev it would be wise to save the talks about the missile defense system until after U.S. elections, when Obama would have "more flexibility." But his attempts at greasing Russia's cogs failed to satisfy the Russians, as evidenced by the threat of a preemptive strike. In a May 10 reinforcement of Russia's stance on the matter,

President Putin told Washington he was too busy to come to the United States for a G-8 summit at Camp David the following week. Moscow also announced that Russia planned to sit out the NATO summit in Chicago on May 20-21.

Under Russian pressure, Washington has folded like an origami crane. The U.S.'s military weariness is more evident with each passing month, and Russia's belligerence gives Washington yet another reason to slide out of Eastern Europe.

Who, then, is willing to provide security to Eastern Europe if Washington won't? The mantle of responsibility will ultimately pass to Germany. Germany is the perfect candidate, because it is both powerful enough to provide protection and also on increasingly amicable terms with Russia.

European states are already aware of the fading relevance of Washington and NATO in the region and are taking measures to replace them. Ireland recently joined the Scandinavian and Baltic states to form the Nordic Battlegroup. Meanwhile, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia formed the Visegrad Group. Stratfor said both of these military alliances are "responses to a militarily powerful Russia lying to the east" (May 9). They are just as much a response to the U.S.'s eroding military willpower.

European nations can plainly see that the U.S. is now a bankrupt nation with a shattered will. If the Visegrad countries and the Nordic Battlegroup nations have picked up on America's fading capability, and have taken drastic measures to compensate for it, surely Germany will soon follow suit. And European calls for Germany to rearm and assert its power are becoming louder all the time.

As Russia's desire to rebuild its former Soviet glory intensifies, so does its saber rattling and its actual military capabilities. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has said that Russia's resurgence is significant mostly because it will prod Europe to unify more quickly. Russia's "power will be able to challenge Europe when nobody else can," he said, adding that Russia's rise "strikes intense fear in Europe" (January 2004). The threat from Russia's top military officer gives the beleaguered U.S. an excuse to wash its hands of the missile defense project and to entrust Eastern Europe's protection to Germany. Moscow's expanding military might and intensifying threats will hasten America's egress from the region, and Russia's European neighbors will take note and consolidate their power with Berlin at the helm.

1 | RUSSIA

2 | CHINA

Unity as deep as the ocean

On April 23-24, Russian and Chinese warships held joint exercises in the Yellow Sea. The drills focused on joint air defense, supply, anti-submarine, and search and rescue operations. China's Vice Adm. Ding Yiping said the exercise would test the warfare abilities of both navies and advance their cooperation ability. The drill was the seventh between Russian and Chinese armed forces since 2003 and marks a deepening unity between the two Asian giants.

3 | JAPAN

Marines pulling out

The United States agreed on April 27 to withdraw 9,000 marines from Okinawa, Japan, and move them to Guam, Hawaii and Australia. Officials say the deal was meant to reduce the burden on the people of Okinawa, but it also represents a shift in Japan's priorities—away from the U.S. security alliance and toward stronger ties with Asian nations, namely China.



Philippines try to stand up to China, which has threatened the country with war.

2 | CHINA 4 | PHILIPPINES

A standoff intensifies

CHINA'S STATE-RUN *PLA DAILY* PUBLISHED A COMMENTARY on May 10 titled "Don't Attempt to Take Away Half an Inch of China's Territory," which said: "Anyone's attempt to take away China's sovereignty over Huangyan Island will not be allowed by the Chinese government, people, and armed forces." The article warned against mistaking "China's kindness for weakness." The same day, China told its citizens they are not safe in the Philippines and warned of a possible war.

The row began April 10 when a Philippine warship accused Chinese fishermen of illegal entry and poaching in Philippine waters, and attempted to arrest them. The attempt was stopped by the arrival of two Chinese government vessels, which ordered the Philippine ship to leave the shoal. The Philippine ship refused to back down, saying the Huangyan territory lay within Philippine waters. (The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea designates a country's exclusive economic zone as 230 miles from its coastline. The shoal in question is 140 miles from the Philippine coast.) The Philippines asked China to bring the simmering dispute to an international court, but Beijing refused and dispatched a third ship to the shoal.

As China's might grows, watch for its belligerent behavior to also increase.

2 | CHINA Official: Asians unite!

China's Vice Premier Li Keqiang delivered a keynote speech on April 4 saying Asia's people "are working together to embrace a new rise." Li said a united Asia requires individual nations "to continue working together like passengers traveling in the same boat [China is] ready to work with relevant countries to improve such regional cooperation mechanisms as China-ASEAN cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization" As a result of Beijing's relentless unity measures, Asian nations will increasingly rally behind the rising Chinese star.



Li Keqiang



2 | CHINA 5 | NORTH KOREA

What's an illegal missile test between friends?

Chinese President Hu Jintao met with a top North Korean official on April 23 to reaffirm ties between the two nations just 10 days after the North illegally tested a missile.



China's Hu

Beijing has criticized some of Pyongyang's actions but opposes attempts by the United Nations to impose new sanctions on the rogue state. With China maintaining its role as North Korea's protector, it is unlikely that any nation will take action against North Korea's nuclear development. Watch for China to continue to use erratic North Korea as a proxy to intimidate its Asian neighbors and antagonize the West.

2 | CHINA Taking over a U.S. bank

On May 11, the United States opened its banking market to China's biggest bank, ICBC, marking the first time a U.S. bank is open for takeover by a Chinese state-run firm. ICBC has around \$2.5 trillion in assets, and is the most aggressive of China's "big four" banks in terms of overseas expansion. The planned takeover is part of a general deepening of China's footprint in U.S. markets, and America's financial diseases will accelerate the trend.

"This unprecedented acquisition of a controlling stake in a U.S. commercial bank by a mainland bank is strategically significant."

JIANG JIANQING ICBC CHAIRMAN

NUMBERS

7 Number of joint Russian-Chinese military drills since 2003

10 Days after North Korea illegally tested a missile that China reaffirmed its ties with the rogue state

47 Percent by which the U.S. will slash its Marine force in Okinawa

1 | VENEZUELA 2 | CARIBBEAN

An unholy alliance

LATIN AMERICA IS BECOMING A NEW PLATFORM, FUNDRAISING center and operational base to wage asymmetric warfare against the United States. Though the region has long been home to fringe elements antagonistic toward U.S. influence, recent years have seen the menace swell into mainstream politics.

The threat is manifested in large part by the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), a Latin American-Caribbean cooperation organization spearheaded by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez in 2004. ALBA professes commitment to regional economic integration, but a closer look reveals it to be devoted above all to anti-Americanism and comprised of members who have rigged elections to avoid losing power. Moreover, membership in ALBA brings countries into common cause with the world's most destabilizing nations and most malicious terrorist groups.



Venezuela's
Chávez

The man most responsible for ALBA's spread is Hugo Chávez. His checkbook has wide ideological and cultural appeal in Latin America and the Caribbean. Chávez's anti-American message is one that many leaders appear eager to latch on to. Caribbean prime ministers praise Chávez's developments while they blame the U.S. for their own economic woes and soaring crime rates.

Latin American expert Joel Hirst, who has called ALBA "a subversive plan to create a 'New World Order,'" wrote of its Mideast link in a January column cautioning Haiti against accepting an invitation by ALBA to become a member. "In partnership with the Iranians and their many non-state actors [or terrorist groups], [ALBA] seeks to dismantle representative democracy and the institutions of representative government in order to replace them with a different model," he wrote. That model, a new socialism, would use a chaotic "participatory democracy" to put the region back under the rule of military dictators, or *caudillos*, he wrote. "These *caudillos* use their power to create blackout zones for criminal organizations to work with terrorist groups to launder money and conspire."

Although the Obama administration downplays the dangers presented by ALBA's rising power, the frequent visits of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to the region have raised the eyebrows of some U.S. policymakers. "These alliances can pose an immediate threat by giving Iran—[the Revolutionary Guards] or its proxies like Hezbollah—a platform in the region to carry out attacks against the United States, our interests, and allies," said U.S. Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

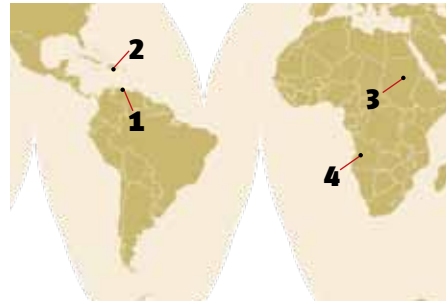
"There is a Chávez terror network on America's doorstep," said Rebecca Theodore, senior editor of *Caribbean News Now*. Theodore said the danger of terrorists entering the U.S. via Latin America and the Caribbean is imminent. "It won't be long before Iranian terrorists with Venezuelan and Dominican passports stand in line and show their documents to U.S. border agents as well," she said.

The thickening alliance between anti-U.S. ALBA nations and West-hating terrorist groups like Hezbollah reveals that the Middle Eastern extremists who oppose the U.S. are becoming better connected, more powerful, and closer to America's borders. It also reveals that U.S. influence is rapidly waning in a region it relies on heavily for industrial cooperation.

4 | ANGOLA

European inroads

European Commission Chairman José Manuel Barroso began a three-day visit to Angola on April 18 at the invitation of the Angolan government. He met with President José Eduardo dos Santos and the speaker of the National Assembly, exchanging views on economic cooperation and African security issues. Barroso said the European Union's relations with Angola are important since the country is gradually rising regionally and globally. He said the EU is willing to increase communication and coordination with Angola on international and regional issues. The EU also agreed to provide a fund of more than €1 million to create non-governmental organizations there. The *Trumpet* continues to watch world powers to see which ones will lay hold on the rich resources of Africa. Based on Bible prophecy, we predict that the German-led EU will eventually control access to much of those resources.



Sudanese troops cheer President Omar al-Bashir at an oil center in Heglig.

3 | SUDAN A state of emergency

Sudan declared a state of emergency on April 29 for areas bordering South Sudan. Tensions are high between the two neighbors along their oil-rich border region less than a year after South Sudan seceded from Sudan. The decree gives Sudanese authorities wide powers to make arrests and set up special courts. There are concerns that the two nations are preparing for all-out war after ongoing clashes over disputed territory and control of oil resources. Earlier in April, South Sudanese troops attacked and captured the oil-rich Heglig area. Sudan later said it recaptured it, while South Sudan said its troops pulled out to avoid an all-out war. After South Sudan said it was withdrawing its troops from Heglig, Sudan dropped bombs on the South, killing civilians. The largely Catholic South Sudan seceded from Muslim-dominated Sudan in July 2011 after a referendum. The referendum was part of a 2005 peace deal that ended more than 20 years of civil war. But issues such as the sharing of oil revenues and demarcation of the border remain unresolved and have sparked numerous clashes. This conflict is a part of a greater clash between Muslims and Catholics.



Barroso

A telling boo-boo

President Barack Obama took some flack recently for referring to the Falkland Islands as the “Maldives”—intending to use the term Malvinas, as the Argentines refer to them. Speaking at the Summit of the Americas, President Obama reiterated his stance of neutrality over the Falklands: “And in terms of the Maldives or the Falklands, whatever your preferred term, our position on this is that we are going to remain neutral.



... [T]his is not something that we typically intervene in.” The fact that he would even try to use the Argentine term highlights the growing

rift between the Obama administration and Great Britain. At the very least, the president’s speech gave legitimacy to Argentina’s outlandish claim over the islands. Gaffe or not, and intended or not, the president attempting to refer to the Falklands as the Malvinas was a slap in Britain’s face.

Britons for independence!

The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) has overtaken the Liberal Democrats to become the country’s third-most popular party, according to a YouGov poll published April 17. Nine percent of those questioned said they would vote for UKIP, while 8 percent said they would vote for the Lib Dems, a member of the ruling coalition. British dissatisfaction with the European Union is increasing. Watch for Britain to leave or get kicked out.

UK is telling *who* to rearm?

BRITISH DEFENSE SECRETARY PHILIP HAMMOND SAID Germany must recognize “that it can’t continue to be the dominant economy in Europe without also significantly increasing its military capability.” After talking with his German counterpart Thomas de Maizière in Germany on May 2, Hammond chastised Germany for its “historic reluctance to deploy and operate overseas” and called on it to deliver “more usable firepower” to NATO.

This view, which goes far beyond the defense minister, shows a shallow grasp of history. On May 4, the House of Lords European Union Committee published a report on European defense, where it drew the same conclusions. For the EU to have “an effective security and defense policy,” Germany must play a bigger role, it said. It sees America pulling its military out of Europe, making cuts and focusing on the Pacific. “Europe really does have to start to get its act together, and the only player that’s really missing in that is Germany, Europe’s powerhouse,” the chairmen of the committee, Lord Teverson, told BBC Radio 4’s *Today* program. Lord Teverson dismissed any concerns about Germany’s history by saying the war was over 60 years ago. In a deeper view of history, however, 60 years is not that long.

The famous document agreed by Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin at the Yalta Conference read: “It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to ensure that Germany *will never again* be able to disturb the peace of the world” (emphasis added). The document went on to use phrases like “break up for all time.” However, people have lulled themselves into a false sense of security throughout man’s history.



An Arizona couple browses weapons at a trade show.

Annie, get your gun

AS AMERICA’S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO SUFFER FROM THE aftereffects of the worst recession since the Great Depression, one industry in particular has bucked the trend and churned out astronomical profits: firearms. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the total economic impact of firearm sales—including jobs, taxes and sales—hit \$31 billion in 2011, an increase of more than 63 percent since 2008. Jobs in the firearms industry jumped a full 30 percent over the same time period.

The U.S. has the highest rate of civilian gun ownership in the world. According to the *New Yorker* magazine, there are now nearly 300 million privately owned firearms in the country. People are stocking up on guns and ammunition to protect themselves. But once shooting breaks out, there are enough weapons in the nation to unleash a wave of violence unseen in America since the Civil War.

In the fifth chapter of Ezekiel, God reveals that one third of the people in modern-day Israel will be killed in a plague of violence just before a German-led invasion. The proliferation of guns at a time when the country is beset by drug cartels, terrorists and violent protesters shows that America is nearing this prophesied episode of violence.

Unspeakable brutality

Mexico’s grisly drug-related violence is inching closer and closer to the U.S. border. The bodies of 43 men and six women were found in the Mexican town of San Juan on the highway to the border city of Reynosa on May 13. The bodies were found with their heads, hands and feet cut off. Several bore tattoos associating them with drug traffickers. Sadly, this is only the latest event of its kind. Previously this month, 23 bodies were found dumped or hanging in the city of Nuevo Laredo, and 18 were found along a highway south of Guadalajara, Mexico’s second-largest city. In April, police found the mutilated bodies of 14 men in a minivan abandoned in downtown Nuevo Laredo, along with a message from an undisclosed drug gang. Mexican drug cartels have been waging an increasingly bloody war to control smuggling routes, local drug markets and extortion rackets. These transport routes to American customers help the cartels rake in anywhere from \$8 to \$35 billion a year.



Body bags in Mexico



Is a population explosion an evil—or a blessing? The answer is not what you think! **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

ON OCT. 31, 2011, PHOTOGRAPHERS and United Nations officials crowded into a hospital in Manila, awaiting the arrival of a very special visitor. She came just before midnight, instantly greeted by oohs and ahs and popping flashbulbs.

Danica May Camacho was no supermodel or starlet. She was a newborn. The UN had selected her to symbolically represent the planet's 7 billionth person.

The hype surrounding Danica's birth was manufactured to draw our attention to the burgeoning global populace—and the challenge of sustaining it. Earth now supports more people than at any time in its history. And serious questions about just *how much higher that number can realistically go* are weighing on thinking people the world over.

Futurists have predicted for decades that the population explosion would threaten

civilization. Paul Ehrlich's 1968 book *The Population Bomb* predicted that hundreds of millions would starve to death in the 1970s, including 65 million Americans, in "a great die-off." To this point, though, advancements in producing and managing our food, water, energy, pollution, waste and wealth have outpaced the difficulties. And people just keep multiplying. In fact, every single day, births outpace deaths by *more than 200,000 people*.

Does our world suffer from having just "TOO MANY PEOPLE"? It's an important—and fascinating—question.

The book of Genesis records God's command to the first man and woman, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." God *wanted* the human population to grow, and He provided ample material blessings in order to sustain it.

However, a lot of impoverished people haven't enjoyed those blessings, and there are more poor than ever. Meanwhile, others' complex modern lifestyles are devouring resources far faster than ever in human history—not just oil, coal and

natural gas, but also metals, minerals and other elements we use every day. If industrialized nations actually started running out of some of these things, the result would be *massive* disruptions.

The truth is, ominous evidence is already emerging that we are beginning to run out of easily accessible supplies of these resources. Not just a few of them. Practically *all of them*.

Mankind is nearing a crossroads. The population and standards of living cannot keep rising indefinitely. At some point soon, the human race is going to hit "peak people."

But again, is the problem simply that there are too many of us? There is a deeper cause we must face.

How Many Is Too Many?

How many people can comfortably live on Earth at one time? Ecologists and other scientists have pondered this "carrying capacity" for years. Now the question is getting more urgent.

How can we keep everyone fed, watered, clean and healthy? How can we dispose of their waste and trash? How can we house everyone and provide them with energy? How many can have electricity,



JAM-PACKED Some people think the answer to overcrowding is to reduce the amount of human life on the planet.

cars, appliances? What happens when demand for oil, coal and natural gas exceeds supply?

These questions are destined to become more urgent as the populace keeps expanding, particularly as expectations about standards of living rise.

In the world's most populous nation, a burgeoning middle class is suddenly demanding luxuries that have long been restricted to the Western world: more meat on the table, more cars in the garage. China is now actually the world's largest automobile manufacturer, making more cars last year than the United States and Japan put together.

Right now, America has less than 5 percent of the world's people and consumes 20 percent of its resources. What happens when 10 or 20 percent of the world wants to live like Americans?

In the early 1990s, William Rees and Mathis Wackernagel conceived of the Global Footprint Network (GFN), a model for estimating the ecological demands that various standards of living put on the planet. They calculated that the *average person on Earth* needs 4.4 acres of land and sea to support him. To maintain current living standards, the average person

in China needs 5.4 acres, and the typical American needs nearly 20 acres.

Ehrlich, who still lectures as a professor in population studies at Stanford, estimates that for the average human to live like the average American, *we would need four or five more Earths.*

Estimates of Earth's carrying capacity vary wildly. But most serious estimates fall between *10 and 20 billion people.*

That size population, though, would require *revolutionary changes* from our world as it is today, which is already facing supply problems with only 7 billion. Clearly, to bring this planet to the point where it would comfortably support a population two to three times what it is now would require far better stewardship of its resources than we exercise, and far greater cooperation within that population.

Realistically, could that ever happen?

We are beginning to approach the answer to our question.

Insatiable Demand

Those who claim the world is producing too many people have some compelling evidence.

Humanity is clearly on an unsustainable course. We simply cannot continue

to mismanage, consume and pollute the way we are right now. Current demand is rapidly depleting current supplies of finite resources like oil, coal, natural gas, metals, minerals and even water. New discoveries of easily accessed sources are getting more rare, and older sources are declining in output.

Meanwhile, demand continues to rise. Last year oil use reached a record high of 87.4 million barrels a day. Based on the GFN model and present rates of growth in demand, Rees and Wackernagel calculate that mankind will need *two Earths' worth of resources*—before we even hit 2040. They also estimate that it takes the planet *18 months* to regenerate what humanity consumes in *12 months*. "Humanity is living off its ecological credit card," Wackernagel said in 2006.

Peaking supply and rising demand point to an inevitable crunch that, at the very least, will drive prices up to levels that could ruin already fragile economies.

One obvious sign of the approach of this crisis point is the means by which more and more resources are being collected today. Easily accessible reservoirs of crucial

Chilling 'Solutions' to Population Growth

Many brilliant people have contemplated our resource reality in great depth. They have recognized the problem, applied their sharpest reasoning, and come up with exactly the opposite of God's remedy—a "final solution," if you will: *Get rid of the people.*

The way they see it, the more people, the worse off we are. They are bigoted against their own *human* race. Radical environmentalists, for example, freely admit that they think humans are basically viruses. They want to take civilization back to hunter-gatherer days. Their answer is not better resource stewardship. Not less human nature. *Fewer humans.*

Some of these influential individuals have promoted very draconian and quite chilling ways to accomplish this goal. These people share much in common with some of history's most oppressive governments. Both use the facts on population and resource use to justify outlawing large families, forced sterilization, aborting babies, female infanticide and other dreadful "solutions."

In China, over a third of married couples are restricted to having one child. Beijing credits the policy with preventing 400 million births since 1979. The head of the British government's Sustainable Development Commission, Sir Jonathon Porritt, considers that a smashing success, calling it "the biggest carbon dioxide abatement since Kyoto came into force." His organization, the Optimum Population Trust, seeks to combat greenhouse gas emissions by cutting Britain's population in half—through means it doesn't specify.



resources are disappearing, so governments and corporations have begun to exploit more difficult-to-reach, expensive, environmentally risky and even dangerous sources. Oil is being coaxed out of the inhospitable Arctic and from the ocean depths, where it creates disasters like the massive Gulf of Mexico spill in the summer of 2010. It is coming from tar sands, a costly process that takes an enormous amount of energy to harvest and convert into a usable form. Natural gas is being mined through hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," which can produce 80 million gallons of toxic wastewater per well and may have other environmental drawbacks. Rare earth minerals, used in a variety of modern technologies, are in short supply. Because of the environmental dangers of mining them, America shut down its rare earth production years ago. Meanwhile, China bought up a virtual monopoly on these commodities, and now is able to practically hold to ransom the rest of the world that seeks to use them.

One of the most basic human needs is food, but modern food production now faces rising oil and gas prices, which increase food production costs at every level of the process, including for the pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Phosphorus, crucial for fertilizer, cannot keep up with rising demand. Arable land is becoming scarcer as we degrade and erode our soil with ruinous farming practices. Most of the world's big fisheries are experiencing dramatic declines in supply. Adverse

weather events like droughts and floods are increasing, which reduce crop yields or even wipe out harvests.

Look at these concerns in the big picture: Already, more than a billion of the world's people are undernourished, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says. Meanwhile, food production is rising at *only about half* the rate of global population and food *demand*.

More People, More Suffering

For those of us who take basic needs like decent food and clean water for granted, it is easy to overlook the vast swaths of fellow Earth-dwellers who have little of either. For so many, the problem of resource scarcity is as real as the gnawing pain in their empty, distended bellies.

Every day almost 4,000 children die from waterborne diseases. Nearly a billion people lack access to safe water. The FAO says that number will rise to 1.8 billion by 2025. Over 2.5 billion don't have adequate sanitation.

Drought and food shortages in the Sahel region of West Africa are putting 23 million lives at risk, the UN says. Several African countries have suffered from these problems consistently for the past few decades, but they are growing worse. The UN Children's Fund estimated earlier this year that a million young children in the Sahel region risk death or permanent disability from severe acute malnutrition. Malnutrition contributes to about a third of the deaths of children under age 5.

How much of these crises are attributable to the raw pressure of overpopulation?

We cannot ignore the plain fact that most of the world's population growth is happening in less developed areas. While birthrates in much of the First World aren't even at replacement levels, Africa and Asia are reproducing like mad. Based on current trends, Africa's population would double to 2.1 billion by 2050; Asia would add another 1.3 billion. By 2050, the world's less-developed regions would hold 85 percent of the world's 9.2 billion people. The great majority would grow up in conditions of moderate to extreme want—like the 2 billion people who already survive on less than \$2 per day.

Of the 80 million babies born in developing countries each year, 20 million are in the world's poorest nations. In these cases, *growth in human population directly correlates to growth in human suffering.* THE MORE PEOPLE, THE MORE SUFFERING!

However, in most of these cases, blaming the crisis on "too many people" is simplistic and misguided. The truth is more complicated.

Many analysts say there is still plenty of food and water to go around. *It just isn't getting to where it is needed.* Why? Economic trouble, poverty, rising unemployment, dropping incomes, rising food prices, bad leadership, corruption, violence, war.

This truth lies at the crux of our fundamental question! The problem isn't that the Earth lacks good resources, it's that people lack good resource *management*. It isn't too many humans—it's too much *human nature*.

This dangerous reality is about to explode in our faces!

Resource Wars

With many population- and resource-related issues, one can easily foresee mankind soon starting to hit some immovable walls. There is no "central planning" to address most of these questions.

What is beginning to emerge, then, is an increasingly combative environment in which each country angles to secure its own future by staking its claims at whatever cost it deems necessary. Author Michael Klare says the world is plunging into "a crisis of resource depletion." The title of his book is as chilling as it is fitting: *A Race for What's Left*.

Africa and Latin America are becoming battlegrounds, particularly between China and Europe, over who will control the commodities locked away there. Several countries, especially in Asia, anticipate trouble on the horizon and have been snapping up huge tracts of African farmland—not to feed Africans, but to feed their own people. More and more, major powers are treating each other based on

competition over energy resources, with energy exporters virtually weaponizing the political leverage they wield against their dependent importers.

History vividly illustrates the consequences of such rivalries: *broken economies, societal upheaval, famine, war.*

But it is not just history that should raise our concerns. These are exactly the sorts of perilous conditions that *biblical prophecy* reveals will besiege our world in its final days, a time we have now entered. Epic clashes over resources, within and among populations, are coming!

The Bible describes these events alongside the sudden emergence of a global economic superpower. This force will strike out in aggressive imperialistic fashion, gobbling up resources and even *enslaving whole peoples* to satiate its covetousness and stoke its engines! Scripture also describes the exact size of a combined Asiatic army—a multitude that would never have been possible before the population on that continent grew to the size it is today! (Revelation 9:16).

This is how “this present evil world,” as the Bible describes it, will come to its violent end! Scripture says the warfare will become so slaughterous that *not a single human being would be left alive*—unless God Himself intervenes to stop it! (Matthew 24:21-22).

Thankfully, that is exactly what He will do. These monumental world wars are not the end of the story on the human population. Biblical prophecy also reveals what lies beyond the ferocious end of this age.

The Coming Population Explosion!

The human race has produced four times as many people in the last 100 years as we did in the previous 5,900 years! And consider what happened in the brutal 20th century: two massive world wars and countless smaller wars, several famines, disease epidemics, pestilence. Yet the global population still boomed from 1.6 billion in 1900 to 7 billion people today!

The rocketing population rate isn’t a result of people having more children—in fact, birth rates are lower now than during previous periods in history. The difference is that people are living longer and having children who survive infancy.

What would happen if world conditions suddenly changed even more drastically for the better?

What would happen if there were *no war, no famine, no disease epidemics, no infant death* or other blights that shorten life spans and wipe out whole groups of people? How would this affect quality of life, fertility, life spans—and population growth?

Whether or not you believe it, the sure word of biblical prophecy *promises that*

A Phenomenally Recent Phenomenon



this is exactly what will happen!

Present world conditions reveal the imminence of the greatest event in history: *the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.* When He returns, Christ will establish a far better world than the one our children are being born into.

The prophecies in Scripture describe conditions of peace, prosperity, abundance, good health and strong families that will prevail for century after century—10 of them, in fact (e.g. Revelation 20:4). They promise that people will obey God’s health laws and spiritual laws on a broad scale. As a result, there will be no sickness, no pain, no suffering. There will be, as Herbert Armstrong wrote in *Mystery of the Ages*, “vigorous, vibrant good health, filled with dynamic interest in life, enthusiastic interest in constructive activities bringing happiness and joy.”

Clearly, these are conditions extremely conducive to population growth even *more explosive* than this planet has already seen over the past century.

Now, as the current strains over resources well illustrate, *indiscriminate population growth* is not desirable. Our planet contains a *finite* amount of God-given resources over which He has made us stewards.

Earth *cannot* sustain several billion people who all consume and waste resources like Americans do today. It cannot indefinitely provide for multiplying people who pollute its waters and skies, turn its forests into deserts, strip its soils and depopulate its animal species.

However, biblical prophecy offers

practical insight into how these destructive practices will come to an end. It provides exhilarating details about how the questions of population expansion and resource management will be handled. It vividly describes a world where people treat this planet with respect—where they properly steward its resources—where they strive to maximize Earth’s productive potential, not just for themselves but also for their children and grandchildren—and where, as a result, they enjoy God’s richest blessings!

Be Fruitful and Multiply

Just as He told Adam and Eve, God *wants* human beings to fill the Earth! (e.g. Psalm 128). And He promises that, after He prevents them from annihilating themselves, they will do so again. In Isaiah 27:6, for example, He prophesies, “Israel shall blossom and bud, and **FILL** the face of the world with fruit.”

That future population boom takes on an inspiring dimension when viewed in the context of God’s great *purpose* for the human race.

God made man in His own image and likeness; He gave him dominion over the animals; He told him to *subdue* the Earth—to *govern* it; He commissioned him to *dress and keep* the world around him—to work it and watch over it (Genesis 1:26-29; 2:15; Psalm 8:4-8). Do you know *why*?

The Bible makes clear that these responsibilities are intended to prepare human beings for *much greater* opportunities in the future!

Sixty Years ... and What Lies Ahead



Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee comes after the sunset of an empire and during a national night of confusion and global disorder. **BY RON FRASER**

ONLY TWO BRITISH MONARCHS have celebrated 60 years on the ancient throne of Britain: Queen Victoria and, as of June, Queen Elizabeth II.

"Pax Britannica" under Queen Victoria contrasts sharply against "Annus Horribilis" under Queen Elizabeth. Victoria ruled during a century of general peace and order. Elizabeth has reigned during a half century of tumult.

Victoria presided over the most rapid and progressive growth of the British Empire in terms of territorial gain, naval power and wealth. But it has been the lot of Elizabeth II to hold the throne during Britain's most rapid demise from empire to second-rate power, its exchequer starved, and its current navy unable to protect its shriveled territory. The year of Elizabeth's marriage, Britain lost the "jewel in the imperial crown," India. Four months before her 50th wedding anniversary, the empire lost Hong Kong.

Neither monarch can be blamed for the prevailing world conditions of her time.

In fact, where Victoria I was in perpetual mourning following the death of her beloved Albert,

Elizabeth II has been a most public monarch, an inveterate world traveler, an indefatigable supporter of good causes, and a great mixer with her subjects in public, even at risk to her person.

Few who truly understand the duties of a modern British monarch can genuinely criticize the manner in which Queen Elizabeth has acquitted herself in her regal office over the past six decades. Since she ascended to the throne in 1952 at the age of 26, she has paid impeccable, serious, even religious attention to her duties.

This remarkable, regal woman stirs deep affection in the hearts of her subjects. During a 1963 visit Down Under, Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies quoted a famous English verse to her: "I did but see her passing by, and yet I'll love her till I die."

Having observed Queen Elizabeth's exchanges with heads of government from the press gallery, I have been struck by the degree of respect she receives from heads of Commonwealth nations and foreign dignitaries. Canadian author Leah McLean recently described her first close-up encounter with the Queen's natural warmth and charm. "[S]uddenly there she was: Elizabeth II, tiny and smiling

beatifically in mint-green skirt and gloves. She was paler and prettier than I'd expected ... and had an extraterrestrial glow. ... The Queen clasped my right hand, looked me straight in the eye and said, 'How do you do?'" (*Spectator*, May 5).

Warm, personable, straightforward, Elizabeth radiates the warmth and dedication to duty one would hope for in a monarch of an empire, of a commonwealth, of one's own country.

Yet there is much more at play here than the Queen or even the turbulent world affairs that have disquieted her peoples.

The Real Significance of the Throne

Most of the former territories of the British Empire remain members of the Commonwealth of Nations. Sixteen still recognize the Queen as their head of state. But as these states celebrate the 60th anniversary of Elizabeth's ascension to the throne, no one will even think of—let alone publicly celebrate—the most remarkable aspect of her imperial heritage.

This foundational truth transcends the very British monarchy itself. *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry highlighted it in July 2002: "Queen Elizabeth II has been on her throne for 50 years," he wrote. "Her Golden Jubilee is being celebrated this summer. But in a few short years that throne will be celebrated around the world! You need to understand why."

Mr. Flurry quoted from a *Plain Truth*

article written in July 1953 on the occasion of Elizabeth's coronation: "To most Englishmen the coronation is the important ceremony of a generation, filled as it is with pomp, color and tradition. Britons proudly boast that in a world seething with revolutionary outbursts, they still possess a royal monarch.

"Yet the real significance was not the pomp and ceremony, the ritual of the Church of England to which Englishmen cling to provide consolation from their troubles. The *real significance*—and the most *astounding* fact—is that on the English throne is seated a descendant of the oldest ruling dynasty in the world—a

when fleeing from his father's house!" That account is in Genesis 28.

To view that old block of stone, with its unrusted ancient wrought iron rings hammered deep into either end, is to view three millennia of history. It can be a profoundly moving experience to those who know not only its rich history, but also the great promise it symbolizes for the future of humankind.

As Gerald Flurry wrote, "How utterly astounding that most people are ignorant of the throne's history and prophecy. Jesus Christ is going to sit on that throne when He returns."

How the Throne Came to Britain

Yet, as Queen Elizabeth's diamond anniversary celebration peaks in June with all the usual British pomp and pageantry, don't expect any public reference of this awesome heritage.



Request **The United States and Britain in Prophecy.** We will send you a free copy of this inspiring book.

Herbert Armstrong documented that heritage in *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, a book read by millions around the world.

In that book, Mr. Armstrong wrote about the Prophet Jeremiah's travels from the Middle East to Ireland: "[I]n 569 B.C. (date of Jeremiah's transplanting), an elderly, white-haired patriarch, sometimes referred to as a 'saint,' came to Ireland. With him was the princess daughter of an eastern king and a companion called 'Simon Brach,' spelled in different histories as Breck, Berech, Brach or Berach. The princess had a Hebrew name Tephi—a pet name—her full name being Tea-Tephi. ...

"This royal party included the son of the king of Ireland who had been in Jerusalem at the time of the siege. There he had become acquainted with Tea-Tephi. He married her shortly after 585—when the city fell. Their young son, now about 12 years of age, accompanied them to Ireland. Besides the royal family, Jeremiah brought with them some remarkable things, including the harp, an ark, and a wonderful stone called 'lia-fail,' or 'stone of destiny.' ...

"[A] strange coincidence—or is it just coincidence?—is that many kings in the history of Ireland, Scotland, and England have been coronated sitting over this stone—including the present queen."

In A.D. 1296, King Edward seized that stone and took it to London, where it resided for centuries in Westminster Abbey.

In 1996, after 700 years, the British government returned it to Scotland. Gerald Flurry made this observation at the time: "John Major, the prime minister of Britain, decided to send 'the stone of destiny'



THE THRONE Queen Elizabeth II was crowned over a special stone on an ancient throne with an awesome history.

dynasty which God established and which He has protected and perpetuated through every generation for almost 3,000 years!

"England's throne is important in God's sight! Men can't abolish it! God said so!"

Would you believe this astonishing assertion is backed explicitly in the Bible? "For thus saith the Lord; David shall never [lack] a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel" (Jeremiah 33:17). "That is a promise from God!" Mr. Flurry wrote. "That throne is on Earth today, and it's going to continue forever!"

A Stone of Destiny

The *Plain Truth* article went on to point to a remarkable tradition: Queen Elizabeth II was crowned while seated on the ancient King Edward's Chair—over an even more ancient block of sandstone. Why?

"Ancient Irish annals prove the rock—which they called 'lia fail,' meaning stone of destiny—did *not* originate in Ireland, but came by way of Spain *from the east*. It was brought by a white-haired old man—a prophet—who also brought a daughter of an eastern king. Through her marriage to the king of Ireland, she not only *continued her father's* throne, but also became the ancestor of a dynasty which has continued to Elizabeth II, who was crowned Queen on June 2 over the stone of destiny. ...

"Believe it or not, this is the very stone upon which the patriarch Jacob rested his head that evening about 3,700 years ago

back to Scotland. Queen Elizabeth was required to and did give her approval. This has created quite a furor in Britain. The decision has captured media headlines around the world. The most amazing part of this story is the lack of understanding. Newspapers and magazines label it 'the stone of destiny.' But I haven't read one story where they explain what that means! Why it is called the 'stone of destiny' is the most amazing story on this Earth!

"Jeremiah probably knew more about the 'stone of destiny' than any prophet called out of this world. He personally delivered the stone all the way from Jerusalem to Ireland. He was one of three prophets chosen from the womb (Jeremiah 1:5). John the Baptist and Jesus Christ were the other two. That puts him in very good company!

"That should give us some idea of the importance of this stone. What a prestigious messenger God used to deliver it to Ireland! This stone is a part of the very throne Jesus Christ is to sit on when He returns to this Earth (Luke 1:30-33). It represents salvation to the whole world! The world cannot even imagine the great destiny of this stone! What a past! What a future! I believe this stone is the most precious physical thing on this Earth" (*Philadelphia Trumpet*, August 1996).

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committed by the great cherub Lucifer, who became Satan the devil. To understand the root cause of sin in humanity, we must look to Satan's life and learn from his mistakes.

What caused Lucifer to sin? Through the Prophet Ezekiel, God says to Satan, "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity [lawlessness] was found in thee" (Ezekiel 28:14-15). God specially created Lucifer to be a great angel and trained him at the very throne of God to administer God's government on Earth. (For more information about this important history, request a free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential* by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

Lucifer saw how God lived. He saw firsthand the fruits of His righteousness and character. He also had inside knowledge as to God's plans for the universe. Ezekiel 28:12 describes Lucifer as a being who was "full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty." God gave Lucifer everything he needed to be successful. But something went tragically wrong.

"Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (verse 15). Lucifer SINNED! A great spiritual being, who had all the credentials to please God, rebelled against God's law. Lucifer took on a rebellious nature and became Satan the devil. He became God's number one adversary.

Verse 17 tells us why: "*Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.*"

The root cause of Satan's sin was his own VANITY! Very pleased with all the gifts God created in him, Satan corrupted his wisdom. He began to trust in his own abilities to decide what was right or wrong. He began to feel that he was above God's law. He began to feel that he was better than God—that he had a better way. Eventually, he decided to overthrow God.

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:13-14). Satan's vanity led him to believe he was as good or better than God Himself.

What is the root cause of human sin? It is VANITY. The Ten Commandments show us what sin IS; vanity causes us to DO IT!

If we are going to overcome sin, we must know what sin is. But we must also

Sin Is ... Are You Sure You Know?

To enjoy the blessings God wants to give us, we must deeply understand the way of life to avoid. **BY DENNIS LEAP**

"SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF the law," says 1 John 3:4. This important scripture teaches us where to look for a definition of sin: to the Ten Commandments. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 7:7: "Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law."

But this is only a start for understanding sin. We need to know not only the definition of sin, but also where sin starts and how it operates in our lives. We need to understand the *root cause* of sin in humanity. And we need to fully understand the *consequences* of sin.

Romans 7:14 says the law is "spiritual." This means several things. The most important

lesson this verse teaches us is that there are *eternal consequences* for disobedience to God's spiritual law. Romans 6:23 tells us that "the wages of sin is death." The penalty for sin *unrepented of* is ETERNAL death! This fact should drive us to be sure we understand deeply the truth about sin.

But Romans 7:14 also teaches us that the truth about sin must be *revealed by God*. It is spiritual knowledge. God is willing to reveal this knowledge to anyone who will listen and obey.

Where Did Sin Begin?

Who committed the first sin? Was it mother Eve? No.

The first sin in the universe was

understand what *causes* us to sin. Just like Satan, it is OUR OWN VANITY that causes us to think that we can decide for ourselves what is right and wrong—that we are equal to or better than God! When we sin, it is because we think we know better than God.

First Human Sin Caused by Vanity

That is what caused Eve to sin. Read the first five verses of Genesis 3. If we look closely at this example, we see the root cause of her sin: Satan got to her through *vanity*. Satan made Eve doubt God's words. He said that she could become a god; he appealed to her vanity.

God had explained to Adam and Eve that their purpose for being on Earth was to become members of the God Family. God explained that this process would take time. But Satan told Eve she could have it all immediately. She could have God-level power to decide right and wrong—instantly!

Eve succumbed to her vanity and, as verse 6 explains, used human reasoning to justify her sin.

Christ Conquered Satan With Humility

Satan used a similar tactic on Jesus Christ. Matthew records this monumental confrontation in his Gospel. "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:3-4). Jesus Christ set the perfect example of humility.

Humility protects us from committing sin. Satan tried to get to Jesus through vanity by saying: "If thou be the Son of God." Satan *knew* Christ was the Son of God. In an appeal to vanity, Satan tried to get Christ to perform a miracle to prove it. This would have caused Christ to act outside the scope of God's will and the spirit of His law—causing Christ to sin. God had willed that Christ should fast until after His confrontation with Satan. Matthew 4:1 says that "Jesus [was] led up of the Spirit."

Paul wrote to the Romans: "therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). If Jesus Christ had made the stones into bread, He would have yielded to Satan and violated the First Commandment. By creating bread, He would not have shown love to God or His fellow man; He would have served self! In an effort to prove that He was the Son of God, He would have succumbed to vanity and worshiped Satan!

Read through the entire account. Satan begins each temptation with an appeal to vanity.

If we are going to succeed at putting

sin out of our lives, then we must become sensitive to our own human vanity. EVERY HUMAN BEING IS SUBJECT TO IT! It is a mistake to think otherwise.

God has allowed us to come under Satan's sway because that is exactly what we have chosen—and because He is teaching us that vanity gets us nothing.

Satan is about to lose out on everything. God does not want that for us.

Who does God look to? "[T]o him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and [who] trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:2). This verse is an apt description of Jesus Christ. He beat Satan by remaining humble and relying on God's Word. We must learn to do the same.

Sin is a very deep subject, spiritually. All too often we look at the "do's and don'ts" aspect of sin. But we need to look more deeply for the *causes* of our sin. We must examine ourselves according to the *spirit* of God's law. That will force us to ask ourselves, *Why do I do the things I do?*

What gets us into the most trouble, spiritually? If we are honest with ourselves, the answer will always come up VANITY!

Attitude of Mind

If vanity is the root cause of sin, then where does sin *start* in a human being? Jesus Christ showed that sin starts *in the mind*—or as the Bible says, in the "heart."

Jesus said, "A good man out of the GOOD TREASURE OF THE HEART bringeth forth GOOD THINGS: and an evil man out of the EVIL TREASURE BRINGETH FORTH EVIL THINGS" (Matthew 12:34-35).

"[T]he heart' as used in the biblical sense, refers to the attitude, the intent or purpose," Herbert W. Armstrong wrote. "Sin results from a wrong attitude, intent, desire, which is an attitude of mind. Yet sin is also an act. It is the act of yielding to an attitude, desire or purpose contrary to LOVE toward God or toward humans" (July 11, 1983).

Mr. Armstrong taught that there are two basic ways of life: the "give" way of LOVE toward God and fellow man; and the "get" way of rebellion toward God, selfishness, envy and jealousy toward other men. This can also be expressed as two *attitudes of mind*, or *intents of the heart*. Our attitudes express either *love* or *selfishness*.

We need to examine our intents, or attitudes. We must ask ourselves: Are we really hungering after God's way of life? "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

A Christian should drive himself to be like God. We should truly *desire* God's way of life as much as we crave food and

water! If we are truly seeking that way, then we have the "right" or a "good" attitude of mind. Those who have a well-developed "good" attitude are less likely to be caught in sin. These people desire what God has to offer.

On the other hand, a bad attitude, or evil intent of the heart, is to love the ways of this world. The Apostle John warns against such an attitude. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:15-17).

If we are not seeking God's righteousness, then we are seeking the pleasures of this world. It can only be one way or the other. We cannot have one foot in God's way of life and one foot in the world (Matthew 6:24). We either have both feet in God's way of life or both feet in this world. Attempting to have one foot in God's way of life and one foot in the world actually means having both feet in the world.

Paul referred to man's civilization as "this present evil world" (Galatians 1:4). This world is evil because it is really Satan's world. "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2). Satan, the prince of the power of the air, inspires the attitude of "get" in human beings. It is he who works on our minds to desire what this world has to offer: self-glorification, pride, envy, jealousy and resentment toward authority.

Do we love this world? If we do, then we will get trapped in sin. Heed John's warning in 1 John 2:17. This world is going to come to a grand-smash conclusion. If we have this world's desires as our own, then we are doomed to share its penalties!

Deepen your understanding of what sin is. You owe it to Jesus Christ, who took on Himself your sins, to work hard to put sin out of your life. To accomplish this, you need to truly understand the root cause of sin: vanity. You also need to understand that sin starts in the heart and reflects an attitude of mind.

This world has a very casual attitude about sin. That is a terrible mistake. The ultimate penalty of sin is eternal death. It is a subject we must not take lightly. ■



INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ

Will Faith in Christ Save You?

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

YOU LIVE IN A MATERIALISTIC WORLD—a world that has lost the knowledge of the true God. Consequently, the whole world is now shaking with convulsions, leading up to a tremendous event. This present world breakdown, with world economic collapse, social unrest and religious confusion, is merely the warning signal that the end of the present civilization is here.

The Second Coming of Christ to establish a new order of world peace on Earth is near—much nearer than people think!

Speaking of His second appearance on Earth, Jesus Himself asked prophetically, “[W]hen the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). When He uttered those words, He was looking into the future—into our very present generation. He clearly foresaw the almost *total absence of faith* in our time!

Certainly the world has almost lost sight of real faith. No wonder so few have any faith—no wonder so many say, “My faith isn’t very strong”—or, “I just can’t seem to work up the faith.” People today do not know what faith is or why they do not possess it.

Without faith, one cannot enter into the coming Kingdom of God! However, is faith the sole requirement for salvation? And by whose faith is salvation even possible?

Overcoming Sin

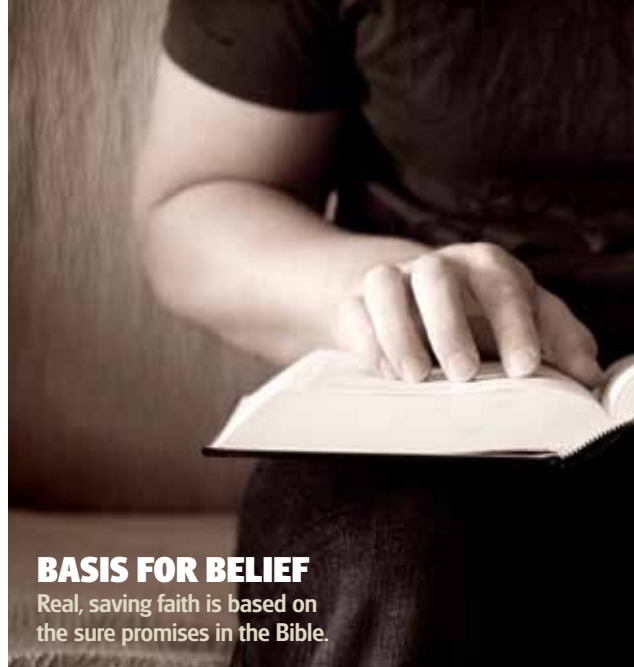
Most professing Christians believe in a dead faith of mere belief in the facts of Christ’s existence and His sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Consequently, they think Christ did everything for them and there is nothing more for them to do. That is not what the Bible teaches.

1. Did the Apostle Paul actually say that Christians must “work out” their own salvation? Philippians 2:12. Also notice 2 Peter 1:10.

Comment: Immediately upon initial conversion, Christians have something they must begin to do, not only then, but for the rest of their natural lives. The Christian life involves “works”—it involves doing something! Christians must put forth the effort to overcome. Christ said: “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work” (John 5:17). God’s way of life is one of productivity, growth and exciting challenge.

2. Then can we earn our salvation by our own works after all? Romans 6:23; Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 2:8-9.

Comment: Eternal life is a gift of God. However, the free, unmerited gift of God does not come without obligations. The Christian still has his part to do!



BASIS FOR BELIEF

Real, saving faith is based on the sure promises in the Bible.

While it is impossible to earn salvation by works, a lack of works can certainly cause one to lose his salvation (Luke 19:11-27).

3. What, or who, is the key to Christian overcoming? Philippians 4:13; John 15:5; 1 John 4:4; Romans 8:37.

Comment: Jesus Christ, who has already defeated Satan (Matthew 4) and qualified to become “King of kings and Lord of lords,” will help Christians defeat Satan and this world’s influences through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the faith it imparts (Galatians 5:22).

What It Means to Live by Faith

1. Are Christians to live by faith? Hebrews 10:38; Romans 1:17.

2. Does faith then void the law—render it unnecessary to keep? Romans 3:31. Is faith without obedience to God a dead faith? James 2:20-22.

Comment: The Bible plainly shows that each individual Christian has a part in the salvation process. Nevertheless, many professing Christians have been taught that Jesus lived a good life for us—that He obeyed God’s law in our stead. Christians are not excused from overcoming, growing in spiritual character, and enduring—in spite of all opposition or temptation to quit. These scriptures make it crystal clear that having faith does not excuse us from obeying God and having spiritual works.

This is a great mystery to those who don’t understand. Since we must do these things to be saved, yet are utterly unable to do so of ourselves, it is natural either to conclude that God sent Jesus to do it for us and thereby excuse us from obeying God, or to become discouraged and be tempted to quit trying!

The true answer is the key to salvation. It is faith. Faith in God’s power—the same living faith Jesus had!

3. By whose faith is a Christian’s “righteousness”—his obedience to God’s spiritual law—made possible? Romans 3:22; Revelation 14:12.

Comment: Spirit-begotten Christians have the very “faith of Jesus.” It’s not just our faith in Him, but His faith—the very faith through which He kept God’s law—placed in us and **ACTING** in us.

4. Does the Bible call Jesus the author and finisher



Eternal life is a gift of God. However, the free unmerited gift of God does not come without obligations.

of our faith? Hebrews 12:2.

Comment: A more accurate translation of the phrase “author and finisher” is “pioneer and perfecter.” Jesus led the way, as our pioneer, setting us the supreme example of living faith; but, He also perfects His faith IN us. Here’s how:

5. Did the Apostle Paul plainly state that Christ lived in him? Galatians 2:20. How did Christ live in him? Philippians 2:5; Romans 8:9-10. Then did Paul live his life by Christ’s faith dwelling in him? Galatians 2:20 once again.

Comment: Paul didn’t live by his own faith. The mind of Jesus Christ dwelt in Paul through the Holy Spirit. And the Spirit of God implanted in Paul’s mind the same faith that can be in your mind. This faith—the very faith of Jesus Christ—will enable you to live a life of overcoming as did the Apostle Paul.

6. Is the very faith of Jesus Christ, by which we receive eternal salvation, a gift of God? Ephesians 2:8. Does this faith come from having the Holy Spirit? Galatians 5:22.

Comment: The faith that saves is Christ’s faith. And Christ can impart His strong faith to us as He lives in us by God’s Spirit.

7. What must you do to receive the Holy Spirit and the very faith of Jesus Christ? Acts 2:38. Must you be willing to obey God? Acts 5:32. And must you first show faith toward Christ before He will give you His faith? Acts 20:21.

Comment: God will give His Holy Spirit and the resulting faith of Christ only to those who meet the prior conditions of repentance and baptism.

Faith and the Law

Many professing Christians believe the Apostle Paul taught that the law was done away with and replaced by faith. Nothing could be further from the truth!

1. How did Paul express the relationship of faith and the law to the Christians at Rome? Romans 3:31. Does faith do away with God’s law? Same verse.

Comment: The New King James Version renders this verse as: “Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish

the law.” The word *establish* means “to cause or make to stand,” “to make firm, fix” or “to be kept intact” (*Thayer’s Greek Lexicon*). In other words, rather than doing away with the law, faith upholds God’s law, as other translations show.

As we have already seen, it requires the faith of Christ to be able to properly keep the spiritual law of God. The true commandment-keeper must trust God to make obedience possible.

2. But didn’t Paul say that we are justified by faith, apart from the deeds of the law? Romans 3:28; 20, first part. Yet at the same time, didn’t he also say that the doers of the law are justified? Romans 2:13. Do these scriptures contradict each other?

Comment: Rather than contradict, these scriptures complement each other. It is not by the deeds of the law—the actions themselves apart from faith—that we are justified (made righteous before God); that’s only possible through the faith of Christ in us. Yet all who have His faith and exercise it to make obedience possible—the doers of the law acting in faith—which makes it a living faith—are the ones who are justified by that faith!

3. Why can’t we be justified by the deeds of the law? Romans 3:20, last part.

Comment: The purpose of the law is not to justify. The purpose of the law is to tell us what sin is—to define it, to reveal it—so we can quit it. Sin is the transgression of the law (1 John 3:4).

4. What is it that empowers one to fulfill, or obey, God’s law? Romans 13:10. What kind of love? Romans 5:5.

Comment: The law is spiritual (Romans 7:14), and only the “love of God” can fulfill God’s spiritual law! Our own personal human love cannot do so. We cannot keep the commandments by our own power and strength. It takes a spiritual love—through the Holy Spirit placed within us—to fulfill a spiritual law. Since God alone can supply the love that makes us righteous, it becomes God’s righteousness, not ours. ■



This short study is a sample of the method employed in each lesson of the free **Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course**. Over 50,000 people have enrolled in this exciting, dynamic course. Ordering information is on the back cover of this magazine.



You can read previous articles in this series online at trmpt.co/BibleIQ.

Once you grasp the incredible *potential* of humanity, then the awesome answer to *how many people Earth can support* begins to emerge: Ultimately, from God's perspective, **THE MORE HUMAN BEINGS, THE BETTER.**

How to Accommodate a Population Boom

Today, 29 percent of Earth's surface is land, and only 10 percent of that is cultivatable. Not even 3 percent of the Earth's surface is suitable for food production.

The Bible prophesies that these restrictive conditions are about to change radically.

Jesus Christ is about to be crowned King of kings and Lord of lords. His gov-

burgeoning human population. *More people* will be able to live off the resources of *fewer acres.*

In addition, God promises to increase the acreage of habitable land, actually *reshaping the planet's topography* in order to make room for more and still more people! Read the description in Isaiah 41:15-16 of a huge threshing instrument leveling mountains. This prophecy provides marvelous proof that the Bible was *divinely inspired*, not merely the imaginings of uneducated camel herders: The *need* for such a machine wouldn't even enter the mind of a man living in a world with only 200 million people! God, however, knew there would come a time when these continents would reach maximum capacity, and humankind would simply *need more land!*

The problem isn't that the Earth lacks good resources, it's that people lack good resource management. It isn't too many humans—it's too much human nature.

ernment will rule the whole Earth. Thus, with guidance from the Creator, mankind will learn to successfully "dress and keep" the material creation as the first humans were instructed but failed to do. The curse that God placed on the land because of Adam's sin, which makes farming and food production far more laborious, will be lifted (Genesis 3:17-19; Isaiah 55:13).

Better land management practices, amplified by God's blessings, will reclaim mile upon mile of wilderness and desert, making them habitable and productive (Isaiah 35:1-2, 6-7). By following God's agricultural laws, mankind will produce food without depleting the soil. Encumbrances like pests, blights, diseases, droughts, floods and other disasters will be all but eliminated; favorable weather will be the rule (e.g. Deuteronomy 28:4-5, 10, 12; Ezekiel 34:26-27). Fields, crops, orchards and vines will be so productive and yields will be so great that farmers will be unable to keep up; they will still be harvesting when planting season comes (Amos 9:13-14). This and other prophecies describe food production—gardens and animal husbandry—taking place even within cities (e.g. Jeremiah 33:12).

Increased agricultural prosperity and higher crop yields will substantially increase the land's ability to sustain a

In the World Tomorrow, under God's direction, with human beings practicing good stewardship and enjoying phenomenal health and wealth, the world population will grow *well beyond 7 billion!* It will far surpass 10 billion, even 20 billion!

The deeper into the Millennium we go, and the more populated Earth becomes, the more critical good stewardship will become. Mankind will need to be increasingly cognizant of reducing trash, of employing innovative ways of dealing with human waste, of drawing upon clean, sustainable energy sources. And you can be sure that God won't simply *give* mankind all the answers. He will supply laws and guidelines, provide wise counsel, and then challenge us to find our own solutions.

How many people can our planet support? Perhaps the best answer is this: The better *stewards* we are, *the larger the human population can be.*

Still More People!

The fact is, *God doesn't tell us how many people Earth can host.* It seems likely He had a number in mind when He created the planet at a certain size, with specific amounts of resources, and humans with certain land, soil, water and mineral requirements to sustain a life. But He may continue to let the human race grow in responsibility and wisdom as we approach that answer through analysis and experience.

However it unfolds, we can be sure that the civilization that God governs—even with an enormous human population—will be clean, efficient, organized, harmonious and fabulously beautiful.

Even that, however, is not the end of the story. The Bible also reveals that at the end of a thousand years, there will be a sudden, massive population explosion, when all human beings who have lived and died throughout history without knowing God will be *resurrected* to physical life (see Revelation 20:11-12; Ezekiel 37:1-14). Historical population estimates suggest that this will be somewhere around 100 billion people!

What a contrast it will be for those people, who only experienced life as it has existed under flawed human mismanagement, suddenly awakening within a world that perfectly provides all the needs of a population *several times larger* than the one they left! They will receive a powerful, living illustration of the importance of good stewardship!

By the end of that period of judgment, during which those people will build houses and plant vineyards, continuing to tend to the Earth (Isaiah 65:17-25), surely this planet will have been used to its maximum! It will be humming with life, filled with people who have been educated in proper stewardship, caring well for whatever gifts and resources God blesses them with.

At that point, the Bible shows that this remarkable human race will be able to *apply* those lessons on a **MUCH LARGER SCALE.**

When one understands the unfathomable **VASTNESS** of God's plan for man, and our Creator's awesome purpose for human beings, and the incredible potential bound up within every last child created in His likeness, then one can appreciate the true beauty of this glorious population explosion! ■



You can read more about this future world in Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet **The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.** Also, to learn about God's purpose for man, request **The Incredible Human Potential.** To see this potential unveiled within Scripture



and amplified by recent scientific discovery, ask for a free copy of the booklet **Our Awesome Universe Potential.** All this literature is free upon request.





Would Jesus Flip-Flop on Same-Sex 'Marriage'?



CHANGE After stating his new "personal" opinion, President Obama instructed the Justice Department to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act.

'Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.'

WHEN CAMPAIGNING FOR THE U.S. SENATE IN 2004, Barack Obama credited religion and faith for dictating his position *against* same-sex "marriage." "I'm a Christian," he said. "I do believe that tradition *and my religious beliefs* say that marriage is something sanctified between a man and a woman" (emphasis added throughout). He reiterated this position when campaigning for president in 2008, calling marriage a "sacred union" between a man and a woman.

In May, however, President Obama changed his mind and decided to endorse homosexual "marriage." He then defended his flip-flop by invoking the *same Jesus*—and the very same **INSPIRED TEXT**—that he once used to defend the traditional marriage union. He also credited staff members, neighbors, friends and family members—even his two daughters—for influencing his "evolving" position over the years. But in the end, what mattered most was the Golden Rule: "Treat others the way you would want to be treated," the president said, paraphrasing Luke 6:31.

Of course, Mr. Obama's "evolving" position on same-sex "marriage" is really about political expediency—certainly not the inspired teachings of Jesus. But it still comes as quite a shock when Jesus Christ and the Holy Bible are dragged through the mud in order to *defend* behavior that God **EMPHATICALLY** condemns.

Last year, in Britain, Prime Minister David Cameron upset many traditional Christians when he announced plans to legalize homosexual "marriage" before the next election. This April, to defend his controversial plan and to bridge the gap between his government and the Christian community, Mr. Cameron once again turned to—you guessed it—*Jesus Christ*.

"The New Testament tells us so much about the character of Jesus; a man of incomparable compassion, generosity, grace, humility and love," Mr. Cameron said. He then referred to the same passage in Luke that President Obama paraphrased.

Never mind what it says in Genesis 19, Leviticus 20:13, Luke 17:28-30, Romans 1:26-27, 2 Peter 2:6 or Jude 7. Those are now obsolete verses, often cited by homophobes and bigots, we're told. Jesus, don't you know, would have *wanted* homosexuals to get married—so say the "enlightened."

The Church of England, meanwhile, was quick to criticize the prime minister's same-sex "marriage" crusade. Marriage is between one man and one woman, the church said in response to the government's attempt to redefine the union. In the same statement, however, the Church of England endorsed *homosexuality* and same-sex *unions*—but drew a very distinct line between **THAT** and homosexual "*marriage*."

What a **PATHETIC** and *weak* defense of an institution ordained by Almighty God! The supposed moral authority in Britain summarized its official position on homosexuality and marriage and didn't even include one biblical passage or scriptural reference. **NOT EVEN ONE VERSE!**

And we wonder why our leaders are so quick to disparage the Bible and the reputation of Jesus Christ to disingenuously

defend their lawless agendas. Today's "enlightened" clergy is far too busy figuring out how much of the Bible can be categorized as myth or hyperbole to be bothered with actually **PREACHING THE PLAIN TRUTH OF GOD'S INSPIRED WORD!**

What an ominous **SIGN** of the times in which we are living. "I charge thee therefore before God," the Apostle Paul wrote to his young assistant, his **FAITHFUL** minister—the evangelist Timothy. "**PREACH THE WORD**; be instant in season, out of season; *reprove, rebuke, exhort* with all longsuffering and **DOCTRINE**" (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

God has charged His *true* ministers with the *sobering* and **MOMENTOUS** responsibility of preaching the truth of the Bible. It **DOESN'T** say preach what men *want* to hear or to modify doctrinal positions as societal behavior evolves over time.

"I am the Lord, I change not," God thunders in Malachi 3:6. And His ministers must uphold and defend the sanctity and permanency of His revealed truth. Be **INSTANT** with God's truth, Paul said. That means we must stand up and fight for the truth of God!

"For the time will come when they will *not endure* sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they hearken to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). That is the time we live in **RIGHT NOW**. Most people today have *turned away* from what the **BIBLE ACTUALLY SAYS** and have accepted *lies* in place of truth.

What about you, dear reader? Will you accept the simplicity and purity of God's revealed truth? You **CAN** know the truth if you are honest in your study of God's Word and willing to submit to the Bible's authority.

In his book *The Incredible Human Potential*, Herbert W. Armstrong said that God has made His revealed knowledge and truth available to **ANYONE** willing to **BELIEVE** what He says in His inspired book, the Holy Bible. It's the world's best seller, Mr. Armstrong said, "But this precious book has been interpreted and misinterpreted, distorted, twisted, misrepresented, misunderstood and maligned *as no other book ever has*."

Indeed it has, which is why you must put aside what *men* say **ABOUT** the Bible and investigate the source for yourself. It doesn't need any "private interpretation," as the Apostle Peter wrote. God's Word *interprets itself* for those who are humble and honest—and who are willing to dig in and study. The Bible says what it means—and **WITH AUTHORITY!** And it means *exactly* what it says. Just take it as the timeless masterpiece that it is, and it will begin to make sense.

"Look into it for yourself," Mr. Armstrong urged *Plain Truth* readers in February 1982. "It's full of surprises—it's full of **TRUTH**—it's full of *the way* to a positive peace of mind, to happiness, to prosperity, abundant living here and now and to salvation in joyous eternal life—**FOREVER!**" ■

Nightmare in Mexico

What a well-written article (“Beheading Mexico,” May/June). This should have been in *U.S. News & World Report* or the *Wall Street Journal*. I can’t compliment you all enough on your obvious efforts to be professional journalists, tellers of the truth. The bus story is just awful. ... Take a good long look America; this is what happens when we choose man over God. *Dana Jackson—ARKANSAS*

It’s so sad to read about this horrible situation happening in Mexico, but finally someone said the truth: If Americans wouldn’t consume drugs, drug cartels would not be so dangerously powerful.

Maria Corona—U.S.

How can a Christian magazine approve of printing a photograph, exposed to the plain view of little kids, of a human being decapitated? That person was someone’s son or brother or father. I’m a Christian inmate, also a human being, and we all make mistakes. But only God can judge us. And let’s remember: The sun shines upon the unjust as well as it does upon the just. *Gilbert Lopez—CALIFORNIA*

No more a mystery

Thank you for the message (“Remove the Mystery From Your Bible,” May/June). Only the great and Most High God could have removed the mystery from the Bible. And He used one man to do it and now another to warn. Removing the mystery has changed my life and for that I am grateful to Him who is determined to restore the way things were from the beginning. Thank you, Mr. Flurry, for picking it up from where Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong left it. That in itself is a miracle. *Mystery of the Ages* is a must (re-)read.

N. Merza—N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

Media are pushing for race war

I noticed from the beginning of the Trayvon case that the media said that Zimmerman was white (“Race to War,” May/June). Then when it was revealed that he was Hispanic, they had to keep saying “white Hispanic.” Even if the guy had been Japanese I think they would have called him a “whitish Japanese man.” The media is playing a crucial role in fanning



the racial flames. I wonder what they’ll do when it explodes out of control?

D.H.—UNITED STATES

Happy graduation!

Excellent! It is comforting to have plain, sound wisdom taught to you in this confused world (“Commencement—Only the Beginning,” May/June). I feel sorry for all the young people that have been deceived into this modern education system. I always think to myself how the overwhelming majority of commencement speeches are dull, dry, directionless pep-talks. No substance. Man makes life complicated. God makes life simple. Thank you for the article.

J.V.—NEW JERSEY

I have to commend you on such a great article. It is rare to get such wonderful, life-changing advice in such a concise yet clear manner. Every young person should take this article and frame it so as to never forget the way to true success. Very well done. It takes great maturity to understand this topic in the way you do.

Doris—CANADA

A valuable history lesson

Very well-written article (“Russia’s Dark Rider,” May/June). Clear and concise. It’s amazing to see prophecy coming to fruition!

Julie—ONTARIO, CANADA

I enjoyed this article very much. I learned many things about Russia that I’d never heard before until now, especially about the cycles that Russia goes through with the white and black horse periods. ... I understand better now how Russian government and elections work. It will make news about Russia much more meaningful to me in the future after having read your fine article.

Bridget Johnson—TENNESSEE

Wolf in a grandma suit

The modern-day story of Germany is just like *Little Red Riding Hood*. Just because the nation looks like a political grandmother doesn’t mean the wolf is not behind the mask. I’m not having a shot at the Germans—all nations have a history flowing with blood. However, God calls them the “rod of his anger” and they have the character in their national trait to carry that title. What they look like

and what they really are requires spiritual glasses that can only come from the Creator of all nations and their hearts.

Tony Haddad—N.S.W., AUSTRALIA

In the footsteps of ancient Rome

Tell it like it is! (“Nicked and Dimed,” May/June). Everybody in America needs to read this article! How about faxing a copy of this article to every member of Congress, commerce, the Treasury and all the big banks. Well, maybe not, because they already know the situation, and like an ostrich putting its head in the sand, are simply ignoring it! America’s leadership over the last 50 years has become very immature and irresponsible.

Orlando Forrest—ILLINOIS

Great potential within families

What great insight on how to teach the upcoming generation (“Teach Your Teen to Say Hello,” May/June). In society we are bombarded with the teen’s opinions and actions, which only leads to bigger family divisions. There is one adolescent sibling that I miss dearly; living in the same house we were only separated by an unwillingness to use sentences with more than one word. Far greater potential awaits families.

E.D.—AUSTRALIA

Worshiping a false god

“Skyrim is a video game. It is about a dragon god who is prophesied to destroy this world” (“A World Without Video Games—What Would It Be Like?” May/June). How appropriate it is that the most popular of all video games is about a dragon-god who is prophesied to destroy this world. Satan is described in the Bible as a “great dragon” ... and as the “god of this world” ... and as working in “the children of disobedience,” and is indeed destroying this present evil world. But his end shall soon come. *Russell—NEW YORK*

Hits the nail square on the head. There is more time spent playing games, etc., than reading God’s Word. It is a form of idol worship and not really a game anymore. God is a jealous God and really wants your full attention. I’m sure God will house clean in due time. Time to watch and pray.

Poewhit—NEW YORK

Geography students, read this!

What an amazing and timely article (“What If America’s Founders Had Settled in Russia?” May/June). I wish my geography teachers would have taught this. This should be required reading of all American students, and those holding any public office. *J.G.—UNITED STATES*

Why British Teens Struggle With Online Pornography

Hint: It's not because of irresponsible 'Internet providers.'

FOUR OUT OF FIVE BRITISH 16-YEAR-OLDS VIEW PORN ONLINE regularly. One in three 10-year-olds have viewed similar content. Those are the shocking revelations exposed by a parliamentary inquiry report released in April. And the images these youths are viewing go way beyond mere nudity. The study's authors noted that, with mere clicks of their fingers, British *children* are accessing the "whole history of human sexual perversion."

In their report, the M.P.s expressed concern that porn-viewing among teens is corrupting an entire generation. They're alarmed that children and teens will pervert their minds, saddling millions with selfish, twisted, vile viewpoints regarding sex, the roles of men and women, and marriage and family.

In one tragic heart-to-heart, the mother of an 11-year-old boy recited her son's enslavement to online pornography. Much like a drug addict, "Charlie's" affair with online porn transformed him from a wholesome, energetic and friendly "sunny sort of chap" into a withdrawn, moody, hollow-eyed, self-loathing recluse who could neither eat nor sleep normally. Porn didn't simply alter his behavior, his mother lamented, "*but his entire character.*"

These revelations have set off a national debate on the need to protect children from smut. But as is so often the case in today's intellectually and morally muddled world, the conversation quickly slid into a side issue. The *Daily Mail*, for example, explained that the solution to keeping porn from children and teens lay with Britain's "Internet providers." This was the focus of the parliamentary inquiry too.

If only the four companies that beam the Internet into British homes were more responsible, many argue, the problem would be solved. The best solution is for these companies to install more filters to make it tougher for children and teens to access online porn.

There's no denying such features would have a positive effect. However, that debate is a major distraction from the *real cause of this problem.*

Parents.

After all, who's paying for the computers, televisions, game consoles, mobiles and broadband? Who's allowing children to slink into the seclusion of their screen-lit bedrooms and other private places where they can surf, text and "sext" to their hearts' delight? (More than half of children ages 7 to 16 have Internet access in their own room; among 11-to-16-year-olds, the figure is 61 percent.) *Who is letting Internet perversion raise their children?*

Forget Internet providers. This inquiry REVEALS A CRISIS IN BRITISH PARENTING.

Speaking practically, the solution to teens viewing porn is fairly straightforward: simple rules implemented by loving parents. Relocate computers and TVs to the living room; download free, easy-to-install Internet filters, and *most of all* take the time to regularly monitor what your child views online. Make children put smartphones away after a certain hour, monitor texts, conduct spur-of-the-moment checks. *Know* what your teen is



doing! With such an involved parent, a teen finds lustful activity much more difficult and much less enticing. What if the child goes to a friend's home to engage in this behavior? That's simple too: *Sever* the relationship.

These measures might sound harsh. But isn't the moral, emotional and psychological damage inflicted by pornography, the hollow-eyed enslavement, the sabotage of future relationships, *ten thousand times worse?*

Why does this seem so outlandish? Why will most parents never implement these measures? Because *they've abdicated authority over their children.* The 21st-century parent *does not care enough and does not love enough* to control his child's behavior and attitude.

As children grow, their disregard and disrespect for authority affects their other relationships. At school they lack respect for teachers, principals and administrators. In society, there's little respect for police, government leaders and others in authority. The results of this upbringing surround us. Too many of our teachers work in fear of verbal and physical abuse. Malls and shopping centers, overrun by aimless youths, lose hundreds of millions of dollars a year to theft and property damage. Our streets are filled with gang violence.

It's time we faced reality. **MORE THAN ANYTHING**, the problem of porn addiction among teens, *as well as most of the other social crises Britain faces*—the plague of public drunkenness, the thuggery and gang violence, youth unemployment, single motherhood—is a **DIRECT RESULT OF FAMILY BREAKDOWN!**

Traced to its origins, *every* social problem facing Britain (and America) is the result of some form of family dysfunction. Gang violence and general street crime; sexual perversion and promiscuity; unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease; rape and sexual abuse; fatherlessness/single motherhood and the resultant exploitation of the welfare system; divorce and its many costly by-products—*each stems from the dissolution of the traditional family!*

We are decades deep into a cultural war on traditional marriage, on the roles of the mother and *especially the father*, and on the role of children within a family. We have tossed aside traditional laws and virtues regarding marriage and family, many of which were gleaned from the Bible, and replaced them with perverted, anti-family "values." The results are obvious. As Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, "Since it is a basic truism that a solid family structure is the foundational bulwark of any stable and permanent society, this fact means only one thing—**CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT IS ON THE WAY DOWN—AND OUT . . .**"

Is there a better way to describe a nation in which millions of teens are *allowed* to go online and in the privacy of their own bedrooms explore the "whole history of human sexual perversion"? We have a bigger problem on our hands than the content policies of irresponsible Internet providers. *We have to fix our broken families.*

Confusion—and Answers

It is a shame to observe Britain in its present state of confusion—confusion over its ethnic origins, confusion over moral absolutes, confusion over gender, confusion over immigration, confusion over religion, confusion over law, confusion over its relationship with Europe, confusion over its very status as a United Kingdom.

But that confusion was inevitable once Britain lost its tenuous hold on the truth some of its leaders—including Queen Victoria—once knew. It no longer knows the true origins of its own nation, of its venerable monarchy or of all its national blessings.

This is the confused nation over which Queen Elizabeth rules today. She was crowned during the great postwar reconstruction period, and she celebrates her jubilee during a period that threatens her jubilee during a period that threatens to deconstruct the United Kingdom. Her kingdom is caught in the tightening grip of a Teutonic technocracy intent on reducing it to a mere division of regions ruled from Brussels/Berlin. Rome is rapidly homing in on its claim to “Mary’s Dowry,” the once green and pleasant land of England.

What has happened to the once mighty empire of Victoria’s era? Why did it happen? Was it always destined to shrink from imperial greatness and become a vassal state of the European Union? Was the loss of its proud sovereignty inevitable? And what is Britain’s ultimate fate? Will it ever rise to greatness again?

Believe it or not, the answers to all these questions are readily available *in your Bible*—in surprising detail!

In this year of Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee, every British subject needs to know those answers. This truth contains a great warning to her peoples: A devastating fate awaits their nations, because they have rebelled against the God who gave them their blessings and established their throne!

Yet this truth also contains great hope for the future of those nations, especially for those individuals who acknowledge their national and personal sins, and repent before their most merciful God!

If you are of such a mind, then request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and also our booklet *The Key of David*. Together they will lead you to the awe-inspiring truth behind that noble monarchy, that throne, and that stone of destiny!

TELEVISION LOG

THE KEY OF DAVID

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

UNITED STATES

Nationwide Satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 ET, Tue/Fri
Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 ET

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

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

Dish Network ION Ch. 216 6:00 ET, Fri

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00, Fri

Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00, Fri

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

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

El Centro KWUB 9:30, Sun

Eureka KJUV-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KPXX 6:00, Fri

Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun

Palm Springs KESQ/KCQW-DT 9:30, Sun

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun; KRCR 9:00, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

Grand Junction KCJT 8:30, Sun

Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun

Salisbury WMDF-DT 9:30, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WGB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

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

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

West Palm Beach WXPX 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun

Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun

Macon WBMM 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGS/WGCW-LP 9:30, Sun

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

Kauai Ho’Ike Chan. 52 9:30, Tue

Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku

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

Oahu Focus Chan. 49 7:00 am Sat (Olelo)

Chan. 27 5:00 am, Fri KPXX

Chan. 333 3:30 am, Sun The Discovery Channel

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPFI/KBEO 10:30, Sun

Pocatello KPFI 10:30, Sun

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

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Chicago WCUJ 7:00, Mon-Fri;

WCUJ 9:30, Sun;

WCPX 5:00, Fri

Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30, Sun

Rockford WREX-DT 8:30, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 21.2 9:30, Sun

Indianapolis WIPX 6:00, Fri

Terre Haute WBI 8:30, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00, Fri

Des Moines KFPX 5:00, Fri

Keokuk WEWB 8:30, Sun

Kirkville KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Ottumwa KWOT 8:30, Sun

Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30, Sun

Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30, Sun

Lexington WUPX 6:00, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30, Sun

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

Lafayette KLWB 8:30, Sun

Lake Charles WBLC 8:30, Sun

New Orleans WPXL 5:00, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30, Sun

Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30, Sun

Springfield WBQT 9:30, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30, Sun

Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30, Sun

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

Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00, Fri

Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun

Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30, Sun

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30, Sun

Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun

Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri

Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun

Sioux Fall (Mitchell) KWSD/KSWD-DT 8:30, Sun

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30, Sun

Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

Greenville WBWD 8:30, Sun

Greenwood WBWD 8:30, Sun

Gulfport WBGP 8:30, Sun

Hattiesburg WBH 8:30, Sun

Laurel WBH 8:30, Sun

Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30, Sun

Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

West Point WCBI-DT 8:30, Sun

Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Joplin-Pittsburg KSNB 8:30, Sun

Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri

Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30, Sun

St. Joseph WBJO 8:30, Sun

Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 8:30, Sun

Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30, Sun

Glendive KWZB 10:30, Sun

Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30, Sun

Helena KMTF-DT 10:30, Sun

Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30, Sun

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Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00, Fri
Binghamton WBXI 9:30, Sun
Buffalo WPXJ 6:00, Fri; WUTV 10:00, Sun
Elmira WBE 9:30, Sun
New York City WPIX 6:00, Fri
Rochester WUHF 8:30, Sun
Syracuse WSPX 6:00, Fri
Utica WBU 9:30, Sun
Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Fayetteville WFPX 6:00, Fri
Greensboro WGXP 6:00, Fri
Greenville WEPX 6:00, Fri; WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun
Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun
Raleigh WRXP 6:00, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
Washington WNCN-DT 9:30, Sun
Wilmington WBW 9:30, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30, Sun
Dickinson KWMK 10:30, Sun
Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Minot KWMK 10:30, Sun
Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00, Fri
Cincinnati WSTR 8:30, Sun
Lima WLIO-DT 9:30, Sun
Stuebenville WBWO 9:30, Sun
Zanesville WBZV 9:30, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30, Sun
Lawton KAUZ 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30, Sun
Medford KMFD 9:30, Sun
Portland KPXG 6:00, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30, Sun
Philadelphia WPPX 6:00, Fri
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBF-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30, Sun
Knoxville WPXK 6:00, Fri
Memphis WPXX 5:00, Fri
Nashville WNPX 5:00, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIIH/KVIIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
Laredo KTXW 8:30, Sun
Longview KCEB 8:30, Sun
Lubbock KLCW 8:30, Sun
Midland KWWT 8:30, Sun
Odessa KWWT 8:30, Sun
Port Arthur KFDM 8:30, Sun
San Angelo KWSA 8:30, Sun
San Antonio KPXL 5:00, Fri
Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30, Sun
Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30, Sun
Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
Westlaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVMR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg WVMR-DT 9:30, Sun
Norfolk WPXV 6:00, Fri
Roanoke WPRX 6:00, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPXW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Pasco KEPR 6:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun; KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWXP 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun
Spokane KGFX 6:00, Fri; KAYU 7:30, Sun
Yakima KIMA-DT2 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLFX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVFV-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WBPP 9:30, Sun
Weston WVFV-DT 9:30, Sun
Wheeling WBWO 9:30, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30, Sun
La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30, Sun
Milwaukee WPXE 5:00, Fri
Rhineland WAOW/WYOW 8:30, Sun
Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30, Sun
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Lethbridge KAYU 8:30, Sun
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 KVOS 8:30, Sun; CHEK 9:00 Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Maritime Provinces CHF 7:30, Sun
Manitoba, Winnipeg WUHF 8:30, Sun; CITT Joy TV 11:00, Sun
Nova Scotia, Halifax WUHF 8:30, Sun
Sydney WUHF 8:30, Sun
Ontario, Toronto
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Belgium TV Vlaanderen channel 62 11:00 am, Sun
Germany KDG channel 840 11:00 am, Sun; TalkTalk TV channel 510 11:00 am, Sun
Ireland Sky channel 505 10:00 am, Sun; UPC channel 204; 10:00 am, Sun
Italy Sky Italia channel 518 11:00 am, Sun; Tiscali TV channel 518 11:00 am, Sun
Mediterranean
 Eurobird 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time
Middle East Eurobird 11261 H 232516 E-FTA 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun
Netherlands Ziggio channel 505 11:00 am, Sun
Poland Cyfra+ channel 105 11:00 am, Sun
Portugal ZonTV/Cabo channel 210 11:00 am Central European Time, Sun
Romania UPC channel 146 12:00 am, Sun
Spain Hispstat 1.092V 11:00 am, Sun
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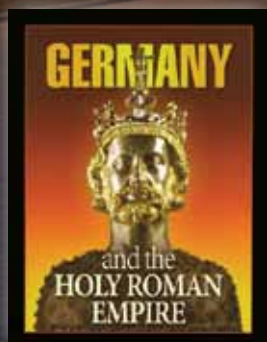
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