

Inspiration
for Engineers

A MESSAGE TO THE UCG

The Bible
and the
Constitution



THE PHILADELPHIA

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TRUMPET

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FROM THE EDITOR GERALD FLURRY

The Bible and the Constitution

THERE IS A LOT OF DISCUSSION TODAY ABOUT THE U.S. Constitution—for it and against it. However, all of the critics and supporters of the Constitution miss the foundational point.

The Constitution cannot be used to solve our problems unless we have the spirit of those who founded it. That spirit came mainly from the Bible. Our history and the Constitution itself prove that point.

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE SUPREME LAW OF AMERICA—THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC. Our Founding Fathers did their best to make the Bible the foundation of that great document.

They said that *only religion and private morality* based on the Bible would make the Constitution work. James Madison said, “We have staked the whole future of America’s civilization ... upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”

The Greek Empire tried to establish the rule of law. The Greeks failed and their empire collapsed. The Roman Empire also tried to build a society based on law. The Romans were unable to do so and that empire fell. Many other empires experienced the same failure.

The famous British historian Paul Johnson wrote an article titled

“No Law Without Order, No Freedom Without Law.” It was directed to the Jewish, American and British peoples in particular, and printed in the *Sunday Telegraph*, Dec. 26, 1999. In it he wrote this about America: “[B]oth in Virginia and in New England to the north, the colonists were determined, God-fearing men, often in search of a religious toleration denied them at home, who brought their families and were anxious to farm and establish permanent settlements. They put political and religious freedom before riches Thus took shape the economic dynamo that eventually be-



“We have staked the whole future of America’s civilization ... upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments.”

JAMES MADISON

came the United States—AN EXPERIMENT DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF GOD ON EARTH ...” (emphasis mine throughout).

What a goal! THEY PLANNED TO ESTABLISH THE RULE OF GOD ON EARTH! That means they had the goal of each person keeping the Ten Commandments of God—the basis of all righteous law.

CHRISTIAN LEADERS TODAY TEACH THAT THE LAW HAS BEEN DONE AWAY. THAT IS ALMOST THE EXTREME OPPOSITE OF WHAT OUR FOREFATHERS BELIEVED! Our spiritual leaders, both from the right and the left, have led us into lawlessness and grave danger.

EVEN THE POLITICIANS WHO ESTABLISHED OUR REPUBLIC WERE MORE SPIRITUAL THAN MOST OF OUR RELIGIOUS LEADERS TODAY!

Here is what Jesus Christ said in Matthew 5:17-18: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” *Christ came to fulfill the law, or fill the law to the full.* He essentially was saying that every *t* must be crossed and every *i* dotted. Still, many thought, and still think, that He came to destroy the law. They believe that not because they can prove it, but because they want to believe it! They are apparently unaware of where such thinking is leading us.

Christians are supposedly people who follow Christ, the Law-giver. That is how they got their name “Christian.”

But whether secular or religious, WE ARE RACING INTO LAWLESSNESS, and our nation is plunging toward catastrophe. Any good history book will show us that!

The Bible should be even more convicting. Study it and see the deadly danger of lawlessness.

In 1954, Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, “I believe the entire Bill of Rights came into being because of the knowledge our forefathers had of the Bible and their belief in it.”

That probably means that we wouldn’t even have a Bill of Rights if it weren’t for our forefathers’ faith in the Bible.

Now let’s take it one step further. WE WOULD PROBABLY NEVER HAVE HAD A CONSTITUTION THAT HAS BEEN THE ENVY OF THE WORLD, IF NOT FOR OUR STRONG, BIBLE-BELIEVING FOUNDING FATHERS!

The Constitution contains numerous biblical principles and doctrines from the Bible. That doesn’t mean it is on the same level as the Bible. But NEITHER IS IT ON THE HUMAN LEVEL, AS MANY PEOPLE ARE PRONE TO BELIEVE.

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR REPUBLIC. And the Ten Commandments were, in many ways, the foundation of the Constitution. Our forefathers believed that if we didn’t keep God’s Ten Commandments, OUR CONSTITUTION AND REPUBLIC WOULD COLLAPSE!

IT WAS MUCH HARDER FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS TO SPILL STREAMS OF BLOOD WINNING OUR FREEDOM, AND TO CREATE AND ESTABLISH OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, THAN IT IS FOR US JUST TO MAINTAIN IT!

Very few people in Britain, America and Israel are willing to die to defend their rule of law. Our generals know that we lack the will to win any hard-fought battle—even if it relates to our own freedom.

These three nations are leading the war against terrorism. But they lack the spirit or the will of our forefathers. That is why they are losing that war!

God gives the will to fight and conquer only to those who keep His law. It is a will that He breaks if we disobey His law (Leviticus 26:19).

We dare not take this vitally important subject lightly. EVERYTHING IS AT STAKE!

How to Make the Pope Furious

Radical Islam is pushing all the wrong buttons.

BY BRAD MACDONALD



PROVOCATIVE

Pakistanis demonstrate against Asia Bibi—one of many signs of growing Muslim hostility toward Catholicism.

IF ASIA BIBI, A HARD-WORKING mother of five living in northern Pakistan, could have known the events that would unfold because of an incident at work on June 14, 2009, she never would have gotten out of bed that day.

On June 18, four days later, a mob of villagers snatched Asia from her home, stripped and beat her in the street, and then marched her to the local police station. Village officials feared the angry hordes (which included Muslim clerics), and without any investigation into the veracity of the claims against her, they arrested Asia and locked her away. On Nov. 8, 2010—after she had been held in isolation in prison for over 16 months—a local court sentenced her to death.

What heinous crime did Asia Bibi commit?

“She was picking berries with other women,” her husband explained, “when she was sent to get water. One of the women [a Muslim] refused to drink the water after my wife dipped her cup in the bucket. This woman said it was contaminated because it was touched by a Christian.” Before long a group of Muslim women had descended on Bibi, insulting her mother, children and religion. Asia tried to defend herself, her husband says, and simply responded by “repeat[ing] the same insults back to them.”

That was it. Four days later, Bibi was ripped from her home and family, viciously beaten, unfairly arrested and thrown in jail on the trumped-up charge that she *blasphemed* the prophet Mohammad.

Long story short, Asia Bibi is a victim of radical Islam’s intensifying war on Christianity!

Islam’s Hatred Explodes

This tale of religious intolerance, injustice and outright persecution and violence is important because it is not an anomaly. In recent months, radical Islam has intensified its attacks on Christians around the world, especially in Muslim nations, but in Western countries too.

Persecution of Christians by Muslims is now so pervasive and violent, wrote Jeffrey Kuhner in the *Washington Times*, that “Christianity is on the VERGE OF EXTINCTION in the ancient lands of its birth.” Across the Mideast, he lamented, “a creeping religious genocide is taking place” (Dec. 23, 2010; emphasis mine throughout).

These days, there are hundreds, even thousands of Bibis being persecuted, tortured and murdered in a host of countries by radical Islamists.

On New Year’s Eve in Alexandria, Egypt, 21 Coptic Christians were killed and 79 were wounded when a bomb left outside the door of the Two Saints Coptic church exploded. Despite some ridiculous claims that the attack was conducted by the Mossad, Egyptian authorities and various intelligence agencies agree that the attack, the worst in Egypt since 2006, was carried out by Iraq-based Islamic terrorists.

In Russia the next day, radical Islamists used a grenade to set fire to a church in the Muslim-rich North Caucasus region. A week earlier in the Philippines, six people were wounded on the island of Jolo after a bomb planted by Islamic terrorists exploded inside a church during Christmas mass.

In Nigeria, at least 80 Christians were killed in a wave of attacks on Christmas Eve. In one instance, dozens of armed men attacked a church in Maiduguri, dragging the pastor from his home and executing him in the street. In another, more than 32 people were killed and 50 wounded in the central Nigerian city of Jos after a series of roadside bombs placed by radical Islamists exploded. In Nigeria alone, the number of Christians killed by Muslim terrorists *numbered in the hundreds*.

In Iran, a pastor is slated to be executed for converting to Christianity. In Pakistan, in February 2010, 150 armed Muslims invaded Pahar Ganj, a Christian neighborhood north of Karachi, and ransacked two churches, beat Christians, and torched shops and vehicles—all because a Christian lad touched a piece of fruit on a Muslim vendor’s cart. In Somalia, the Islamic terrorist group Al Shabaab, which controls much of central Somalia, routinely persecutes, even kills, Christians, and is seeking to eradicate Christianity.

Similar atrocities against Christians are becoming increasingly common in the Ivory Coast, Sudan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Lebanon—and the list goes on.

Then there's Iraq, which in 2010 experienced the worst attack on Iraqi Christians on record. On October 31, as 140 parishioners prepared to take mass in Baghdad's Our Lady of Salvation Catholic Church, the building was invaded by gunmen from the al Qaeda-affiliated Islamic State of Iraq terrorist group. When the church was later stormed by Iraq's counterterrorism unit, the militants detonated suicide bomb vests, killing 58 men, women and children, including two priests, and wounding 80 more people. On New Year's Eve, a cluster of 10 bombs was placed near the homes of 14 Catholic families in Baghdad, Iraq. Four of the bombs were defused; the others exploded, killing two and wounding 20. The victims were all Catholic. Since then, attacks on Christians have increased.

Over the past decade, Christian Iraqis have fled the country at a shocking pace: Before 2003, Iraq's Christian population was about 1.5 million; today, barely 400,000 Christians remain!

As Christians flee Iraq, as church members wipe the blood of their brethren from the walls of the Coptic church in Alexandria, the plight of these individuals, and of the larger Catholic community, is not going unnoticed.

Robert Fisk lamented in the *Independent* last fall that the exodus of Christians from the Middle East has reached “almost biblical proportions” (Oct. 26, 2010).

An Ancient Prophecy Fulfilled

Over the past 20 years, the *Trumpet* has put the spotlight on a prophecy in Daniel 11:40 that says that Jesus Christ's Second Coming will be precipitated by a colossal clash of civilizations. The scripture reads, “And at the time of the end shall the king of the south PUSH at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.”

As we have explained, the “king of the south” mentioned here refers to radical Islam headed by Iran. The “king of the

north” is the German-led superstate now being built in Europe that will operate under overarching influence of the Catholic Church. To prove this truth, request our free booklet *The King of the South*.

The operative word in Daniel 11:40 is *push*, which in Hebrew means to gore, thrust at or WAGE WAR. And notice, it's the king of the south that pushes and provokes the king of the north.

Radical Islam's growing campaign of violence against Christianity is LIVING FULFILLMENT of this prophecy!

Based on this scripture, we say with certainty that as Christians flee Iraq, as church members wipe the blood of their brethren from the walls of the Coptic church in Alexandria, as Asia Bibi sits in jail awaiting the noose, the plight of these individuals, and of the larger Catholic community, is not going unnoticed.

The truth is, radical Islam's fierce hatred for Christianity—and the global campaign of violence and cruelty it has fueled—is infuriating an institution that has historically been Islam's greatest enemy: THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH!

Retribution

The day after Islamic terrorists attacked Catholics in Alexandria, Pope Benedict XVI said it was a “vile gesture of death” and that it “offends God and all of humanity.” In his speech, he appealed to Christians: “In the face of the threatening tensions of the moment, especially in the face of discrimination, of abuse of power and religious intolerance that today particularly strikes Christians, I again direct a pressing invitation NOT TO YIELD TO DISCOURAGEMENT AND RESIGNATION.”

That's a polite way of saying, “WE MUST NOT GIVE IN TO THE DEMANDS OF RADICAL ISLAM.”

If you study the pope's recent speeches, there is no doubt he is rising to the occasion. He is refusing to be bullied. About the tone and structure of Benedict's speech after the attacks on the Coptics in Egypt earlier this year, John Allen wrote that they confirm that “religious freedom, and ESPECIALLY THE DEFENSE OF EMBATTLED CHRISTIANS, has become the VATICAN'S SUPREME DIPLOMATIC PRIORITY” (*National Catholic Reporter*, January 10).

Over the last few months, radical Islam has gained momentum in its war on Christianity. Don't expect it to let up on its assault. What we should expect, however, is for *the Vatican to begin to respond*. Fifteen hundred years of European

history—including the Crusades, when tens of thousands of Catholic Europeans responded to Pope Urban's war cry by slaughtering tens of thousands of Muslims in the Middle East—tell us that the Catholic Church will respond mightily, with FORCE and VIGOR!

Don't think for a moment that this world is too sophisticated to RELIVE THE CRUSADES!

In practical terms, two developments are likely.

First, the persecution of various Christian churches and Catholic sects (like the Coptics in Egypt) will drive these groups into the protective arms of the mother church, the Catholic Church. The more these daughter churches seek protection, the stronger the Vatican will become in defending its spiritual family. The more radical Islam encroaches, the more *intense* and *popular* Benedict's campaign to re-evangelize the Catholic community, especially in Europe, will grow. Radical Islam's assaults will unify Catholicism.

Second, expect the Vatican to increasingly employ its tried and tested strategy of forging a powerful axis with the most dominant European power, then exploiting that power as the instrument by which it can confront its enemy, in this case radical Islam. For the Vatican, the rise of militant Islam is an ideal discussion point with Europeans, millions of whom are alarmed by the encroachment of Islam on the Continent. With a little prodding, and with the support of European governments, the Vatican could begin to make life much tougher for Muslims in Europe—and *ultimately for Muslims everywhere!*

The mutual threat of radical Islam will strengthen the historic axis between the Vatican and Christian Europe!

Of course, the *Trumpet* does not claim to know the specific thoughts and designs of Pope Benedict and other Catholic leaders. But we do know what Daniel 11:40 and other biblical prophecies say—and we believe them. We can say with certainty that Pope Benedict XVI is looking at Asia Bibi, and the Catholic victims of the bombing in Alexandria, and the mass exodus of Catholics from Iraq, and is becoming enraged. Even now, he is likely hatching a strategy to confront this enemy.

That strategy, Bible prophecy says, will soon thrust the entire world into a time of unprecedented upheaval and violence! ■

ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED? ARE YOU in danger of losing your home? Do your debts devour your income and savings? Does the specter of more hard times ahead haunt you?

Perhaps you are one of thousands of people shouting at the government to fix our collapsed national economies. Your concerns are commendable. Yet, do you realize that the fix rests with *you*?

How well do we see that individual bad character is the real cause of the global financial crisis? The stark reality is, *we* helped create it. So, how do we get ourselves out of it? We must stop blaming the government and repair our own character.

Good character will help you get and keep a job. Good character will help you pay off your debts. Good character will provide you a more secure future. How? Read on!

Jeremiah the prophet was given an incredible vision into our tough times. Speaking for God, he tells us how to fix our character, “Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and *ask for the old paths*, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). Are we willing to do what a loving God asks?

Figuratively, God wants us to stand in the biggest city and take an honest look at society. It is not working! There is glitz and gadgets but it is all falling apart. Why? It is the people’s fault. Everyone is walking the wrong way. God commands us to reject our modern way of doing things—which is rebellion—and turn back to the *old paths*. God emphasizes that the old path is the *good way* that makes life go well.

So, what is the “old” good way that will lead individuals (and nations) out of financial crisis? It is the fiscally stabilizing virtue known as *thrift*.

Way to Wealth

What is thrift? We don’t know much about it today. It is much more than the name of a second-hand clothing store. History shows that we rejected thrift as a value in the early 20th century. Our current financial crisis warns us that it is time to bring it back.

Thrift means using money and other resources carefully, not wastefully.

Elbert Hubbard, a prolific writer and publisher in the early 1900s, published a pithy pamphlet titled *Let Thrift Be Your*



ISTOCKPHOTO

Ruling Habit. “Thrift is a habit,” this little booklet explains. “A habit is a thing you do unconsciously or automatically, without thought. ... The habit of thrift is simply the habit which dictates that you shall earn more than you spend.” In essence, a thrifty person has a sound self-discipline.

Benjamin Franklin, one of America’s Founding Fathers, wrote extensively on the subject. After publishing his thoughts on thrift in *Poor Richard’s Almanac* for over 20 years, he summarized them in *The Way to Wealth*. This little pamphlet has been a bestseller for over 250 years.

It extols thrift as the means to gain and *maintain* wealth. Ben Franklin saw thrift as a positive *way of life*, employed by people of outstanding character.

Both of these wise men taught that thrift demands every individual *work* to make a living. They stressed that real wealth comes in small increments built up over time through hard work. A life of ease—which is laziness—will never produce financial security.

Understanding of the value of working hard is all but vanished from our national thinking. We live in the delusional



get-rich-quick age. Many today gamble away whole paychecks in casinos playing slot machines and card games. Others hope to win big while pouring money down the lottery drains. Still others live on the dole, collecting welfare; over 42 million in America alone receive food stamps. Financial consultant Dave Ramsey warns, “Over the last 40 years we have gradually become a nation of *consumers*, instead of the nation of *producers* we used to be” (*Financial Peace Revisited*). Apparently, many people would rather play than work.

Love to Work

Hard work is not drudgery. Mr. Hubbard wrote, “All wealth comes from labor applied to land,” said Adam Smith. ... Let us say, ‘All wealth comes from loving labor applied to land.’ The successful labor is loving labor. Loving labor and thrift go hand in hand.”

Do we love to labor? People who love to labor are producers. No matter what job we do, when we love to work we produce. A farmer who loves to work produces fruits and vegetables. A cattleman who loves to work produces meat. A factory worker who loves to work produces goods. People who produce—produce wealth!

“Laziness and idleness costs twice as much as the taxes the government forces upon you,” Franklin wrote (*The Way to Wealth (New Modern Edition)*). If we do not love to work, we will fall behind financially. Mr. Franklin also wrote, “[A]t the workingman’s house hunger looks in but dares not enter.” Hardworking people rarely lose a job, even in hard times. Those who do, usually find other work quickly. Hard workers are not plagued by fear.

In fact, those who love labor are confident people. Elbert Hubbard explained, “[W]hen you produce more than you consume, your life is a success, and you are filled with courage, animation, ambition, goodwill. The world is beautiful, for the world is your view of the world, and when you are right with yourself, all’s right with the world.”

Ask yourself, “Do I love to work?”

Pay Your Own Way

Thrift insists that people pay their own way. This second principle warns against the bad habit of borrowing to meet

expenses and especially wants. Debt is exposed as an injurious handicap. Thrift also orders individuals to step out of the welfare line. There is real personal strength in paying your own way.

Elbert Hubbard stated in his little book, “The habit of thrift proves your power to rule your own psychic self. You are captain of your soul. You are able to take care of yourself, and then out of the excess of your strength you produce a surplus. ... [Y]ou are able to take care of some one else This is to live.”

A constant borrower is weak and grows weaker with every additional loan. Using a credit card is spending money only if you pay it off *in full* every month. Any other credit card use is borrowing. Regularly borrowing on credit cards eats up your wealth because of the lender’s interest you must pay. Excessive credit card debt has driven many into bankruptcy. The numbers are staggering: Last year, personal bankruptcies in the United States rose to 1.53 million, up 9 percent from 2009.

“Unnecessary debt is financial insanity,” Mr. Franklin wrote. “Don’t do it.” It is far better to budget than to borrow.

A budget is a written estimate of your income and expenses. It is a tool for building wealth every month. It shows you clearly if your expenses are exceeding your income. If that is the case, it is time to make some cuts. Eliminating things we like but cannot afford is difficult, but wise money managers do it regularly. Cutting unnecessary expenses (and we all have them) keeps you on the path of paying your own way.

“Don’t be a slave to loans,” Franklin admonished. “Preserve your freedom and pay cash for what you purchase, except for something very large like a house. However, only buy a house you can afford.” Thrift means that *savings* is one of the most important line items in your budget. Saving for the future is a matter of self-discipline. Saving money to pay cash for most things you need is *always* the best policy.

Live Simply

Our society is a consumption monster. We have been taught to love stuff—lots of stuff! The number-one solution to *save* the U.S. economy is stimulus packages designed to promote individual spending. Think deeply about this plan. It is definitely *not* founded

on thrift! In this period of economic downturn, experts do not want us to save money—they want us to spend money on more stuff we don’t need. That’s insanity!

Thrift admonishes us to be economical. That is a term few truly understand.

For decades in the U.S. and Britain, Boy Scouts were taught how to be economical. The ninth law in the *Boy Scouts Handbook* states, “A Scout is thrifty. A Scout works to pay his own way and to help others. He saves for the future. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.” Do we grasp these easy-to-understand values?

Scouts learned that an economical person does not waste resources, which for most of us means money. An economical person uses only what is necessary and takes proper care of what he owns.

The words *economy* and *economical* derive from the Greek word *oikonomia*, from *oikonomos*, which means *household management*. Thrift is effective household management, which is good economy at the grassroots level. The global financial collapse reveals that many nations today are failing to manage their own households. It is wasteful government spending that has brought down many national houses.

There is a growing movement on the Web that challenges consumers to live with just 100 personal items. It is a measure to get people off the “work-spend treadmill” that leads to financial and emotional disaster. It teaches that *less is more* and encourages people to live simply. “The idea that you need to go bigger to be happy is false,” one participant related. “I really believe that the acquisition of material goods doesn’t bring about happiness.”

Benjamin Franklin taught, “If you spend everything you earn on things you don’t need or on things that add little value to your life, you will have a house full of stuff and a small bank account.” One of the wealthiest men of his time, Franklin knew that a full life is made rich with happy experiences—not stuff.

Living simply is the model of thrift. It leads a person to buy a home meant to meet needs, not impress the neighbors. It leads a person to turn lights off in a room that is not in use. It is not wasting water. It is not wasting time on useless entertainments. As Mr. Franklin stated, “Time is

He who is not thrifty is a slave to circumstance.

No matter how old you are, or how long you have lived, begin this day to save something, no matter how little, out of your earnings.

Cultivate the habit of thrift, and the earlier you begin, the better.

Thrift! It is the basis of all other virtues. To spend less than you earn—this way lies happiness. Thrift!



ELBERT HUBBARD ON THRIFT

March 2011
THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET

5

Penny-Saving Tips

A penny saved is a penny earned!



SHELTER

Bigger is not always better. Remember, buying for status is expensive. A smaller home in good repair is thrift.

- Reduce square footage. For example, have same-sex children share a bedroom. Eliminate duplicate rooms, such as multiple living rooms, multiple bathrooms, etc. Remember, each additional room carries a cost (heating, cooling, lighting, cleaning).
- Learn home repair.
- Clean your own home.
- Perform your own lawn maintenance.



ENERGY

Energy supplies are not limitless. Costs rise as supplies diminish. Wasteful use of energy makes the energy provider rich!

- If possible, upgrade furnace and air conditioning units to the most fuel-efficient models.
- Weatherproof windows and doors. Insulate attic space to minimize heating and cooling loss.
- Lower heat in winter, raise cooling in the summer.
- Use energy-efficient light bulbs.
- Turn off lights in rooms not in use.



CLOTHING

Quality classic styles withstand the test of time and wear.

- Prefer natural fibers like cotton, linen, silk and wool over synthetics. For footwear, prefer leather.
- Learn to make clothing.
- Sew your own repairs.
- Keep your clothing clean, especially woolen wear. Protect from pests like moths.
- Don't use the floor as a closet or dresser.
- Shop quality thrift stores first.
- Look for sales when shopping for necessary clothing.
- Don't buy clothes just because they are on sale.



FOOD

Eat to live, don't live to eat. A smart diet is good for your waist and pocketbook.

- Don't waste food. It is estimated that 40 percent of the food produced in the U.S. is thrown in the garbage.
- Cook your own foods. Eating out at restaurants regularly is pricey and unhealthy. Carry a bag lunch to work.
- Realize that foods prepared for you—those that are cut, chopped and sliced—cost more.

- Eat fresh, non-processed foods. Fresh fruits, vegetables, beans and whole grains like brown rice are more filling and nutritious.
- Buy grains and flours in bulk.
- Use store coupons for foods you use.
- Grow your own fruits and vegetables.
- Curtail the consumption of junk foods; they carry a hefty price tag.



ETC.

In a severe financial crunch, cut out all unnecessary costs.

- Give up the gas guzzler. Drive a smaller, fuel-efficient car.
- Car pool.
- Walk or bike when possible—it's healthier.
- Rent a movie rather than taking the family to the theater.
- Cancel cable TV. Focus the family entertainment on active, educational activities.
- Cut out Internet use. When you need to "search the Net," use the public library.
- Give up your cell phone. It seems indispensable, but people have survived thousands of years without them!

Final Thought: Teach your children thrift. It is more valuable than any college education.

money." It is being health conscious. It is vegetable gardening. It is not overeating or overdrinking. It is not frequenting expensive restaurants. It is driving one fuel-efficient car. It is owning one television set. It means cutting back on the heat in the winter and on the cooling in the summer. It is not impulse buying. It is having a quality—small—wardrobe. It is looking after appliances, furniture, the car and house.

Teaching economy, Elbert Hubbard declared, "You do not waste anything that can be used. You save it, care for it, reserve it." Get the picture?

Live to Give

Thrift demands that we share our wealth with those less fortunate. There comes those times when family, friends and neighbors need help—financially and emotionally. Mr. Franklin wrote, "Be humble and help others when you are able. Comfort and encourage them to follow the same path, so they too may find their prosperity." Operating from a position of strength,

a person of thrift is ready, willing and able to meet those needs. Notice also that Franklin exhorts

the givers to educate the needy about thrift. Throwing money at problems doesn't fix them. Everyone must learn to shoulder his own financial obligations (Galatians 6:5). Those living by thrift are the best qualified to teach the financially unstable.

"[T]hrift ... is a sister to a good many other beautiful habits," Mr. Hubbard remarked. Thrift is a magnet that attracts other good character traits like faithfulness, loyalty, truthfulness and caring.

People who work hard, pay their own way and live simply are not selfish, self-centered people. They have learned how to control and subdue the self. They are real givers. In fact, they live to give.

Giving to those less fortunate is golden character. It is the measure of a spiritually wealthy person. Jesus Christ said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Giving to the needs of others actually brings more blessings to the one who gives! That is a dynamic financial law that few know and teach.

Let's embrace thrift. It is the hedge that will protect us from hard times. And as we practice it, we will not only help ourselves—we will be in a position to help others. ■



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The End of the Dollar

BY ROBERT MORLEY

IN JANUARY, CHINESE PRESIDENT HU Jintao was wined and dined with a lavish state banquet at the White House and other official ceremonies usually reserved for America's closest friends and allies. Why? One must be very polite when entertaining your banker—even if you don't like him and he doesn't like you.

Yet there is another more ominous but closely related reason.

For years, China has warned America that its support for the dollar was not unconditional. The warnings fell on deaf ears. Confident that China was virtually forced to lend money to America, Washington embraced a borrow-and-spend policy that would have destroyed any other currency.

Then last year, when it became clear that America could not borrow enough money to pay the bills—it crossed the Rubicon, declaring that the laws of paper money no longer applied to the mighty dollar: America would just print whatever money it needed to pay the bills. Federal Reserve Chairman Benjamin Bernanke declared he would start by conjuring \$900 billion—75 percent of America's borrowing needs—out of thin air.

The world was shocked that America would so abuse the world's reserve currency. France, Germany, Russia and China were outraged. But Americans wagered that the world is too caught in the dollar trap to do anything about it.

So far, this strategy has worked out pretty well for America. With several European countries falling apart, the dollar has firmed up, and safe-haven money has

continued to flow into America. But signs are, that is beginning to change.

Europe's Sugar Daddy

As the *Washington Post* wrote, "[S]trange things are happening in Europe—none stranger than the emergence of China as the Continent's sugar daddy" (January 16).

Wait—wasn't China *America's* "sugar daddy"? Well, just follow the yen. In July 2009, China held \$939 billion worth of U.S. treasury debt. More than a year later China's holdings *have fallen* to \$895 billion. This is big news—and surely isn't lost on Washington. *For more than a year, America's most important creditor has stopped lending new money to America.* Instead, China is investing its money, and its confidence, in Europe.

Today, Europe matters more to China than any place in the world. With 400 million First World consumers and the world's largest economy, the European Union is by far China's biggest export market.

It is a reciprocal relationship, too. China now directly holds over \$900 billion worth of eurozone national debt. In Greece, China is investing billions more as it attempts to build the Mediterranean port city of Piraeus into the "Rotterdam of the south," and create a modern-day silk road linking Chinese factories with consumers across Europe and North Africa.

Most importantly, China has thrown its weight behind the euro.

In a recent trip to Europe, Vice Premier Li Keqiang did nothing less than transform Europe's economic picture. Just as commentators were predicting the

collapse of the eurozone, Li—a favorite to become China's next prime minister—appeared to throw China's \$2.85 trillion worth of foreign exchange reserves into Europe's breach, promising to be a committed and responsible long-term investor in Europe. ICBC bank, China's largest lender, quickly followed suit, announcing its intention to move full force into the eurozone. It will open its first-ever branches in France, Spain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands. It has already opened offices in Frankfurt and Luxembourg.

Li's support is already paying dividends in Europe. With interest rates coming down from recent highs and successful debt auctions, Spain and Portugal got a welcome taste of what several billion euros' worth of Chinese "sugar" can do.

Of course, it doesn't come free. Li publicized China's desire that the EU relax restrictions on high-tech exports to China and develop trade relations. In addition, China wants access to Europe's defense companies.

Europe seems all too willing to do business. The EU's Foreign Minister Catherine Ashton called for abolishing Europe's arms embargo with China. Reportedly, American officials, who have to deal with a rapidly growing Chinese military presence in the Pacific, are furious.

What Will Replace the Dollar?

It was what Hu Jintao told the *Wall Street* See **DOLLAR** page 36 ▶

A

RE YOU TALENTED? IF SO, what are you doing about it?

If not, are you *sure* about that?

What about your children—do you have a child prodigy? Or—do you think your children are doomed to mediocrity? Are you *certain*?

Just what is talent? Your definition of it could be cheating you.

In a culture saturated with “talent”-based reality shows, people tend to think greatness is something you either have or you don’t. Many people feel they have no talent—while others have convinced themselves that they were born great.

The word *talent* can be troublesome. As a music teacher, I often see it used to excuse *laziness* in both the “talented” and the “untalented.” “Talented” people, it is believed, shouldn’t need to work as hard because of their natural endowments; while untalented people might as well give up, because they’re simply not as gifted.

The common conception of talent is, at best, vague and, at worst, debilitating.

In his book *Talent Is Overrated*, Geoff Colvin does a masterful job explaining what “talent” actually is. He documents a bevy of research that explains, as his subtitle says, “What *Really* Separates World-Class Performers From Everybody Else.”

Colvin challenges the supposed truths about what makes people great. We assume that history’s supreme achievers had greatness in their genetic code. Or that their eminence came from “divine spark”—that Providence endowed them with some superhuman ability. We believe the greatest innovations in history came from that “lightning bolt” of inspiration. Similarly, we love to be wowed on televised talent shows by the housewife or middle-aged lackey with no training who astonishes the judges with natural ability.

The notion that greatness is like holding a winning lottery ticket feeds the fantasy that life should be easy. It also causes us to *limit ourselves*. “Most insidiously, in our own lives,” Colvin writes, “we will try something new and, finding that it isn’t easy for us, conclude that we have no talent for it, and so we never pursue it.”

In his book, Colvin examines several scientific studies about achievement and

combines these conclusions with examples from distant and recent history: great athletes, inventors, corporate leaders, writers, composers and performers. They all have the following in common: THEY WORKED FURIOUSLY HARD OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME TO BECOME GREAT AT WHAT THEY DID.

The Source of Superior Achievement

These superachievers were not born that way. Their memories were the same as everyone else’s—they just learned how to put information in larger chunks. Their measurable “intelligence” wasn’t necessarily any greater. Few were considered child prodigies. In fact, some, early on, showed no real promise at what they ended up mastering.

If they succeeded as children in the particular field, it was because their parents drove them hard, as in the case of Wolfgang Mozart, son of a leading music educator of the day. In other cases, the child was so enamored with a parent that he wanted to do what Dad did: If Dad was an admitted “golf addict” who wanted his son to learn everything about golf from the moment he could walk, the toddler was thrilled to follow along. This was the case for Tiger Woods, who said, “Golf for me was an apparent attempt to emulate the person I looked up to more than anyone: my father.”

All the research and supporting evidence from human history shows that superior achievement comes from hours and hours of “**DELIBERATE PRACTICE.**” That means the “greats” put in a set number of hours in their particular field. Some call it the 10,000 hours principle. Greatness in any field requires that much practice.

But it is more than just quantity of hours. The *time of day* those hours are put in can separate the average from the great. And most importantly, *how* those hours are spent is critical.

“Deliberate practice is ... not what most of us do when we think we’re practicing golf or the oboe or any of our other interests,” Colvin writes. It “is hard. It hurts. But it works. More of it equals better performance. Tons of it equals great performance.” Such practice requires intense mental concentration along with physical effort.

Someone to Watch Over Me

Working in a field for a set number of years doesn’t guarantee world-class

greatness. Companies don’t generally encourage this kind of “talent development.” They want the job done—and doing what you are already good at doesn’t cause you to get any better.

To become great, a student needs “**DESIGNED deliberate practice,**” Colvin clarifies. Students can spend hours at something, but for those hours to be effective, their attention must be *guided* as to what exactly to rehearse in order to improve. Basically, they need good coaching—someone to supply immediate feedback that will cause them to adjust their execution and therefore increase their skill level.

Even those greats who were “self-trained” still received this coaching and feedback in other forms, constantly improving their skills based on comparisons with other “greats.” Colvin uses the case of Benjamin Franklin, who became one of the greatest writers in American history by fastidiously comparing his vocabulary, syntax, organization and argumentation with the reigning example of great writing of his day.

Colvin shows that even great creations and innovations follow the “deliberate practice” pattern. They are not the result of a lightning bolt, but rather are “roses that bloom after long and careful cultivation”—again, many hours of hard mental work. “The idea of epiphany is a dreamer’s paradise where people want to believe that things are easier than they are,” said Douglas K. van Duyne.

Ultimately, it is because deliberate practice is so demanding and not “fun” that few in this world have risen to the level of mega-greatness. Those who make the sacrifices of this kind of practicing do so because they have a passion for it. That passion can be inspired by parents or other mentors; it may not even develop until later in life. For some fields, the age at which the study began is critical to whether the brain forms in a certain way, but it is ultimately the **QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF HOURS** put in from that moment.

The point is that greatness is generally there for the taking for anyone with the **DISCIPLINE** and **DRIVE** to go after it.

The Biggest Factors

Colvin’s book came to the same conclusion that Herbert Armstrong came to years ago in the article he wrote for the *Plain Truth* called “Is Specialized Talent God-Given?” (January 1982).

There Mr. Armstrong related a



*Do you have
Talent?*

We're sure we know what talent is, and that superior ability and greatness are the results of it. Research tells us something remarkably different. **BY RYAN MALONE**

What It Takes to Be Great

Simple “practice” does NOT make perfect

WHEN your children are on the sports field or with the violin, how do they get better? How can you ensure your child gets the most out of the time? A lot of it has to do—at least until a certain point in development—with YOU. You can ensure they put in “deliberate practice,” as Geoff Colvin calls it in *Talent Is Overrated*. What is deliberate practice?



It is pushing yourself just beyond the comfort zone. Colvin refers to University of Michigan professor Noel Tichy’s three concentric circles, with one being the comfort zone, the next one out being the learning zone, and the outer one the “panic” zone. If we do what only comes easily to us (the “comfort zone”), we will never get better. But if we give ourselves too difficult a task, we freeze—the “panic zone.” Teachers can easily recognize when they’ve thrust the child into that zone, and they know how to bring the child back to the “learning zone”—where the tasks are just difficult enough to stretch the student.

It is high repetition of the right way to perform the task. Colvin says, “Repeating a specific activity over and over is what most of us mean by practice, yet for most of us it isn’t especially effective.” This requires that we know what to repeat, which leads to another aspect of “deliberate practice.”

It is designed practice—meaning someone is telling us, or our child, how to improve. Colvin says, “The great performers isolate remarkably specific aspects of what they do and focus on just those things until they are improved; then it’s on to the next aspect.” To know what those aspects are requires coaching—someone who has been at the field longer and knows the most efficient and effective pathway to success. Parents should observe lessons or coaching sessions so they can reinforce the teaching

methods later in the absence of coach or teacher.

It is continuous feedback on whether the task is being performed properly. Colvin quotes Steve Kerr, former chief learning officer of Goldman Sachs, who said that “practicing without feedback is like bowling through a curtain that hangs down to knee level.” This is also where the coach, teacher and parent are critical. We need feedback to ensure we are in fact getting better.

It is highly demanding mentally. The mental requirements of “deliberate practice” are the main reason most people are not great. The concentration necessary to repeat that small sixteenth-note passage, or to choose that perfect word in the essay, or to condition the brain to move the arm in that way every time for the throw is largely what separates the average from the great.

It is not much fun. If it were inherently fun and easy work, everyone would do it, and everyone would be great. Again, parental involvement is key. Praise and encouragement can help a child stick with a challenge. If a child lacks self-motivation, parental motivation is the next best thing, even if “negative,” to help a child conquer laziness. Evidence shows that in many cases, eventually the child will internalize that motivation. One study looked at the 24 finalists of the prestigious Van Cliburn piano competition. Not all were “child” prodigies. They were forced to practice like everyone else. Colvin relates, “One of the pianists recalled the life-changing experience at age 15 of sitting just three feet away as a great pianist performed: ‘I remember feeling inundated and overwhelmed with the dynamic range, with the expressive potential. ... [A]t that point I became serious like I never had before. I cut out horsing around at the piano. ... I worked.’”

conversation he had with the reigning soprano diva of the day, Montserrat Caballé, after a performance she gave in Ambassador Auditorium. He told her how Elbert Hubbard said that “genius is 1 percent inspiration, and 99 percent perspiration.” Mr. Armstrong continued: “She smiled. ‘Yes that is true,’ she agreed. ‘If one has talent, one must apply oneself and work very hard to develop that talent.’” Of those “greats,” Mr. Armstrong wrote: “They didn’t quit. They *worked at it*. They continued improving. They were not content with mediocrity. They became real ‘PROS.’”

Hubbard’s statement was similar to something Susan Polgar said. The story of the Polgar sisters helped debunk the traditional “talent” myth. Lazlo and Klarah Polgar embarked on an experiment to put their children in a random field and see if the children could achieve greatness simply through hard work. They raised their daughters on a rigorous curriculum intended to make them masters of chess, something the parents had no extraordinary aptitude in. Sure enough, the girls grew into extraordinarily brilliant

chess players. Susan, who became the top-ranked woman in the world by age 15, once said, “My father believes that innate talent is nothing, that [success] is 99 percent hard work. I agree with him.”

So at best, innate talent is 1 percent of it, as Caballé, Polgar, Hubbard and Armstrong all agree.

Mr. Armstrong used the word *talent* to refer to aptitudes, and stated that it can be hereditary. As every parent knows, personalities vary from child to child, even from the womb, as do attractions to different disciplines and activities—and physical endowments (e.g., hand-to-eye coordination). But as research is showing, there is no “eminence gene.” Greatness in anything is developed through hard work.

Genetics factors into the *physicality* of the person, for sure—playing a role in determining whether he or she will ever soar to greatness as a jockey, tuba player, gold-medal swimmer or sumo wrestler.

Yet, as Mr. Armstrong wrote, “the biggest factors in determining success or failure in life are MOTIVATION, DETERMINATION, DRIVE, PERSEVERANCE.”

Despite the minimal role genetics plays in achievement, greatness does run in families. This is, however, more due to parental DIRECTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT—NURTURE *over* nature. Children are willing to put in the hard work and not-so-fun effort because they are passionate about what their parents are passionate about. In some cases, they want to emulate parental success in the same field. In other cases, the parents drive their children without being overbearing or discouraging, and there comes a point where the student begins to enjoy the hard-work-to-success formula in that field; the drive begins to bubble up from within.

Talent Is Overrated challenges our view of where greatness comes from and even exposes our human nature for the slothfulness it holds so dear. It goes into easily readable detail as to the hard work necessary for superior achievement in many areas of life. It is a must-read for parents and students, managers and employees. As Colvin concludes his book, greatness is “not reserved for a preordained few. It is available to you and to everyone.” ■



The Hidden Nazi Underground

BY RICHARD PALMER

“WE DON’T UNDERSTAND GERMAN THOROUGHNESS,” said the founder of the *Trumpet’s* predecessor, the *Plain Truth*, Herbert W. Armstrong in May 1945. “From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically planned, in such eventuality, the third round—World War III! Hitler has lost. This round of war, in Europe, is over. And the Nazis have now gone UNDERGROUND They plan to COME BACK and to win on the third try.”

Mr. Armstrong said this while Germany was surrendering. He predicted Nazism would not be rooted out, and that many Nazis would have important roles in the new Germany that rose from the ashes of the old.

History has already proven Mr. Armstrong right. In 1956, he wrote, “The day that war ended, the Nazi organization went underground! Their plans for coming back have been proceeding, under cover, since 1945! Already Nazis are in many key positions—in German industry—in German education—in the new German ARMY!”

But the full extent of Nazi subterfuge has not been revealed until today. A slew of new studies and declassified reports show how thoroughly Nazis infiltrated the new German government.

Hiding Nazi Involvement

After the war ended, the German Foreign Ministry maintained its innocence. *We didn’t help the Nazis*, it protested. *We didn’t like them. We simply did our jobs and nothing more.*

It was a lie. In October last year, a commission of historians published an 880-page book detailing the Foreign Ministry’s cooperation with Nazism.

“The Foreign Ministry wasn’t just somehow involved in national socialism or even a hotbed of resistance, as was long claimed,” Prof. Eckart Conze, who chaired the study, told *Spiegel*. “From day one, it functioned as an institution of the Nazi regime and backed its politics of violence at all times. After 1945, there was a high degree of staffing continuity within the ministry, and some of its diplomats were seriously tainted.”

“The ministry contributed, as an institution, to the violent crimes of the Nazis, even including the murder of the Jews,” he continued. “In this sense, one can say that the Foreign Ministry was a criminal organization.”

Not only were these diplomats allowed to remain in office, but the German government worked to protect them from prosecution. The Foreign Ministry then went on to aid fellow Nazis; its legal team helped Germans avoid prosecution for war crimes overseas.

The Foreign Ministry’s civil servants were not the only ones to support the Nazis. The revelations about the Foreign Ministry prompted former Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück to open up the Finance Ministry’s records. The result: “The Reich’s Finance Ministry literally plundered the assets of the Jews,” said Steinbrück. “It was systematic. ... The Jews were stripped of savings, assets, anything with a financial or material value.”

Prof. Hans-Peter Ullmann, who chaired the Finance Ministry study, said that at one point 30 percent of the German government was financed by stolen Jewish assets. The *New York Times*

commented, “Plundering Jewish assets could not have been possible without an efficient civil service” (Dec. 26, 2010).

Letting Criminals Go

The German Intelligence Service, which became the BND in 1956, also hired Nazis. Last March, it admitted that it hired 200 Nazi criminals for 15 years after World War II.

“Some had been involved in massacres in Poland and Russia, others were Gestapo torturers; all found a berth in the West German intelligence service,” wrote the *London Times* (March 10, 2010).

The German secret service wasn’t the only force recruiting Nazis. The United States also protected Nazi war criminals so they would spy for it. A report published by the U.S. National Archives on December 10 shows that America lost interest in hunting down Nazis after 1946 and states that it “went to some lengths to protect certain persons from justice.” A separate Justice Department history of the era says America created a “safe haven” for Nazis.

It is no wonder, then, that both the U.S. and German intelligence agencies covered up Nazi war criminals.

Intelligence files leaked to the German *Bild* newspaper in January show that the German intelligence services knew where the infamous Adolf Eichmann was hiding, *eight years* before Israeli agents captured him and brought him to trial. The German intelligence file said he was hiding in Argentina under the name Clement. “Eichmann’s address is known to the editor of the German newspaper *Der Weg* in Argentina,” it stated.

“With this information one could definitely have found Eichmann in 1952, and it would be an insult to any secret service to claim that the information wasn’t sufficient,” said historian Betina Stangneth.

The *Independent* reported, “German intelligence is known to be reluctant to surrender all its Eichmann documents because of fears that full disclosure would prove beyond doubt that German and Vatican officials colluded in helping him to avoid trial for war crimes and escape to Argentina” (January 10).

Another example is the “Butcher of Lyons,” Klaus Barbie. Barbie cooperated with the Americans, so they helped him flee to South America. A French court sentenced him to death for his crimes in World War II, in absentia.

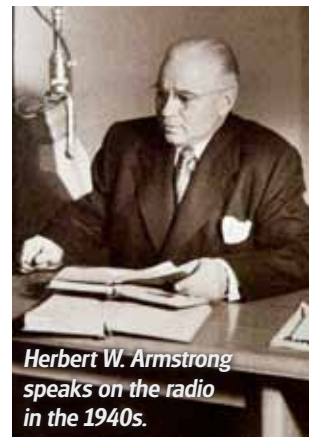
Then, in 1960, the German foreign intelligence agency recruited him as an agent in Bolivia. *Spiegel* reported that it did this knowing his true identity.

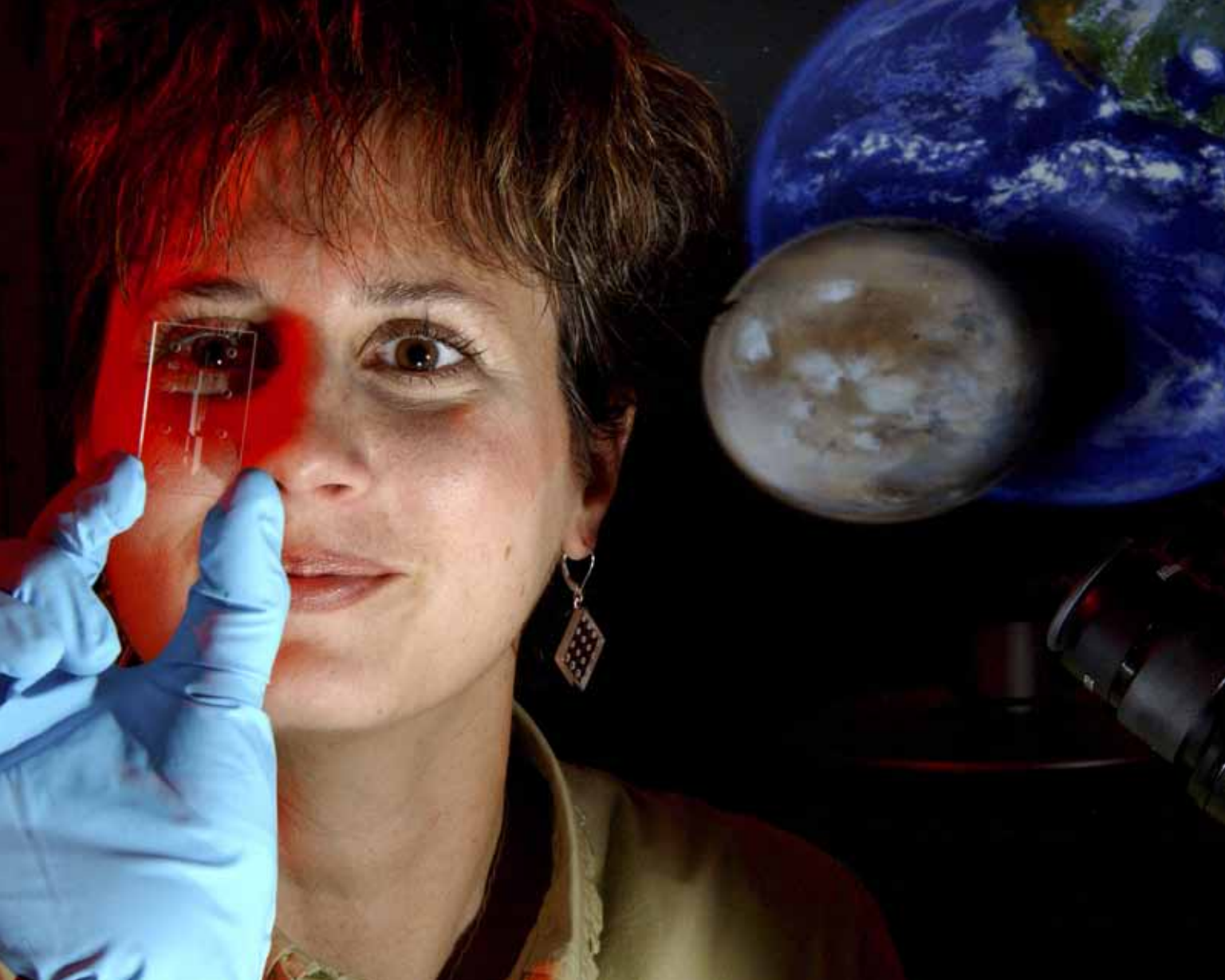
Warnings Ignored

America ignored Herbert Armstrong’s warnings. Too focused on Russia to worry about a resurgent Germany, it did nothing, and in many cases worse than nothing, when it came to hunting down Nazi war criminals.

The same civil and diplomatic service that supported Hitler was allowed to keep functioning. The German government absorbed old Nazis.

Now that same government is at the head of Europe. That should be a major warning to the whole world. ■





The World's **Leading-Edge** Laboratory

Where scientists go for inspiration (hint: It's not NASA) **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

WHAT KIND OF MACHINE DO YOU need to explore the surface of Mars?

It's quite a puzzler for the scientists tasked with the job. In fact, the best minds in space exploration have found it easier to get a spacecraft to reach that distant planet than to build a robot that can successfully navigate the rugged Martian landscape—with anything near the agility of your common mountain goat.

On Earth, everything rolls on wheels. On Mars's boulder-strewn, canyon-covered landscapes, wheels don't work so well.

To address the problem, scientist Rodney Brooks took an alternative, yet eminently logical approach. From his earliest days of designing robots, Brooks began with the hypothesis that any successful system had to be *grounded in the physical world*. "I argue for simplicity," he says. "I'm interested in building something that can't fail to work." So he built based on something that already worked.

In this case, he—perhaps unwittingly—

followed the wisdom of a biblical proverb, and *went to the ant*. Anyone who has ever seen an ant crawl out of impossible-looking holes or up steep walls can understand why.

The more Brooks observed the tiny six-legged creatures, the more amazed he became. He could scarcely believe humble insects were capable of forming logical descriptions inside "that puny little head with 50,000 neurons."

By watching high-speed videos of insects running, he noticed that "they fall all the time and hit their metaphorical

CLEAR Science and engineering are continually pushing advancement, such as this “lab on a chip” being examined by a NASA scientist. Some of the most difficult challenges become easier when looking at working solutions found in the natural world.

chin.” But because they are so lightweight and their skeletal strength is so great, they can have missteps and still recover.

While other scientists were building massive, unwieldy, fragile robots, Brooks (in conjunction with another scientist and a high school student) designed a small, lightweight, six-legged, ant-like robot called Genghis. It was good enough to get the attention of Pasadena’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and NASA.

Brooks’s ant robot, built in the mid-1980s, represented an established trend in technology—one that has been exploding in popularity in recent years: When science reaches a limit, when it hits a wall, engineers, builders and inventors look to a fascinating source for inspiration.

They turn to *the creation*.

It only makes sense. Whether or not you believe in the existence of a Creator, the

natural world is teeming with eye-popping, mind-stretching engineering and scientific feats that, well, *work*. Elegantly, beautifully, without fanfare.

Nature’s Drawing Board

Perhaps you are familiar with the seeds of the burdock plant? A bane to hunters and woodsmen for thousands of years, this little-known photosynthetic organism is now the poster child for the burgeoning field of biometrics (or as it is also known, biomimicry).

Even before the fateful day in 1941 when George de Mestral went for a hike in the Swiss Alps, came back covered in sticky burrs and had an epiphany—Velcro—scientists have been copying the methods and systems found in nature and adapting them to everyday problems. In fact, learning and applying *the lessons of living things* is at the forefront of some of the world’s most cutting-edge technology.

During the early years of jet engines,

researchers encountered a perplexing design barrier. As planes got faster and faster, the engines persistently stalled out at certain speeds. The air, instead of flowing into the engine, would for some reason flow around it. Puzzled, researchers looked to nature’s fastest animal: a diving peregrine falcon. How could the bird still breathe, they wondered, while traveling at an incredible 200 miles per hour? Looking at the falcon’s nostrils, they found that a small cone protruding from the front slowed down the air, allowing orderly airflow into the nasal cavity. Fashioning a similar cone in front of the turbine air intake slowed the air enough to maintain proper airflow into the jet engine.

Flight engineers continue to scrutinize the natural world for solutions. For example, it has long been known that the wing shapes of different birds favor different types of flight. Some wings work well for rapid acceleration; others work much better for long-distance cruising: Think sparrow versus albatross. Additionally, birds have the remarkable ability to spread their feathers during the different stages of flight to maximize efficiency. Scientists from Penn State University want to exploit these advantages by building mechanical aircraft wings that can change form. With these next-generation wings, sliding scales cover a shape-shifting understructure that allows the wing to morph in mid-flight to enable faster, more efficient flying and conserve fuel.

Other scientists and planners are trying to boost flight efficiency by mimicking bird *behavior*. Some birds, like Canada geese, increase the distance they can fly by more than 70 percent by flying in V-formation. Scientists have discovered that when one bird flaps its wings, it creates a small up-draft that lifts the bird behind, allowing it to glide more and expend less energy. A team at Stanford University says that passenger airlines could likewise benefit from V-shaped convoy flight. Models suggest that if, for example, groups of three or more jets from West Coast airports flew in formation en route to East Coast destinations, taking turns in front as birds do, the aircraft could use 15 percent less fuel compared to flying alone. Not a bad savings for doing something as simple as imitating

bird behavior. In 2009, the Defense Department announced plans to pay Boeing to investigate the merits of formation flight.

Meanwhile, scientists at the University of Leeds in Britain are studying the defense mechanism of the bombardier beetle to see if the insect might help them learn how to reignite stalled gas-turbine aircraft engines in mid-flight. The beetle is known for a highly efficient discharge apparatus that enables it to spray predators with a high-pressure stream of *boiling* fluid a distance of 200 to 300 times the length of its combustor. Its exit nozzle system—

with its incredibly short mass ejection time and long range of spray—may serve as a prototype to help aircraft more accurately squirt plasma into gas turbine combustion chambers during the re-ignition process.

Engineers at Airbus are also making high-tech, nature-inspired wing modifications. In order to smooth the flow of air over the wings of the aircraft, they are using a striated foil coating inspired by the shape and texture of sharkskin. Intriguingly, scientists have discovered that the rough

texture of sharkskin actually helps channel the flow of water over its surface—reducing turbulence and thus drag. Sure enough, the same principle works with airflow. The result of their nature-inspired modifications? Planes creating 6 percent less friction and enjoying increased fuel efficiency.

The sharkskin discovery applied even more directly at the last summer Olympics in Beijing. Swimmer Michael Phelps won a record-breaking eight gold medals there. Training and aptitude were no doubt the biggest reasons for his success, but his swimsuit, fashioned with synthetic sharkskin fabric, definitely provided an edge. In fact, 89 percent of all medal winners at that competition wore sharkskin-model suits.

Similar sharkskin-type coatings are being applied to the hulls of ships as well because their bumpy, rivet-like contours inhibit the growth of barnacles, algae and other organisms that normally like to adhere themselves to boat bottoms.

Higher, Faster, Further—Cooler?

Inventors have designed fabrics that could be used to make clothing that adjusts to help keep you warmer or cooler depending on your body



“I argue for simplicity. I’m interested in building something that can’t fail to work.”

RODNEY BROOKS
NASA AND JPL SCIENTIST



Spidernaut is being developed by NASA to help carry loads too heavy and fragile to be self-contained. Designed like an arachnid, its eight legs allow weight to be distributed evenly.



The rough texture of **sharkskin** has been found to reduce drag and turbulence in both air and water. In the Beijing Olympics, 89 percent of medal winners wore sharkskin-model suits.



temperature. How? By studying the way pinecones open and close depending on humidity. One new smart textile is constructed with a layer of thin spikes of water-absorbent material that opens up when the wearer sweats. When the layer dries out, the spikes automatically close again. A second layer underneath would protect the wearer from the rain. These fabrics promise to reduce or eliminate the need to wear multiple layers of clothing.

Keeping cool is also a challenge for building engineers, especially when you want to avoid expensive air conditioning bills. To solve this problem, some designers have turned to the humble termite. As it turns out, termites are masters at managing the temperatures inside their termite towers. They do this by constantly opening and closing vents throughout the mound to bring in cooler air from lower levels and release hot air through chimneys. The new high-rise Eastgate Center building in Harare was inspired by these amazing insect mounds. It collects cool air at night and lets it settle to basement levels. Then this air is used to cool the structure throughout the day. The result is a modern building that uses only 10 percent of the energy required by a typical multistory shopping mall.

When engineering solutions are not enough to keep heating and cooling costs down, super-efficient wind turbines can help. For this, the creation is offering solutions too.

Ever wonder why humpback whales have odd bumpy protrusions on the front of their flippers? Despite traditional fluid dynamics that say this isn't possible, it is

because the scallops actually reduce drag and increase lift. This new science—which is actually as old as humpback whales—is revolutionizing wind turbine technology. New airfoils designed with humpback flipper-like bumps on the leading edge reduce stall angles and purportedly increase efficiency enough (almost a third) to make the wind power comparable, on a cost basis, to other, more traditional forms of power generation.

Changing to Survive

The wild Martian landscape is far from being the only challenge in space exploration. High-energy radiation bombards sensitive electronic equipment and extreme temperatures cause drastic mechanical wear and high rates of system failure. To get around these problems, scientists commonly include shielding. They hardwire spare parts, build in redundancy, and take other measures. But the drawbacks are formidable. Spare parts and insulation are heavy and costly. Plus, you can't carry spare parts for everything, or—in the case of space travel—it might not fly.

Some scientists, however, are taking a radically different approach—one also grounded in the real world of the creation.

What if you could build a circuit board, a computer program or a robot that could adapt depending on conditions? Even better, since there is no post office to deliver spare parts on Jupiter, what if you could build a system that could repair itself? That is what scientists like Adrian Stoica at JPL are working on.

Consider humans. In some ways, we're quite fragile. We are optimized to live in 70 degree climate, but we have learned to adapt to live in climates between minus-40 degrees in arctic tundra to 104 degrees or higher in warmer climates. We adapt to our environment by wearing clothes, eating high-energy food, drinking lots of fluids, and avoiding intense sunlight. Even a child learns to put on a pair of socks when his feet are cold. This makes us much more resilient.

Scientists like Stoica are developing circuits and even computer programs that *adapt* when they notice a change in the environment or when they fail at a task.

Working for JPL and NASA, Stoica's job was to build electronics that could perform functions in extreme environments such as volcanoes or nuclear reactors, or even outer space. As opposed to the standard approach of shielding electronics

Robo Lobster

was developed to sniff out mines. The scientists designing Robo Lobster studied the way real lobsters flick their antennules to analyze odors.



Humpback whales are revolutionizing wind turbine technology. The bumps on their flippers have inspired new airfoil designs that increase lift and reduce drag.



Velcro was invented after an engineer studied the way burdock seeds stuck to his clothing. After years of work, he was able to roughly duplicate the clasping process.



from the environment, he thought of a second possibility: When the environment changes, why not just replace the broken parts by having the electronics reconfigure themselves?

Thus Stoica designed and built flexible circuits that actually self-adapt to find optimal functionality under radiation, temperature or other environmental changes.

“The human body offers a good analogy,” say Dennis Shasha and Cathy Lazere in their book *Natural Computing*. “Cuts normally ... heal naturally in a few days, broken arms in a few weeks. But an amputated limb requires a prosthetic. If a spacecraft could be designed so that minor failures would be repaired locally and severe failures would be repaired by replacement with a spare part, then the spacecraft [or robot] might survive for [much longer].”

A spaceship that can fix itself might sound fanciful, but consider that the transportation industry is already developing products based on the same concept for use much closer to home. Self-repairing plastics for use in things like aircraft fuselages and automobiles are being tested with the hope that they can make vehicles lighter, more fuel-efficient and safer. When the hollow plastic fibers are stressed or broken, the microscopic tubes release an epoxy resin, creating a “scab” nearly as strong as the original material.

Other scientists are taking the concept of biological adaptation even further: working to produce machines that can not only mimic and adapt to change, but also make decisions and solve complex problems on their own.

“[T]he future,” say Shasha and Lazere, “is a synthesis with nature.” In other words, get ready for some mind-boggling advances.

The Correct Scientific Method

The discoveries—that is, *rediscoveries*—are coming faster and faster. Considering the vastness of the creation, the potential is virtually limitless.

Consider. Deep-sea sponges have inspired commercial optical fibers. Giant water-capturing fog nets in Chile and Peru were inspired by a *Stenocara* beetle. Bat-like sonar-emitting canes help blind people locate obstructions. Superhydrophobic paint that won't collect dirt is coming to storerooms near you—and was inspired by the lotus plant (will you ever have to wash your car again?). Sea creatures related to sea urchins, called brittle stars, have led to improved optical lens designs. The gecko has taught us how to make tape without glue.

Who knows what discoveries the yeti crab or star-nosed mole might hold? How long before we are commercializing rope based upon super-strong spider silk? Or making glass out of dissolved silicon in seawater, like microscopic phytoplankton? What other technologies will the creatures living in deep-sea underwater volcanic vents stimulate?

As scientists know, success in an endeavor requires building on a sound foundation. Often, when scientists and builders get into trouble it is because they build on a faulty foundation. If you begin with an incorrect premise, you'll end with an incorrect answer.

Creation-based science is proving to have a terrific premise. Why is that? If we are honest, we cannot attribute the supremely developed engineering behind the natural world to random chance. It reveals a mind of stunning intelligence and creativity.

As Herbert W. Armstrong once wrote, “I have said that the tools of modern science

are observation, experimentation and reason. Are those tools wrong? Not at all! The error comes from rejection of revelation. For revelation is the true starting premise.”

If you want truth, if you want real answers, God must be your foundation. The Bible reveals that when God saw everything He had created, “it was very good.” God designed the material world with all its physical, chemical and biological laws to work well. The more you look at creation, the more you come to understand that even our most advanced man-made technologies look primitive by comparison.

Although scientists today don't realize it, as they look to nature for solutions to problems, they come very close to the *correct* scientific method. Looking to the lessons of living things—which are designed by God, the Supergenius of cutting-edge technology—is about as close as this world comes to asking God for answers.

When God's knowledge is the foundation of a project, it is inspiring to see what can be accomplished!

Shasha and Lazere say that the future “is a synthesis with nature.” In truth, the bright future scientists are working toward will come as a result of a “synthesis” not with nature—but with the CREATOR of “nature”! The Bible prophesies of a time coming soon when *all* human endeavor will be based on the right premise, and grounded in a robust relationship with God. Under direct divine tutelage, the scientific barriers holding us back today will come tumbling down! Invention and technology will enter its true golden age!

A city street in Rockhampton, where floodwaters peaked above 30 feet before receding.



AUSTRALIA

A real 'biblical disaster'

"BIBLICAL DISASTER," SCREAMED the headline in the *Courier Mail* newspaper, the leading daily of Brisbane, capital of the Australian state of Queensland.

Billed the "sunshine state" by Queensland's Tourist Commission, Australia's second-largest state became awash with massive floods in December and January as torrential rains overflowed the state's rivers and three quarters of the state was declared a disaster zone.

By mid-January, the death toll resulting from the floods had reached 20, with more still missing. Massive water flows from the floods hit Brisbane, and the power was shut off to much of its central business district for days. More than 40,000 structures in Brisbane were inundated.

Major rain also hit the southern states, causing flooding in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

Economists estimate the cost for the Queensland floods could top A\$20 billion (US\$19.8 billion), making them the costliest natural disaster in Australia's

history. The national growth rate of Australia's economy is expected to be reduced by a full percentage point due to the floods.

The extent of these floods and their impact not only on the people of Queensland but also on its mining industry is set to wallop Australia's resource-based economy such as few such disasters have before. With these floods affecting such a large part of the coal-producing areas of Australia, commodity prices *worldwide* suffered. For years Australia has placed its economic eggs in one basket, that of the export of raw materials—essentially coal, iron ore and other minerals. The fact that Queensland produces around half of the world's coking coal, which is used to make steel, has already escalated the cost of both coal and steel globally.

Brisbane's *Courier Mail* was not alone in describing this massive inundation of vast tracts of northeastern Australia—described as an area larger than France and Germany combined—as a disaster of *biblical proportions*. For indeed it *is*—not

so much in historic terms but, in reality, in clearly *prophetic* terms—part of the progressive fulfillment of the prophecies of disaster forecast in your Bible for our time.

No nations have been blessed to the extent of the Anglo-Saxons over the past two centuries. Yet no nations have spurned the Giver of every good and perfect gift as these nations have, especially since their deliverance from tyranny 65 years ago. As a result, we are about to reap the whirlwind. Queensland's floods are but a token of what is to come upon the United States, Britain and its dominions.

In Deuteronomy 32:18 God declares, "Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee." God says of the rebellious house of Israel—specifically to Australia, a country that hosts one of the world's most infamous annual homosexual Mardi Gras—"For their vine is worse than the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah—to me belongs vengeance and recompense ... for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that come upon them make haste" (verses 32-35).

Yet it is not God's desire to see people suffer such as so many in Queensland are. God is a God of *mercy* to those who *repent*. He declares of the rebellious, "O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" It is God's desire that *none perish*—that all might live and enjoy the abundant way of life He predestined man to live. He is "longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Yet few will truly heed any warning that rings of a flood of publicly declared "biblical proportions" being caused by biblically specified reasons. Few will heed until our Creator turns up the heat by imposing more and increasingly severe penalties of "biblical proportions."

But, thank God that the floods in Australia are just one of many great indicators that our Creator has had enough—enough of mankind's wayward rebellion against the very reason for which they were created. Thank God that He will soon directly intervene to impose His government of peace and global unity for the good of all mankind! (Isaiah 9:6-7). Then humankind will understand its truly incredible potential and will move en masse to embrace it. But only after it has suffered terribly for rebellion against its own Creator.

NUMBERS

16

22 Earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or more in 2010

\$222 Billions in economic losses caused by man-made and natural disasters in 2010

295 Thousands of lives claimed by natural disasters in 2010

At home in Britainistan

British culture is becoming increasingly changed by a remarkable statistic: 2,869,000 Muslims now live in Britain, an increase of 74 percent over the 2001 census figure and equivalent to 4.6 percent of the population. A *Telegraph* blog reporting the figures called them a “demographic earthquake.”



Anglican bishops become Catholic priests.

Welcome back, Protestants

Anglicans for the first time officially joined the Catholic Church at Westminster Cathedral on January 1. Three former Anglican bishops, two of their wives and three former Anglican nuns took the ritual of communion in a Catholic service and were received into the Catholic Church and confirmed as Catholics.

A club they wish they hadn't joined

Britain and Europe are growing increasingly at odds over the European Union. While EU integration is increasing in spite of and, in fact, because of the current financial crises, many Britons think EU membership is bad for their country. According to a Fabian Society study, 45 percent think membership has been bad, and only 22 percent think it has been good. Half said EU nations should loosen the ties between them.

Gotham: Where 2 in 5 babies don't make it to birth

In America's largest city, concerns are growing about abortion. Each year, 90,000 New Yorkers kill their pregnancies. The figure constitutes two out of five pregnancies, twice the national rate. A news conference led by local religious leaders to discuss the statistic was met with vocal protesters denouncing any decrease in abortions.

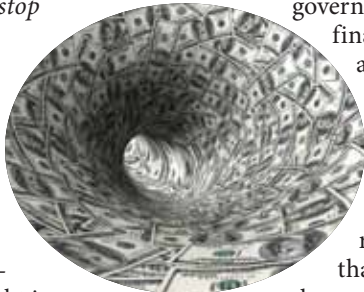
U.S. in hole, keeps digging deeper

“WE’VE GOT A BIG HOLE THAT we’re digging ourselves out of,” U.S. President Barack Obama said during an economics speech on January 7. It was a telling slip. Of course, the First Rule of Holes is, when you find yourself in one, stop digging. But Washington continues to address its enormous debt by digging all the more.

On the last day of 2010, the U.S. national debt passed \$14 trillion, just seven months after it hit \$13 trillion. The government built up more debt in the 2010 Congress than in the first 100 congresses put together. The 111th Congress accumulated \$3.22 trillion of debt.

In light of some of these issues, both Moody's and Standard & Poor's credit rating agencies warned on January 13 that the United States may soon lose its AAA credit rating if it doesn't start addressing its deficit and long-term budget issues. While European woes are temporarily propping up demand for the dollar, more and more respected analysts and

institutions are saying that the dollar is living on borrowed time. On January 8, a top International Monetary Fund official warned that the U.S. must start cutting deficits soon or face rising interest rates. If the debt-addicted American government cannot shore up its



finances, doubts about its ability to repay could push longer-term interest rates higher, making it harder to do what Washington does best: borrow.

Meanwhile, a recent report by Realty Trac states that more than 1 million homes were foreclosed on in 2010, a new record. Analysts say 2011 will be worse, since many homes in default were not completely foreclosed on due to the robo-signing scandal. Banks already have \$7 billion in foreclosed property on their books, homes that might still be declining in value, and the government owns \$24 billion worth. America's housing woes are a warning to Australia, Canada and New Zealand, three countries with bubble housing markets remarkably similar to America's prior to the crash.

Dads, mums needed

YOUNG MEN WITH NO MALE ROLE models and young women without female role models are far likelier to go off track. Data gathered by the Prince's Trust youth index and released December 30 shows they are 67 percent more likely to be unemployed and to stay unemployed longer. Young men are 50 percent likelier to abuse drugs, and young women to drink excessively. Young men are also statistically more likely to feel suicidal. They were also found to be twice as likely to contemplate or engage in crime.

In January, the Families Ministry reported that children not brought up in a two-parent family are 75 percent more likely to fail at school, 70 percent more likely to become addicted to drugs, 40 percent more likely to have serious debt, and 35 percent more likely to become unemployed or welfare-dependent.

This is bad news in light of the state of British families. The Families Ministry has also found that one in five children from a broken home loses touch with a parent within three years and never sees the him or her again. Many more lose contact as they grow older, usually with their fathers.

“We should not underestimate the impact a positive adult influence can have on a young person.”

MARTINA MILBURN

THE PRINCE'S TRUST, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Take this pill and let me know what it does

Over a quarter of teens and children in the U.S. regularly take prescription drugs, according to the nation's biggest pharmacy-benefit manager, Medco Health Solutions Inc. Almost 7 percent take two sets of prescription drugs. “Doctors and parents warn that prescribing medications to children can be problematic,” warned the *Wall Street Journal*. “There is limited research available about many drugs' effects in kids. And healthcare providers and families need to be vigilant to assess the medicines' impact, both intended and not. Although the effects of some medications, like cholesterol-lowering statins, have been extensively researched in adults, the consequences of using such drugs for the bulk of a patient's lifespan are little understood” (Dec. 28, 2010).



Full-spectrum satellites would give Berlin a force multiplier and greater political independence.

1 | GERMANY

Seeking super-spy satellites

GERMANY HAS SOUGHT AMERICAN HELP TO CONSTRUCT spy satellites capable of detecting objects just 1.5 feet in diameter, taking infrared images at night and processing information far quicker than current satellites, according to WikiLeaks cables publicized January 3.

“Germany is taking concrete steps to achieve a full-spectrum, overhead reconnaissance capability by adding a space-based High Resolution Optical System (HIROS) to their already impressive suite of space-based radar and multi-spectral systems,” one cable, dated Feb. 15, 2009, states. “The German government believes that full-spectrum overhead reconnaissance is an effective force multiplier, provides an instrument of national power, and politically frees Germany from dependence on foreign sources of imagery.”

The German government denies that HIROS is a military project, saying it is designed for public use. The satellite will be used to help civilians during natural disasters, or for scientific projects, the German Space Agency’s spokesman said.

That might have sounded more convincing had that 2009 cable not also stated, “To minimize possible political backlash from developing HIROS as an intelligence satellite, the program will be managed by a civil agency, possibly the Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi). For political optics, the satellites themselves would be operated by a ‘commercial entity’ created specifically for this purpose, but with tasking managed/controlled/coordinated by BND [German Federal Intelligence Agency].” So, in order to not cause a stir, the German government said it would make the satellite program look like a non-military project.

The cables say the satellites should be operational by 2013.

Space is a vital frontier to any nation wishing to control events on Earth. As we wrote in December 2003, “Consider and realize that major wars will *never be controlled from this Earth’s surface again!* From now on, all major wars will be controlled from space.”

The fact that America is enhancing Germany’s spy satellite capacity shows a dangerous level of trust. America is aiding Germany in a vital national security area. History and prophecy show this mistake will come back to haunt America in the future.

2 | KOSOVO

Aiding a mafioso

The prime minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, was an organized crime boss and trafficked in human organs in the late 1990s, according to a draft report published by the Council of Europe on December 14. The report accused Western nations of ignoring these crimes. Thaçi led the Drenica Group that came to dominate the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) which fought Serbia. The report supports claims by former prosecutor at The Hague Carla del Ponte that the KLA kidnapped Serbs and stole their organs. The report supports what the *Trumpet* has been saying for years: that the U.S. succumbed to German pressure and backed the wrong side in the Balkans.



THAÇI



ISTOCK PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

What economic crisis?

Europe’s economic crisis continues to make news, with a bomb exploding outside two court buildings in Athens and two embassies in Rome in December, and Athens seeing big riots once again. Pressure is growing on Portugal to accept an EU bailout package. Standard & Poor’s lowered Belgium’s outlook to negative on December 14. Moody’s warned that Spain and Greece could also have their ratings cut.

To combat these pressures, European leaders agreed on December 16-17 to amend the Lisbon Treaty to create a permanent eurozone rescue fund. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the agreement demonstrated a “big piece of solidarity between the states that share the euro.” Stratfor had a different perspective: “Amending the Lisbon Treaty in order to establish a permanent rescue mechanism will complete Berlin’s first phase of re-designing the European Union” (Dec. 15, 2010). Germany is using the crisis to persuade EU nations to give up further national sovereignty in exchange for bailouts.

Meanwhile, Germany is “stronger” after Europe’s economic crisis, Chancellor Merkel said in her New Year’s message. Germany, she pointed out, now has its lowest unemployment rate since reunification. German unemployment was under 7 percent in October, 3 percent less than the EU’s average unemployment rate. “In spite of all economic worries, it turned out to be a good year for Germany,” Merkel said.

EU law trumps Britain’s

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange faces extradition from Britain under the European Arrest Warrant (EAW), illustrating something much larger than a single criminal case. Whether or not Mr. Assange is guilty of the accusations brought against him in Sweden, the case clearly demonstrates that, under the EAW, British courts have no right to take into account the evidence against an accused Briton or foreign guest in Britain. It is a clear case of once-sovereign British law being trumped by EU imperial law.

“British courts have been emasculated of their ability to protect the rights of accused persons from unjust arrest and imprisonment.”

GERARD BATTEN
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

3 | IRAN Hear us roar

Iran displayed an increased assertiveness when on Dec. 20, 2010, it demanded that Pakistan hand over members of the Sunni Baluchi Islamist militant group Jundallah, which had staged a deadly suicide attack against Shiites in Iran the previous week. An official of Iran's Armed Forces threatened that Tehran would take unilateral action if Islamabad failed to prevent terrorist action against Iranian targets. It was the first time Iran threatened to deal with the problem on its own. It was a strong sign that Iran is feeling "confident in other foreign-policy areas," wrote Stratfor. "It is therefore likely that Iran is now flexing its muscles on its eastern flank to showcase its regional rise." This analysis certainly fits with the prophesied rise of a "king of the south," an Islamic power in the end time prophesied in Daniel 11.



An Israeli holds a flag in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

4 | ISRAEL

EU reveals anti-Israel colors

AN INTERNAL EUROPEAN UNION DOCUMENT PUBLISHED IN January had some nasty things to say about the Jewish state. "Israel has left Palestinian neighborhoods ever more isolated," it said. Israel, "by legal and practical means, is actively pursuing its annexation by systematically undermining the Palestinian presence in [Jerusalem]."

The report, published by top European Union officials in Israel, was sent to EU consuls general. It recommends that EU observers be present during Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes in Jerusalem. The diplomats advise that Brussels should "ensure EU intervention when Palestinians are arrested or intimidated by Israeli authorities for peaceful cultural, social or political activities in East Jerusalem."

Other suggestions include boycotting products manufactured in Israeli factories in East Jerusalem and banning entry of aggressive settlers to EU countries.

Haaretz reported, "The far-ranging sharply worded recommendations in the report ... reflect a dramatic, negative change in the international community's attitude toward Israel in general, and East Jerusalem in particular. The European Union report should be viewed in the context of the news that more and more countries are inclined to recognize a Palestinian state along the borders of June 4, 1967. ... This is the context in which the report recommends that Europe should begin to treat the eastern part of the city as the capital of Palestine" (January 11).

Bible prophecy says that Jerusalem will eventually be cut in half by a Palestinian uprising (Zechariah 14:1-2). In the midst of this crisis, Israel will finally see how disastrous the "peace" process has been over the past two decades. In a desperate attempt to heal this incurable sickness, as prophesied in Hosea 5:13, Israel will turn to the German-led European Union for help. That move, however, will result in a catastrophic double cross.

Expect Europe to intensify its efforts to establish a presence in Jerusalem—and Israel to accommodate it. But as the recent internal document reveals—to say nothing of Bible prophecy or secular history—such efforts have all the trappings of a Trojan horse.

5 | LEBANON Hezbollah flexes, government falls

Ministers from the Islamic terrorist group Hezbollah and its allies resigned on January 5, toppling the Lebanese government. The 11 cabinet members were protesting Lebanon's involvement in the United Nations tribunal investigating the death of the current prime minister's father, former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri. The tribunal is expected to soon indict several Hezbollah members for the murder. By forcing the collapse of the government, Hezbollah has prevented Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri from dealing with the tribunal as an official representative of the country. Hezbollah thus paralyzed the government and is destabilizing the country. This situation clearly shows the *political* power Hezbollah has in Lebanon, in addition to its firepower.

Palestinians: I'd rather be Israeli

Of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, more would prefer to be Israeli citizens than citizens of a Palestinian state, a recent poll found. Only 30 percent said they'd rather be Palestinian citizens in a two-state solution; 35 percent said they'd choose Israeli citizenship. (The rest didn't answer or said they didn't know.) Four in 10 said they'd think of moving in order to become Israeli citizens; 54 percent said they'd stay put if their neighborhood was assigned to Israel.

Dissent among Palestinians against Palestinian National Authority policies is not tolerated and is often met with repression and brutal force, according to Khaled Abu Toameh, an Arab Muslim jour-

nalist (*Hudson Institute*, Dec. 24, 2010). The Palestinian Authority has been held up by the international liberal media as the antithesis of the

supposedly brutal Israeli security forces. The truth, however, is that the PA is using violence and intimidation to silence critics and opposition figures—and journalists who would report objectively. Only a quarter of Palestinians in the West Bank believe they can criticize the Palestinian Authority, a recent public opinion poll found.



Many Palestinians dislike the PA.

"Quite clearly there is a discrepancy between people's attitudes and the assumption that Palestinian neighborhoods should be part of Palestine. That's not actually what the people want."

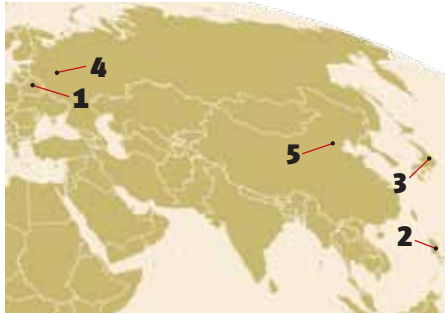
DAVID POLLOCK

FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT RESEARCHER

6 | TURKEY

Our deadliest threats are ...

Israel continues to lose support from Turkey. In January, a survey conducted by the Metropol Educational Institution found that 63 percent of Turks believe Turkey's ties with Israel should be severed. Turkey was once Israel's strongest ally in the Middle East. Now, Turks say Israel is the second-most dangerous threat to Turkey's sovereignty after the U.S.



1 | BELARUS

A little help from his comrades

Thousands of protesters assembled in Minsk on December 25 to contest Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko’s hijacking of yet another presidential election. Lukashenko, who has been called “the European Mugabe,” had appeared in recent years to be mellowing, as he worked to secure EU support for funds from the International Monetary Fund for his beleaguered nation. But once he secured the assistance he needed, he abandoned his charade. Moscow has ignored Europe’s requests to deal with Lukashenko’s human rights violations. The Russian bear is waking up from its hibernation, and will likely work behind the scenes to prop up tyrants like Lukashenko, whose allegiance is to Moscow.

2 | PHILIPPINES

Following the leader

The Philippines joined the China-led boycott against the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in December that honored imprisoned Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo. Most other nations that heeded China’s calls to boycott the ceremony were regimes like Iran and Venezuela that share China’s disdain for Western human rights pressure. But the Philippines is supposed to be a champion of democracy. The *Manila Times* blasted President Benigno Aquino III for his “painful sacrifice” of Filipino interests to please Beijing. Manila’s kowtowing to Beijing came only days after the Philippines signed a major military logistics deal with Beijing. Manila sees the writing on the wall and is positioning itself for the inevitable demise of U.S. influence in Asia.

“Anybody who ignores China would have to reexamine his head.”



Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force is about to grow more impressive.

3 | JAPAN

Pacifist no longer

JAPAN IS SHIFTING TOWARD A MORE ASSERTIVE MILITARY stance involving new advanced weaponry, boosted cooperation with its ally nations, and deployable rapid-response units. Tokyo has considered such a sweeping shift for some time, but rising tensions with China and North Korea have injected new urgency into the discussions. It announced the new defense policy Dec. 17, 2010.

In the aftermath of World War II, Japan vowed to “forever renounce war” and, in 1946, America wrote Japan’s postwar “peace” constitution which includes Article 9, a law forbidding Tokyo the “threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.”

But many Japanese citizens want to see an end to that constitution. The new defense policy is a lunge in that direction.

Under the updated guidelines, the country’s submarine fleet will increase from 16 to 22, advanced fighter jets will be added to the air force, and troops will be relocated from countering the faded northern threat of Russia to the intensifying threat of China to Japan’s south. The policy also calls for a review of Japan’s three non-nuclear principles, for a lifting of the nation’s arms export bans, and for defensive alliances with the U.S., India, Australia and South Korea.

Back in 1971, Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the *Trumpet’s* forerunner magazine, the *Plain Truth*, said, “Japan today has no military establishment. Some United States forces are still there. But we should not lose sight of the fact that Japan has become so powerful economically that it could build a military force of very great power very rapidly.”

Even before the latest military shifts, Japan was moving quickly in that direction. Japan is home to the second-largest navy in the world and one of the top five military arsenals on the globe.

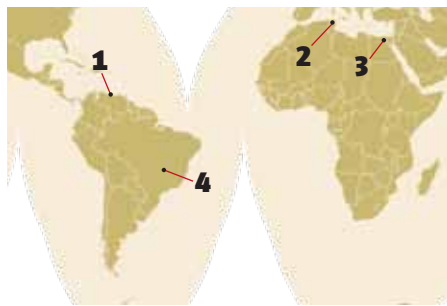
Japan’s military will continue to expand, and it will look less and less like a “self-defense” force. And although at present this expansion is largely a response to threats from other Asian countries, Bible prophecy reveals that the militaries of China, Japan and other powers in the East will soon put aside their differences and unite. For proof, order our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*.

4 | RUSSIA
#1 producer, meet #1 consumer

On January 1, crude oil began to flow from Russia into China, marking the official start of the Russia-China oil pipeline’s operations. The event marked the first time oil flowed directly from Russia, the largest oil producer on the globe, into China, the world’s largest energy consumer. The alliance between Russia and China is growing stronger every month.

5 | CHINA
Rule Chinannia!

China announced on December 23 that it will launch its first aircraft carrier in 2011, a year earlier than analysts had expected. Chinese military sources said the carrier, purchased 10 years ago from Moscow, would be used to help China secure oil routes and defend its claims to disputed territories in the South China Sea. Especially since the news came just weeks after British Prime Minister David Cameron scrapped Britain’s carrier fleet and halved its overall number of warships, it reflects the rapidly changing tides of geopolitics.



1 | VENEZUELA “A new dictatorial model”

Venezuela’s national assembly used its last few days in office in December to grant more powers to President Hugo Chávez. It approved Chávez’s request for the power to pass laws by decree for the next year and a half, and passed a law banning nongovernment organizations such as human rights groups, and political parties from receiving money from outside the country. Another law labels anyone who switches political parties a “fraud,” putting such a person at risk of being disqualified from public office. This law makes it harder for anyone to defect from Chávez’s coalition. Posting a message online that aims to “incite or promote disobedience of the current legal order” could now land a person with a fine. Ismael García, a former ally of Chávez who now works with the opposition, said “One has to say it clearly: A new dictatorial model is being imposed in Venezuela.”

“In Venezuela, the law is destroyed by the law, the judicial system is destroyed by the judicial system and the parliament is destroyed by the parliament.”

FERNANDO MIRES

CHILEAN HISTORIAN AND PHILOSOPHER

From Russia with love

Venezuela received 1,800 shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles from Russia in 2009, according to UN arms control data. A missile expert from the Federation of American Scientists said the missiles are some of the most sophisticated in the world. The UN’s database shows that from 2006 to 2008, Russia sold Venezuela 24 combat planes, 44 attack helicopters and 472 missiles and launchers. A State Department cable from 2009 stated that Venezuela had spent “over \$5 billion last year and growing” on weapons from Russia.



2 | TUNISIA 3 | EGYPT

Revolt could set region on fire

IN DECEMBER, A YOUNG TUNISIAN MAN protested government injustice by setting himself on fire. His dramatic act inspired a wave of anti-government demonstrations. Tunisia’s autocratic president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, has ruled for 23 years, living in opulence and luxury at the expense of his people. His regime first tried to crack down by arresting and killing protesters. But the crowds only grew, and on January 14, they took over the streets of the capital. Within hours, the spooked president had sacked his government and fled on his private jet. Just what will happen next is an open question.

Conditions in Tunisia that provoked the uprising—public discontent due to high unemployment, poverty and repression at the hands of secularist governments steeped in corruption—are identical if not far worse in several other Arab states. This has been the status quo in this region for decades. But times are changing. Countries like Egypt, Libya, Algeria and Morocco all appear vulnerable to mass uprisings, not to mention Kuwait, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. The concern now is that unrest in Tunisia could inspire similar revolts elsewhere, jeopardizing other governments. “Every Arab leader is watching Tunisia in fear,”

4 | BRAZIL A step toward Britain losing Falklands?

For the first time, Brazil has turned away a Royal Navy Falkland Islands protection ship from docking in Rio de Janeiro, the *Telegraph* reported January 10. In spite of its tensions with Argentina, the navy had enjoyed good relations with Brazil, but the country’s new president, Dilma Rousseff, appears to be siding with her Latin American counterpart and spurning Britain.



ROUSSEFF

LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA

said one Egyptian commentator.

What really makes this development dangerous is its potential to be exploited by Islamists. Secularist President Ben Ali, despot that he was, did work to keep Islamism in Tunisia in check. Tunisia was actually an ally in the war on terror and considered one of the more stable countries in the region. For it to fall so quickly and unexpectedly is cause for serious alarm.

Islamists have for years sought to cultivate Tunisia as a recruiting ground for terrorism. They see the government’s fall as their big break, an occasion ripe with opportunity. Already the leader of Tunisia’s main Islamist organization has announced he will return to the

country for the first time since 1989. And the leader of al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Abu Musab Abdul Wadud, is urging Tunisian protesters to “send your children to us for training on how to use weapons and to get military experience.”

It’s not just Tunisia at risk of radicalization. As Daniel Pipes wrote, “This fast, seemingly easy, and relatively bloodless coup d’etat could inspire globally Islamists to sweep away their own tyrants.”

Egypt is the most troubling example. The region’s most populous Arab state, it is particularly vulnerable. Public discontent over the regime of President Hosni Mubarak runs extremely high, and there is no clear plan of succession. The strongest opposition force is the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization with strong ideological and logistical ties to Iran. As the *Trumpet* has long forecast, Egypt is ripe for a radical political shift. The precedent in Tunisia could hasten that change.

This is an extraordinary moment for this region. The tumult in Tunisia could portend far greater, more widespread change. The risk of a surge in radicalism is high. Conditions are highly combustible. One young man lighting fire to himself may prove to be a spark with dangerously explosive consequences.



Why Rome Never Fell

The ancient saying “All roads lead to Rome” is still true! Though this city’s history is celebrated, its future as revealed in the Bible shows we haven’t seen the last of Rome yet. **BY DAVID VEJIL**

“**W**HAT ELSE, THEN, IS ALL history, but the praise of Rome?”

Thus asked Renaissance scholar Petrarch. During his lifetime, Europe had finally emerged from the dark times instigated by the fall of the Roman Empire.

When Rome collapsed, gone was the impressive infrastructure of the great Roman civilization: its road system, its water supply network, its artistic and scholarly endeavors that filled thriving urban centers. Rome’s destruction left a continent roiled in violence, consumed by warfare, stricken with plagues and incapacitated politically.

In these Dark Ages, Euro-

peans yearned for the cohesion and stability brought by Rome and its church. Rome’s majestic ruins were a living history, a light that beckoned Europe’s rulers to restore the city’s heritage and former glory.

When Petrarch penned his question, Europe had already seen three rebirths of the Roman Empire—three periods of perceived peace—come and pass. Since his death, three more have risen and fallen.

Its seventh and final resurgence is on the scene today.

Remarkably, among all the Roman Empire’s resurrections, *none was led by Italy*, its home territory. And though Italy hasn’t been prominent since the collapse of the Roman Empire, the *city of Rome* has always played, and continues to play,

a dominant role.

Why is Rome still so prominent, even now? The capital cities of the other world-ruling empires mentioned in the Bible—the Chaldean, Persian and Greek empires—if they still exist, have nowhere near the global influence. Interestingly, no other world-ruling empire was ever named *solely* after its capital city; they have all been named after the people. The Roman Empire, however, is not the Latin Empire, after the Latin people who lived in central Italy. And those who established the empire are not called Latins either. They are the Romans.

It all centers on Rome! Again, why?

The answer lies in Rome’s history, which, when properly examined, traces all the way back to the beginning of man’s civilization.

War and Displacement

Rome's history is a history of war. Its empire was built through incessant warfare. Its expansion sparked several demographic trends. The first was that the centuries of warfare exhausted the peoples of Rome and central Italy. In the beginning of its expansion, Roman military policy forbidding soldiers to marry slowed population growth even more, and children sired by soldiers weren't granted Roman citizenship. The massive size and rapid expansion of the Roman Empire made it inevitable that it would one day run out of people to govern its territory, but these realities substantially hastened that demographic implosion.

Rome's solution to the lack of manpower was to import slaves and extend citizenship to loyal subjects, thereby extending the Roman name beyond the original people.

The records are thin on how many slaves were imported to Italy and their specific origin, but it is believed that by the end of the Roman Empire, more than one third of the population were slaves. The flood of slaves into Rome was particularly strong after the great conquests. The Romans were known for freeing their slaves and granting their descendants citizenship. This introduced a large number of foreign-born freedmen into Roman citizenship.

In addition, slave families grew much quicker than Roman families, whose sons were off fighting in wars and whose families experienced lower birth rates, as is generally true of advanced civilizations.

Observations of a Roman

Over the years, freedmen and their descendants became a large, powerful class of people. Roman historian Tacitus pointed out that by Emperor Nero's time in the first century A.D., many Roman aristocrats were from families of freed slaves.

This class "was a widely diffused body," Tacitus wrote. "[F]rom it, the city tribes, the various public functionaries, the establishments of the magistrates and priests were for the most part supplied, as well as the cohorts of the city-guard; very many of the knights and several of the senators derived their origin from no other source." Freedmen weren't the grunts of the city; *they were running Rome!*

"If freed men were to be a separate class, the paucity of the freeborn would be conspicuously apparent," observed Tacitus. By the first century A.D. the prominence of freed slaves and their families was broadly apparent—not just politically but also *religiously*.

This demographic trend became so alarming that several emperors, starting with Augustus, enacted legislation to promote ethnic Roman population growth. Their attempts at social engineering failed. The Romans built an enormous empire, but it cost them their homeland.

As the center of the Mediterranean world, Rome was a cosmopolitan city attracting diverse multitudes of people from all parts of the empire. Slaves weren't the only foreigners; trade attracted many foreign merchants to this all-important city as well.

Where did these aliens who slowly replaced the original Roman population come from?

Roman Experts Weigh In

While traders and slaves, and therefore freedmen, came from all over the empire, research conducted by Prof. Tenney Frank of John Hopkins University demonstrates that the majority came from the eastern part of the empire.

Why is Rome still so prominent, even now? The capital cities of the other world-ruling empires mentioned in the Bible—the Chaldean, Persian and Greek empires—if they still exist, have nowhere near the global influence.

He noticed that many of the names left behind in inscriptions in Rome were not Latin. To get a clearer picture of the demographics in Rome, he and his colleagues studied the various tombs and monuments in Rome. After looking through 13,900 inscriptions, he found that 83 percent of the names were of foreign derivation, with the majority being Greek.

When taking various scenarios into consideration in his research, Frank estimated that up to 90 percent of the Romans were of mixed descent from eastern races. This proves that Tacitus's observations were not exaggerated.

At first glance, because of the majority of the Greek names on the inscriptions, one might think Greeks repopulated Rome, but this was not the case. Before the Romans created their empire in Asia Minor and the Middle East, that part of the world was ruled by the Greeks. Alexander the Great conquered the area, and after his death his generals split his empire into several Greek

kingdoms. During this time, known as the Hellenistic period, the Greeks introduced their culture into the conquered lands.

Many of those easterners, especially in the upper and middle classes, though they weren't Greek, took on Greek names. These skilled foreigners had the knowledge and skills to fill the vacant ranks as slaves or freedmen in Rome's upper echelons as Tacitus described.

Frank found that 70 percent of urban inscriptions of freedmen bore Greek names, strongly indicating that most of the slaves in Rome and Italy were from the east. Yet they weren't actually Greek, but rather Hellenized people of the Middle East.

Italy's Replacement Population

The Romans themselves could see what was happening to their population. The Roman satirist Juvenal wrote in the late first century, "These dregs call themselves Greeks but how small a portion is from Greece; the Orontes River has long flowed into the Tiber" (III, 62).

The Orontes River flows in Syria. Juvenal was saying that most of the slaves with Greek names who ended up in Italy actually came from Syria and the Levant area. His observation is confirmed by modern research. "The parts of the empire outside of Italy which furnished the greatest number of slaves whose places of origins can be strictly determined were Syria and the provinces of Asia Minor," wrote William Westermann in *The Slave Systems of Greek and Roman Antiquity*.

So modern historians and Roman historians alive as this great demographic shift was happening all agree that while the Roman population slowly dwindled, Rome and Italy were being repopulated by slaves imported primarily from the Syrian region. These slaves, possessing Greek names, then became freedmen and even developed into Rome's new aristocracy.

So if most of the population was being replaced by Hellenized Syrians who took on Greek names, *who were* these people that now formed a substantial part of Rome and the rest of Italy's population?

This question can be answered by the Bible.

Who Were These Syrians?

The Roman province of Syria stretched from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River in the east, and from Asia Minor to Palestine in the south. By the Roman times, there were many different people dwelling in Syria. This was a result of



HISTORY

numerous invasions and population movements starting with Assyrian conquests half a century before the Romans came.

When the Assyrians conquered a territory, they typically deported the inhabitants to the extreme part of their empire and repopulated the land with other peoples.

The biblical book of Ezra describes the various people settling in the Syrian area after the Assyrian repopulation policy: “Then wrote Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions; the Dinaites, the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Sushanites, the Dehavites, and the Elamites, and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Asnapper [Asshur-banipal] brought over, and set in the cities of Samaria, and the rest that are on this side the river [west of the Euphrates], and at such a time” (Ezra 4:9-10).

The people dwelling in Samaria and in the other land west of the Euphrates, meaning Syria, were a mixed group coming from Mesopotamia and Persia, with nine peoples specifically mentioned of a whole multitude resettled by the Assyrians. 2 Kings 16 records how the Assyrian King Tiglath-pileser carried away the Syrians into captivity. Many of the original inhabitants of Syria, called Arameans, were deported to a land south of the Caucasus, now known as Armenia (Amos 1:3-5).

This is exactly what the Assyrians did to the kingdom of Israel, deporting the Israelites toward the Caucasus region and replacing them with essentially the same people used to repopulate Syria: “And the king of Assyria brought men from *Babylon*, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof” (2 Kings 17:24).

One group of people here is common in both cases: *the Babylonians*.

Based on the order listed, the Babylonians were the dominant people resettled in Samaria, and prominent among the people resettled in Syria.

Descendants of Babylon Moved to Syria

Babylon itself was sacked in 689 B.C. by the later Assyrian King Sennacherib because of continuous revolt by the people of southern Mesopotamia. Much of the city was destroyed. But instead of silencing the local population, this act provoked fiercer resistance against Assyrian rule.

Sennacherib’s son rebuilt Babylon in an effort to

strengthen relations with the Babylonians and those in southern Mesopotamia who saw its destruction as an act of sacrilege; Babylon was a powerful religious center from antiquity with much prestige at that time, much like Rome today.

Nevertheless, the people in lower Mesopotamia—called the *Chaldeans* in ancient records, including the Bible—continued the rebellion. Eventually, with support from tribes nearby, they overthrew the Assyrians. They then established a Mesopotamian Empire that reached all the way into Egypt, which included Syria, to where their kinfolk had been deported.

When the Chaldean Empire, also referred to as the Neo-Babylonian Empire, was established in 625 B.C., it was the last time Babylon would have such an important political role. Only a few generations later, the Persians conquered Babylon in 539 B.C.

When Alexander the Great conquered the Persians and took control of Babylon in 331 B.C., he intended it to be the capital of his new empire. But he abruptly died, leaving his empire to be divided by his generals. The Seleucids gained control of much of the Middle East, including the land once ruled by the Babylonians.

The Seleucids abandoned Babylon, creating a new capital called Seleucia on the Tigris. This replaced Babylon as Mesopotamia’s leading city, and many of the Babylonians moved to the new capital. Greek geographer Strabo even says the people in Seleucia on the Tigris and living around the city were called Babylonians, even though they had left Babylon: “As we call the country Babylonia, so we call the people Babylonians, not from the name of the city, but of the country” (16.1.16).

The capital was later moved to another city built by the Greeks, Antioch. Its location off the Orontes River near the Mediterranean coast put it right on important trade routes, which made it a natural capital and a prime destination for migration for the Mesopotamian people. When the Romans conquered it in 64 B.C., it was the third-largest city in the entire Roman Empire!

This migration of Mesopotamian people to Syria left the population in the area greatly mixed, as Strabo wrote in his *Geography* in the first century: “For the nations of the Armenians and that of the Syrians and Arabians betray a close affinity . . . Mesopotamia, which is inhabited by these three nations, gives proof of this, for in the case of these nations the similarity is particularly noticeable” (1.2.34).

By the time of the Roman Empire, the population of the area was so mixed that



the people were ethnically indistinguishable from each other. The Babylonians were now labeled Syrian. Even the Greek rulers and settlers ethnically disappeared, as Livy, Roman historian of the first century, records: “The Macedonians who settled in Alexandria in Egypt, or in Seleucia, or in Babylonia, or in any of their other colonies scattered over the world, have degenerated into Syrians, Parthians, or Egyptians” (xxxviii, 17).

The Greek language did live on for a time, but the Greek culture was really a veneer over an ethnically mixed society primarily based on the Babylonian religious system.

Babylon Lives On

So the descendants of the ancient Babylonians migrated to Rome through Syria, primarily as slaves. Over time, these slaves and their descendants, as well as other people from the east, became such a substantial portion of the population that it is estimated that 90 percent of the people had mixed descent from them! Many of the slaves were taken as the rest of Syria and Mesopotamia was conquered by Rome in the late 100s A.D. Roman records



By the end of the Roman Empire, as much as 90 percent of the Roman population descended from eastern people, including the ancient Babylonians, who arrived there as slaves or merchants.

The Syrian province became one of the wealthiest and most important provinces in the Roman Empire. Research demonstrates that this was the choice region for importing slaves into Rome.

The Babylonians, along with other Mesopotamian people, migrated west to the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The Bible records them as a prominent people in the lands ranging from Syria to Samaria.

show one emperor taking 100,000 captives from the area to sell into slavery!

These people brought with them their acceptance of Eastern religion. That is why Eastern philosophies and traditions were so readily accepted in the Roman Empire—and why they are so integral to Roman Catholicism.

Babylon was never to rise to political power again. Though the city was abandoned, it continued to live on through the migration of its people into Italy and the acceptance of its religious system by the Roman Empire.

Unsurprisingly, then, the one place the Bible specifically refers to Italy, it is about Rome—the city of seven hills—and in the context of Babylon: “So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ... And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are *seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth*” (Revelation 17:3, 9).

In prophecy, a woman represents a church. This woman in particular is a powerful church from which many “daughter” churches have split: “And upon her forehead [was] a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH” (verse 5).

This scripture is at the heart of why Rome is so significant. The Bible says Rome is a great city ruling over many nations and, as verse 18 in this chapter suggests, will once again powerfully influence world affairs!

All Roads Lead to Babylon!

Here is a church based in Rome with the name “Babylon the Great” written on its forehead. This is the Catholic Church headquartered in Rome!

Your Bible declares that this church spreads a religion that stems from ancient Babylon!

The same Babylonian religious system established at the Tower of Babel by Nimrod to rule man’s civilization roughly 4,000 years ago still exists today in the

Catholic Church, with the misappropriated name of Christ attached to it!

This religious system, now based in Rome, has powerfully involved itself in the affairs of many nations and peoples. Rome is Europe’s most powerful symbol of power and prestige; all those who have striven to resurrect the Roman Empire have sought backing from Rome. Only with the Roman church’s approval can the ruler be considered a legitimate successor to the Roman Empire.

The same was true of Babylon. The kings of Assyria, Persia and Greece all took the title of king of Babylon to give them prestige and legitimacy in the Western world. The symbolism between the two runs deep!

In the case of the Roman Empire and its resurrections, termed the “Holy Roman Empire,” the Catholic Church has RULED THEM (Revelation 17:15, 18). This worldly church government that sits astride a political government, this “Holy Roman Empire” system, is called *Babylon* by the Bible. In God’s perspective, the Holy Roman Empire is a mere continuation of the Babylonian system established so long ago.

This Roman-Babylonian system is prophesied to rise one last time and wreak havoc on the world, conquering many nations, including the modern-day Israelites. (To prove who the Israelites are, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.) That modern-day Babylon—the last political-religious system based in Rome to ever come to power again—is now called the European Union, originally established under the Treaty of Rome!

Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. It explains the history of the Holy Roman Empire and proves that a conglomeration of European states will be the last resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. It also explains the riveting end of a history that dates back to Babylon and the founding of man’s civilization and the exciting conclusion of this last resurrection of Rome: God will crush it!

The Bible tells us to come out of this false religious system or face punishment through the brief reign of terror to come from this modern-day Babylon (Revelation 18:4).

But beyond that coming reign of terror, there is hope!

If you understand the history behind this modern-day Babylon, populated in part by the descendants of the ancient Babylonians, then you will have the knowledge necessary to act on and *come out of Babylon!* ■



Understanding the modern-day identities of the nations mentioned in the Bible unlocks prophecy. Unlock the secrets of prophecy by requesting a free copy of ***The United States and Britain in Prophecy***.

Where Is God?

Amid spectacular fracturing in what was once a strong, unified Church, this is a question all seekers of the truth should be asking. **BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE LARGEST OFFSHOOT OF Herbert W. Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God, ironically named the *United Church of God*, has been rocked by internal division and contentious strife—much of it brought on by disgruntled ministers who are unhappy with the way the church is governed. It is also ironic that the church appears to be falling apart after the same manner it first broke away from the WCG in 1995—following a series of secret meetings and mass resignations.

The UCG's first ministerial conference in May 1995 attracted 150 former elders of the Worldwide Church of God—a veritable *who's who* of the WCG hierarchy. Former members of the WCG, fed up with Tkachism, fled for United in droves. Within weeks of its coordinated kickoff, the United Church of God became the largest splinter group to ever break away from the WCG. Approximately 6,000 members attended its first Sabbath service in 1995. By the end of 1996, its worldwide membership had swelled to about 20,000 people. Within seven years of its inception, the church had more than 200 congregations worldwide and well over 300 elders.

From the outset, UCG ministers made no secret of their intent to try out a new approach to government—a bottom-up format where the general assembly of ministers would regularly vote for a council of elders. They even went so far as to use the term *home office* when referring to the church's office complex in Arcadia, California, rather than *headquarters*, which sounds too hierarchical.

The interim council set up in 1995 chose David Hulme, a well-known WCG evangelist and presenter on the *World Tomorrow* television program, to serve as the church's first president. After his appointment, Hulme made these candid remarks about the UCG's "new" government format: "It's not a hierarchical structure *anymore*. It's a collaborative process, and it should be seen as that" (*In Transition*, May 5, 1995; emphasis mine throughout). He admitted this was a **RADICALLY** different approach to what Mr. Armstrong used, but was convinced that "God's hand" was behind the establishment of the UCG. The brethren, he said, just needed to give the new government a chance—"give it time," he said.

As it turns out, Hulme gave it less than three years. After a contentious and protracted struggle with the council of elders, he was removed from office in early 1998 and left the church soon after. "I could no longer support a governance structure that I believe has failed," Hulme wrote to those who followed him out of the UCG. "I have had to admit that Herbert W. Armstrong was right in *Mystery of the Ages*, especially Chapter Six, where he describes a proven form of government for the Church."

It took 20 years of service as a minister in the Worldwide Church of God and three years as president of the

United Church of God for Hulme to finally conclude that Mr. Armstrong was right. But instead of searching for a worldwide work that was backed by God's family government, Hulme opted to start another church—an offshoot of the offshoot.

Rod Meredith is another prominent WCG evangelist who got burned by the "collaborative" scheme. When he broke free from the WCG in 1993 to form the Global Church of God, he claimed to be following in the footsteps of Mr. Armstrong. Yet the very first doctrine he changed was the principle of God's government that Mr. Armstrong used throughout his ministry.

"If we look into the New Testament with an open mind, we find a *totally different approach* to government than WHAT HAS DEVELOPED IN THE CHURCH," Meredith wrote in *Church Government and Church Unity*. On the most important matter of all, in other words, Mr. Armstrong had it **ALL WRONG**. The *right* kind of government, Meredith later wrote in his 1993 booklet, should be "collegial" in form. It should include "a broad representation of all the elders" in the church, he believed.

Five years later, after the church's board of directors terminated Meredith's employment at the Global Church of God, he quickly changed his tune on the subject of church governance. After starting another offshoot of the offshoot, Meredith hand-picked his board of directors and charged them with the responsibility of *advising* the president, rather than ruling the church.

It took Mr. Meredith 40 years of service as an evangelist in the Worldwide Church of God and five years as president of Global to figure out that Mr. Armstrong got it right on the principle formation of God's government in the Church.

Given these much-publicized, embarrassing failures, you would think these men would wonder, *Where was God during the three years I served as president of United? Or, Where was God when I founded Global?*

Prior to the first UCG conference in 1995, David Hulme said he was "skeptical" that a large group of ministers could ever reach a consensus on church governance. After he came out on top, however, he was convinced that "God's hand" was behind it.

Rod Meredith was equally sure that God was behind his "collegial" experiment back in 1993. He claimed to be "faithfully preaching" everything Mr. Armstrong taught—assuming, of course, that *everything* does NOT include his radically different approach to church government and his rejection of Mr. Armstrong as the end-time type of Elijah (Matthew 17:11).

Today, both Meredith and Hulme head up two spin-offs of WCG offshoots. All totaled, there must be at least 100 offshoots of what once was the Worldwide Church of God.

It makes you wonder: *How many failed experiments with collaborative government will it take for former members of the Worldwide Church of God to wake up and figure out where God is working today?*

The Evils of 300-Man Rule

Since firing David Hulme in 1998, the United Church of God has tried out four other presidents. Les McCullough agreed to fill the post for three years after Hulme was ousted. After McCullough's three-year term expired in 2002, he asked the board for another three years. Instead, it gave him one additional year and then voted to replace him with Roy Holladay in 2002. Three years after that, in 2005, council members gave Holladay the boot and selected Clyde Kilough as his replacement.

Last year, amid swirling controversies about a proposal to move the "home office," complaints of politicized bloc voting within the general conference of elders and charges of unethical behavior and financial mismanagement aimed at board members, Kilough decided to give up his chair on the council, but continue on serving as president.

Against this backdrop, the council distributed an eight-page heart-to-heart letter to all the elders in the church. In it, board members maintained that God was still leading United, but that the UCG ministry had become deeply divided and the atmosphere in the church had become toxic.

The council wrote, "Due to this negative spiritual incursion into our fellowship, *for more than two years* we have been forced to focus our church's time, energy and resources *inwardly*" Later, board members expressed grave concern about the "preservation" of the United Church of God.

The church, we now know, was teetering on the brink of total collapse.

We predicted this would happen way back at the start, when the former WCG ministers gathered themselves together to experiment with a new government format. On May 6, 1995, for example, my father said this about the newly established United Church: "IT ABSOLUTELY WILL FAIL because it's a new form of government, and not the one that Herbert Armstrong taught us, inspired by God."

He issued the very SAME WARNING in response to Meredith's collegial experiment in 1993: "You can't do God's work without God's government. *Mr. Meredith will have that proved to him by God*—since he has shamefully failed to learn that most important lesson of all while he 'sat at the feet' of Mr. Armstrong!" (*Trumpet*, April 1993).

It's so simple—if you're submitted to God's family government. If not, then—as we have seen—history simply repeats itself.

Last year, on April 9, the UCG council of elders terminated Clyde Kilough's presidency and outlined a new process for selecting a president whereby the general conference of elders would submit nominations to the council. The council would then determine which nominee should be president.

Toward the end of June, the UCG council settled on Dennis Luker as the church's *fifth* different president in just 15 years.

Since then, Luker has been desperately working to keep the

sinking UCG ship afloat. The worst of it started about the same time Luker was voted in as president. That same week, the council terminated the employment of Leon Walker, who had served as regional coordinator for Latin America. Firing Walker triggered a mass exodus of Spanish-speaking brethren and ministers from the UCG and resulted in the establishment of another offshoot—the Church of God, Latin America.

Incredibly, when responding to the crisis, President Luker pinned the blame for the split on hierarchical government, rather than the collaborative form that has repeatedly failed inside his own church! Walker's rebellion, Luker wrote in a letter to UCG members, "represents the very reason that hundreds of ministers collectively chose some 15 years ago to embrace and refine the administrative structure that we now have. *We have seen the destructive outcomes that 'one man rule' in a Church of God organization can wreak*, and this current experience in Latin America underscores the reason we changed our model of governance 15 years ago to include safeguards from this happening again."

In looking at the fruits, one would think he would *at least* acknowledge how destructive 300-man rule has been over the past 15 years. In the eight months after the UCG council relieved Mr. Walker of his ministerial duties, *at least 150 more* UCG elders either resigned or were removed from the ministry.

That can only mean that many more offshoots are on the way.

Meanwhile, the one organization that actually started *the right way*—as a tiny mustard seed planted in 1989, without any of the best-known former ministers of the WCG or their many thousands of supporters, **BUT WITH GOD'S GOVERNMENT**—continues to grow and prosper as it fulfills its God-given commission to prophesy again before all the world and to raise up the ruins of a work God established and built through His servant Herbert W. Armstrong.

Anywhere But the PCG

After joining the United Church of God in 1995, one former minister of the Worldwide Church of God outlined *four* choices for disgruntled members of the WCG: 1) Stay with the Worldwide Church of God; 2) join the United Church; 3) go with Rod Meredith's Global Church of God; or 4) wait on God to clearly reveal where to go.

In his mind, the Philadelphia Church of God wasn't even worthy of consideration!

We, after all, were *nobodies* who started with NOTHING. Our work began in 1989 with two unemployed, relatively unknown field ministers from Oklahoma, two used automobiles, an old desktop computer, \$80 in the "church" account, a typewritten manuscript known as *Malachi's Message to God's Church Today* and about 400 names and addresses of WCG members.

Added to that, the tiny church, made up of just four families at the start, had a

hierarchical form of church government. And *hierarchy*, as noted above, had become a dirty word to former members of the WCG in the early 1990s.

So these ministers, after supporting and even encouraging many of the Tkach changes for years, had finally had enough by the mid-1990s. They left the WCG en masse and encouraged others to leave too.

Back then, it wasn't so much *where* you went, you just needed to GET OUT of the Worldwide Church of God. There were plenty of "branches" you could join. Any of them would work—as long as it wasn't the Philadelphia Church of God. We, after all, had that old AUTHORITATIVE government. *It was much too harsh and austere*, Laodicean ministers would tell prospective members if they inquired about the PCG.

Publicly, however—because we were NEVER considered a viable option—these ministers simply IGNORED the work of the Philadelphia Church of God—even as it became more and more difficult to overlook.

Neutral in War

By the time the UCG got started in 1995, the PCG had been in existence for more than five years. We had 52 ministers worldwide, serving more than 4,000 brethren. The church's annual income was over \$5 million. Our *Trumpet* magazine circulation was around 50,000. And our weekly *Key of David* television program could be seen nationally on several cable stations, including WGN, as well as over the air in the 22 largest markets in America. We also had nationwide television coverage in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Two years later, while Global was on life support and David Hulme was duking it out with board members at United, we entered into an exciting new phase of God's work: printing and distributing what Mr. Armstrong considered the "best work" of his life, *Mystery of the Ages*. Shortly before he died, he said he wanted the book to reach the LARGEST AUDIENCE POSSIBLE—a mission quickly aborted by the Tkach administration.

Soon after we printed the book, a grueling, six-year copyright battle ensued in which we went head to head with the Worldwide Church of God over its avowed "Christian duty" to bury the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong. In the end, we not only won the rights to *Mystery of the Ages*, we obtained ownership of 18 other works of Mr. Armstrong, including *The Incredible Human Potential*, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and the 58-lesson Bible correspondence course.

Through it all, ministers from United and Global did ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to help us fight for Mr. Armstrong's printed works. They carefully maintained their position of NEUTRALITY, sitting idly by on the sidelines—silent and inactive.

"That court battle revealed so much about God's people," my father wrote in *The Last Hour*. Remaining neutral at such a

critical hour, he said, might be their most CONDEMNING FAILURE of all in these latter days.

Now that the lawsuit is over and we own the literature, many brethren from other churches have contacted us for copies, since we offer it freely to anyone who makes a request. In private, some ministers from other groups have even encouraged their members to come to us for personal copies of Mr. Armstrong's books.

Publicly, though, we were still the elephant in the room.

Raising the Ruins

Reprinting Mr. Armstrong's works really helped to crystallize my father's vision for our work. With the addition of *Mystery of the Ages*, he wrote in early 1997, we now had a message for *billions* of people. In support of that worldwide mission, he firmly believed we had to raise the ruins of *everything* the Tkaches had destroyed (Amos 9:11-12). This began in earnest during the summer of 2000 with the purchase of 158 acres in northern Edmond, Oklahoma. It accelerated the following year with the opening of Herbert W. Armstrong College.

As Mr. Armstrong learned early on in his ministry, the work of preaching the gospel to the world *directly paralleled* the growth of Ambassador College. "It was the development of the college in Pasadena that MADE POSSIBLE the growth of the whole gospel work," he wrote in his autobiography.

In like manner, our college has provided the means for THIS WORK to exert a powerful influence worldwide. In terms of membership figures, this church is still incredibly small. But the size and scope of this work testifies loudly to what Almighty God can do through a small group of dedicated servants.

With the college and the headquarters building program now well into their 10th year, here is a quick snapshot of where we are in God's work: Worldwide attendance stands at about 5,500. Serving those brethren, we have 72 ordained ministers—41 of them employed by the Church. Counting ministers and employees, 115 people work for the Church full-time. Another 60 are on payroll as part-timers. We've added 55 employees just since 2006, when the college first started turning out four-year graduates.

Our total worldwide income in 2010 amounted to \$20.6 million—a solid 5 percent increase over 2009. Seventy-two percent of that revenue is donated by members of the Philadelphia Church of God. The other 28 percent comes from co-workers and donors who voluntarily offer their financial support.

Our beautiful 170-acre headquarters campus—which features the magnificent Armstrong Auditorium, a 22,825-square-foot Hall of Administration, a huge mail processing and literature storage facility, a state-of-the-art television studio and numerous structures for the college, grade school and high school—is valued at about \$50 million. Since we still owe \$9 million on the auditorium, the total value of all our tangible assets is over \$40 million.

As for the MESSAGE going out to this world via television, the Internet and the massive amounts of printed matter—including all of Mr. Armstrong's major works and a storehouse of additional material we've produced since 1989—all of that pretty much speaks for itself.

Aside from a brief hiatus in 2002 when we concentrated many of our resources on winning the court case, the *Key of David* program has been on the air for 18 years now. At present, the program airs nationally on WGN and also covers much of America on the CW-Plus and Ion networks. Of the more than 150 TV stations we are on, five reach New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and Washington, D.C., over the air.

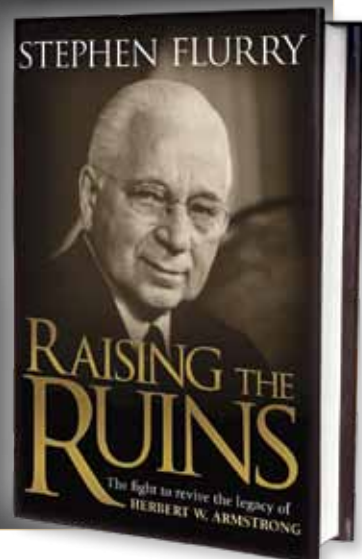


COURT BATTLE

The PCG began printing Mystery of the Ages, Mr. Armstrong's last and most important work, in 1997. Throughout a six-year court battle, in which the WCG declared its "Christian duty" to keep the book out of print, the other offshoots did nothing to help fight for the book.

The most astonishing story in modern religion

Here is the shocking, gripping untold story of the doctrinal hijacking and spiritual destruction of the Worldwide Church of God after the death of its founder. It is the story of the life-and-death, six-year court battle that ensued when a faith-filled few held fast to Herbert W. Armstrong's mission and sought to defend his legacy. You can have a *free* personal copy of this full-length, hardcover book. Request **Raising the Ruins** today.



The print version of the *Trumpet* magazine has a circulation of 300,000 each month. We also mail our Christian-living magazine, *Royal Vision* to anyone who requests it, and the *Philadelphia News* to Church members. Outside of that, our mail processing facility distributed an additional 534,000 pieces of literature in 2010—our most popular being *Mystery of the Ages*.

God has blessed this work of raising the ruins immensely over the past 21 years! He started by giving us His family government. He pointed us in the right direction with *Malachi's Message*. Added to that, we now own every major work of Herbert W. Armstrong. God also gave us all the lawsuit documents turned over through discovery—a behind-the-scenes look at the WCG's sinister attempt to destroy God's work. That story is told in *Raising the Ruins*—another book we offer for free upon request.

We have the public appearance campaigns, the television program, the Web presence, hundreds of online videos, two magazines and dozens and dozens of books, booklets and reprint articles, as well as a 36-lesson Bible correspondence course.

On campus, just as in the days of old under Mr. Armstrong, we have a grade school, a high school and a four-year college. We've revived the international cultural foundation, the concert series, the Jerusalem dig, the Young Ambassadors. And over the last three years, we raised up God's house.

It's an incredible story, much of it recounted in *Raising the Ruins*. But at the same time, isn't this what you would expect of a work God does through men? As Mr. Armstrong wrote in his autobiography, when God does something through humans, it must start in the smallest of ways. But like the tiny mustard seed, the smallest of herbs, it continually grows until it becomes the biggest!

Judge by Fruits

In stark contrast to the way the Philadelphia Church of God began, all the other offshoots started strong with a large number of high-powered personalities and a sizable following and comfortable income soon after. But none of them had God's government. And so Rod Meredith got fired. Global went under. David Hulme bolted from United. And United cycled through four other presidents. Now, the largest offshoot of the Worldwide Church of God is in complete and total disarray.

Even before the most recent turmoil obliterated the UCG, one could easily identify a stark difference between its work (or lack thereof) and that of the Philadelphia Church of God. The UCG had about 20,000 people attend its fall festival in September—roughly four times the amount we had at our sites. Yet its overall income for 2010 was only 16 percent more than the PCG's—\$23.9 million.

Judging by its lack of television coverage, the net worth of its property and equipment (\$5.8 million) and the much larger number of ministers it had on salary (91), much of its financial expenditures were obviously aimed *inward*—supporting congregations, paying salaries, setting aside money for pensions, etc.

And now that the church has been rocked by controversy, resulting in mass resignations and firings within the ministry, the reset button has been punched. Everything starts over at zero. And like in 1995, there is an attractive assortment of offshoots to consider.

Some disgruntled members might take this as their cue to evaluate Rod Meredith's Living Church of God—the organization he raised up after getting fired by Global's council of elders. Mr. Meredith's group has been around for about 12 years. He has about 8,000 people attending services and in 2009, his church had a worldwide income of about \$13.5 million.

Since getting burned by the collegial experiment, Meredith has been singing a different tune on church government. And lately, with the UCG falling apart around him, he's been turning the volume way up. In the November-December 2010 *Living Church News*, for example, he said that one of the three issues that clearly identifies his organization as God's true Church is that he has the right government, *as it was taught by Herbert W. Armstrong*.

"Frankly," he wrote, "I feel very sorry for the pitiful state of so many of our 'separated brethren' who somehow hope to be kings and priests in a few years, yet refuse now to practice the *very form of government* that the true saints will be called upon to teach *and* to practice in Christ's Kingdom! A number of such individuals, as leaders in their various groups, have insisted that 'Christ led us' to form some type of 'democratic' government, following the secular pattern—including voting, politicking, posturing and positioning for support from each other and the brethren."

That statement, of course, is aimed primarily at members and former members of the United Church of God. Of course, in 1993, Meredith *himself* insisted that *Christ led him* to correct the misconceptions Mr. Armstrong had about government and to set up the Global Church on a *collegial* foundation.

In his most recent edition of the *Living Church News*, in stark contrast to his 1993 booklet, Mr. Meredith said both the Old and New Testaments are consistent in their overall instruction on government—that it should be hierarchical in form. "There is no exception to this God-ordained form of government in all the Bible," he now says

(January-February 2011).

He then added this helpful qualifier for anyone who might take note of the elephant in the room: “Even though some in other groups have misused the hierarchical form of government in a cruel, harsh, *even ‘Hitlerian’ way*, we must learn never to ‘throw the baby out with the bathwater.’”

Thus, the options he presents for disgruntled Church of God members are as follows: 1) The hierarchical government of the Living Church of God; 2) the “pitiful and very sad” forms of democratic church government; and 3) the cruel, harsh, Hitlerian way of *other* hierarchical groups.

He associates us with *Adolf Hitler* of all things. When I first read that, I couldn’t help but remember what Mr. Armstrong wrote to Mr. Meredith back in 1980, when he asked him to serve a six-month sabbatical in Hawaii. “You are a harsh taskmaster over those under you,” he wrote to Mr. Meredith. “That is YOUR RECORD!”

And after Mr. Armstrong died, not counting the ministers who stayed with the Tkach administration, you would be hard-pressed to find another high-ranking minister more outspoken in his criticism of Mr. Armstrong’s government than Roderick Meredith. Though he didn’t leave the WCG until three years after the PCG started, Mr. Meredith was, nevertheless, the first high-ranking minister to come out in opposition to the Tkaches. Problem is, in rejecting Tkachism, he also trashed the government of God in the process.

He threw out the baby with the bathwater. That is his record.

Today, he talks as if hierarchical government is the strongest proof he has that *his group* is God’s true Church—and he has the audacity to lump us in with all the other “Hitlerian” groups, whoever the others might be.

Thank God for the plain and sure word of His inspired truth! As it says in Jeremiah 17:5, *Cursed be the man who trusts in man.* Our only hope is in God, it says in verse 7: “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.”

God, of course, *STILL* works *through* men. This is why Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, *Follow me as I follow Christ.*

How, then, can you *KNOW* if that man is humbly submitted to the government of God and is faithfully following Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church? You *SHALL* know, Jesus said, *by their fruits.* ■

To Our Family in the

THIS IS THE MOST URGENT TIME in history, and God’s people have a big job to do!

For years, Herbert W. Armstrong proved to us from the Bible that the United States would fall, that Europe would unite, that Germany would rise, that the nations of Asia would come together.

Today we see everything he talked about happening before our eyes.

Read the headlines. The U.S. is a spent force. China is becoming a powerhouse and allying with a resurgent Russia. And look at Europe. There you see a consortium of nations building a single federal government, using a single currency, just as Mr. Armstrong said. Right now, it faces deep economic crisis. European leaders are contemplating radical measures to address it. And the strongest nation—the nation everyone is looking to for answers—is exactly who Mr. Armstrong and Bible prophecy said it would be: Germany.

For years, time and again Mr. Armstrong prophesied of a unified Germany leading a European alliance of 10 kings. Watch closely—because that is exactly what is about to emerge from the crisis in Europe! And as prophecy warns, that power is going to dominate the world during the worst time of suffering in history, the Great Tribulation.

This world needs this warning from God now more than ever. Now is the time God’s Church must be blasting that message!

That is exactly what the Philadelphia Church of God is doing, as vigorously as we possibly can.

But sadly, tragically, *most* of God’s people today are not supporting that effort.

The vast majority have *lost their urgency* just as it is needed most. They have lost their understanding of *WHY THE CHURCH.* As Mr. Armstrong repeatedly taught us, *we are not here for our own salvation.* God has called a select few today *out of season* expressly to *DO A WORK.* That is our *PURPOSE.*

You know that God blessed the work abundantly under Mr. Armstrong. Especially in Mr. Armstrong’s final years, when he was physically most frail, God

used him powerfully, miraculously—and all of us who supported him—to loudly proclaim His message throughout the world: *The Plain Truth* circulation soared over 8 million; *The World Tomorrow* aired on over 400 stations; Mr. Armstrong delivered the gospel personally to audiences and leaders all over the world. The fruits show conclusively that *THE LIVING CHRIST* empowered him and the work.

Today, though, the vast majority of the people who once backed God’s apostle are divided, bickering, accusing, politicking. As the Apostle Paul once wrote, “It hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren ... that *there are contentions among you*” (1 Corinthians 1:11). This was a problem in the first-century Church—and it is a *MASSIVE* problem today.

“*IS CHRIST DIVIDED?*” Paul demanded (verse 13).

Where is *THE WORK?* The time of Christ’s return is closer than ever—and He is *preparing!* Those of His people who have remained faithful, Christ is actively leading to get ready—to prepare for the marriage of the Lamb—and to warn this world!

Time is fast running out—and Christ earnestly, passionately wants *YOU* to be of that number! Will you zealously get behind the work Christ is doing today?

As much as it frustrates and wounds you to see the church you have been a part of splintering—as much as it pains all of us to see bitter division among God’s people—*IT GRIEVES GOD FAR MORE.*

God wants His people deeply, beautifully unified. David sang, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1). Paul wrote that all of God’s people should remain “*in one spirit, with one mind* striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27). Christ prayed that we would all be “*ONE, even as we [Father and Son] are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made PERFECT IN ONE*” (John 17:22-23).

That is the only way the great work of God can be accomplished by a “little flock” that humanly has “little strength” (Luke 12:32; Revelation 3:8). That is a Spirit-led unity that is *only* possible among

United Church of God

God's people! That is the unity Christ and His wife will enjoy forever!

If we are not building and living that unity with God and with each other TODAY, we must repent quickly—or we will not be part of that unified God Family forever!

Looking at the Church as a whole today, how much of that unity do you see? The fact that there is such precious little should be a source of deep concern and shame to God's people. God's work today would be a hundred or a thousand times more powerful if all of God's people were energetically fulfilling their exalted calling as God's firstfruits and Christ's bride!

Do you know WHY there is so much division among the body of believers that once did such a powerful work for God?

When Paul encountered division among God's people, he dealt with it forcefully. "Now I BESEECH you, brethren, BY THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, that *ye all speak the SAME THING*, and that there be NO DIVISIONS among you; but that ye be PERFECTLY JOINED TOGETHER in the SAME MIND and in the SAME JUDGMENT" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

When Mr. Armstrong was on the scene, and he encountered division, he too used the authority God gave him to confront it! And we can all thank God that he did. You might remember the liberalization of the Church in the 1970s. It was an ominous preview of what would happen after Mr. Armstrong died. But in *that* instance, Mr. Armstrong was still around to set things right. He submitted to Christ, the Head of the Church, and Christ used him to get the Church BACK ON TRACK. And look at the results: The Church enjoyed several years of the most explosive growth in its history.

A lot of God's people today can recognize what a disaster happened once Mr. Armstrong was gone. But far too many have drawn a completely erroneous conclusion. Surely you have heard, if not come to believe, that the problem was the one-man government structure of the Church. That is a diabolical lie. That government structure was a beautiful, wonderful

As much as it frustrates and wounds you to see the church you have been a part of splintering—as much as it pains all of us to see bitter division among God's people—it grieves God far more.

blessing—for as long as that one man submitted to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church! (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18). Christ never could have solved the problems of the 1970s without that government. The government of God produces good and pleasant UNITY—it produces a people of *one mind* striving together for the faith of the gospel—it produces spiritual growth in every last person who embraces it!

The problems that seized the Church after Mr. Armstrong died came not because of one-man rule, but because the leader *did not follow Christ* (Colossians 2:19). Failure to submit to God's government always produces oppression and conflict. The continued fracturing among and within all the churches of God that have splintered off the Worldwide Church of God is proof that *any* government without Christ at the Head is doomed to fail.

The ministers who formed your organization wanted to be "United." But because they rejected God's government and established a worldly form of government, they wrote that organization's epitaph before it even started.

The tragedies within God's Church over these past 25 years have spiritually wounded all of us. Many—bruised, exhausted, disillusioned—have decided to turn their back on their calling, and have given up.

But God has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

Every single Church member who has received the Holy Spirit, GOD HAS INTENSE, YEARNING LOVE FOR. We can be "confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). God finishes what He starts. Even when we fail Him, He does

not give up on us. He chastens us when we need it—in a concerned effort to turn us around (Hebrews 12:5-11). Thank God for that chastening!

Even the *Tribulation* is loving correction from God—for the world and even for those of His people who are lukewarm. Read Revelation 3:14-22 for the message God has for the last era of His Church before Christ's return. It is clear from this and other passages that many of God's people will *not* be protected in a place of safety during the Tribulation—and even in the context of that nightmarish reality God reminds us: "As many as I LOVE, I REBUKE and CHASTEN: *be zealous therefore, and REPENT*" (verse 19).

Do you realize that God's REBUKE, spoken of in this verse, is coming NOW—BEFORE the Tribulation? God LOVES His people and is pleading for repentance *now*. Anyone who is zealous and repents *today* will not *need* the chastening of the Tribulation—and God will protect him or her from it. That is our earnest prayer for *you*.

Remember, judgment is on the house of God today (1 Peter 4:17). For those who possess God's Spirit, everything is at stake. Eternal life hangs in the balance. That is why God is so deeply concerned.

God is the father in Luke 15, searching the horizon for any sign of his son. "[W]hen [the son] was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. ... [And] the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found."

JOEL HILLIKER



INCREASE YOUR BIBLE IQ

One World Government: Impossible—Yet Inevitable!

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!

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE CLOSE OF WORLD War II, Winston Churchill declared in a speech in Copenhagen, “Unless some effective world supergovernment can be brought quickly into action, the proposals for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful.”

In the early 1960s, noted nuclear physicist Edward Teller, who helped develop the hydrogen bomb, warned, “We must work for the establishment of a world authority sustained by moral and physical force—a *world government* capable of enforcing worldwide law.”

Since then, an unprecedented number of international and regional bodies of all shapes and sizes—political and financial institutions, aid organizations, non-government organizations, judicial institutions—have emerged to play a role in global affairs. Today we have the Nuclear Energy Agency, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Chamber of Commerce, the G-8 and G-20, the Commonwealth, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Council of Europe, Greenpeace, Freedom House, Amnesty International, and the list goes on and on and on.

And of course, we have the United Nations. Despite its 60-year track record of malfunction and failure, the UN Commission on Global Governance in 1995 recommended far-reaching changes for the UN, including a system of global taxation, a standing UN army, an international criminal court, expanded authority for the secretary-general and the formation of a world parliament, among other things. Only the court was created—in 1998.

After World War II, the call went out from many highly esteemed people for a world government to be set up to solve mankind’s problems. Serious-minded scientists and world leaders *know* that the solution to world ills and the establishment of world peace is possible *only* if all nations are brought together under a supreme, all-powerful, world-ruling government!

We have created many such institutions. Yet look at this world. International coalitions and organizations and government have not solved our problems. In fact, in many instances they have made PROBLEMS WORSE.

Doesn’t it make you wonder ...

Is World Government Possible?

“World government is still a long way off,” declared A. F. K. Organski in the book *World Politics*. “The creation of a world government through the voluntary agreement of existing nations is so unlikely that we can say flatly that *it will never happen*” (emphasis ours

throughout).

Hans J. Morgenthau, in his book *Politics Among Nations*, asserted: “There is no shirking the conclusion that international peace cannot be permanent without a world state, and that a world state *cannot* be established under the present moral, social and political conditions of the world.”

What a paradox! World leaders realize that man’s most urgent need is WORLD GOVERNMENT. Yet others admit that such a government is a TOTAL IMPOSSIBILITY under present world conditions!

Viewing the history of mankind, anyone can plainly see that *men* have utterly failed to bring about world peace and prosperity. Fear, hatred, disease, poverty, oppression and injustice have been rampant throughout history.

What about it? Is world government impossible—an idle pipe dream of unrealistic optimists? Is the idea of a soon-coming UTOPIA on Earth merely an absurd myth?

If our only hope lies in the efforts of men, then a utopia is NOT possible, and humanity is doomed!

How World Government Will Come

People today fail to recognize any power other than their own that could bring about a literal utopia on this war-torn, problem-filled Earth.

What great power can, and *will*, do this?

GOD ALMIGHTY! He has the power and the wisdom to make utopia a *reality*!

This is the very message God sent Jesus Christ to proclaim to the world. It is the “gospel”—the GOOD NEWS—that Christ will return with the power of God to bring us universal peace and prosperity!

Few today understand that God has allotted mankind 6,000 years in which to rule itself. During this time, God has kept hands off the affairs of men. He has allowed man to pursue the course that seems right to him (Proverbs 16:25). God has given man the opportunity to prove, *by experience*, the basic inadequacies of *any* form of human government.

God is allowing humanity to prove to itself that no *human* form of government can bring world peace!

Your Bible shows a literal UTOPIA is ahead! It will be a time of *spiritual* and *physical* rejuvenation—1,000 years of boundless peace and prosperity! Let’s take a look into the future through the prophecies of the Bible, so you can *know* what that wonderful World Tomorrow will be like!

1. How will Christ need to begin His rule when He returns to Earth? Revelation 19:11-16.

COMMENT: At His return, Christ will have to powerfully subdue the world and force mankind to submit to His rule. As verse 15 mentions, He will use a “rod of iron,” symbolizing absolute authority. He will rule with *power*, not hesitating to use it when necessary. A world that has been deceived and influenced by an invisible devil (Revelation 12:9) must be ruled rigidly *until* it learns the positive fruits of living God’s way!

Christ’s government will begin at Jerusalem, where His headquarters will be located (Jeremiah 3:17). As His rule spreads over the whole Earth, all rebellious nations will be brought into line.

2. How will Christ deal with those nations that refuse to come to Jerusalem to worship God the way He commands? Zechariah 14:16-19.

COMMENT: It is true that God will rule with power and authority, but it is only human rebellion that necessitates *harshness*. God is not a stern, cruel monster as some have falsely implied. God wants man to be really happy! But God knows that the only way to lasting happiness is *obedience* to His laws!

Gradually, as men obey God’s laws, they will wake up to the wisdom and justice of God’s rule and will submit gladly to His authority. A “rod of iron” will no longer be necessary.

God’s System for Reeducation

During the Millennium, God will **TEACH** mankind the laws that produce happiness. He will give each individual the **CHOICE**, after learning His laws and seeing the happiness they produce, of whether to obey God’s laws or not. The vast majority of mankind will see God’s way is truly best and will *voluntarily* choose to **OBEY** Him.

But before men can really *choose*, they must clearly see the alternatives. They must be **REEDUCATED** so they can see through old prejudices and discern true values.

1. In addition to ruling as supreme King over all nations, will Christ also be the supreme Educator? Isaiah 2:3; Psalm 25:8-10.

COMMENT: Christ will *unite* these two functions in Himself. In God’s pattern for world rule, religion and government are *not separate*. They *will be* consolidated and harmonized in the World Tomorrow!

2. Who else will rule and teach with Christ in the World Tomorrow? Revelation 2:26; 5:10.

COMMENT: The resurrected Christians mentioned in Revelation 5:10 are to be “priests” as well as kings, and one of the true functions of a priest is to *teach* (e.g. Leviticus 10:10-11; Deuteronomy 24:8; 33:10).

When God intervenes in human affairs, it will not be left up to the people to vote in their own rulers or *choose* their own teachers. In the World Tomorrow God will *appoint* His resurrected saints to be the rulers and educators. They will teach the people all of God’s laws and statutes, which are the way to peace, prosperity and happiness!

3. Will the resurrected saints be able to appear to humans at will? Isaiah 30:20-21. What will they do? Verse 21.



World leaders search for some way to control mankind’s self-destructiveness.

COMMENT: In the World Tomorrow, those now qualifying to rule under Christ will be ever present and ready to speak or act, both to teach and to prevent potential criminal action.

Because they will be composed of spirit, they will be able to come and go as necessary and to pass through walls or simply disappear, just as Christ was able to do after His resurrection (John 20:19, 25-27; Luke 24:31).

Results of Universal Education

1. Will the whole world come to know God’s truth? Habakkuk 2:14; Jeremiah 31:34.

2. Will universal knowledge and obedience to God’s way lead to universal peace? Isaiah 11:9.

COMMENT: God will soon halt this world’s mad plunge toward nuclear cosmocide. He will send Jesus Christ to intervene in world affairs and put down all rebellion. Then He and His saints will begin teaching the nations God’s truth and His laws—His ways that bring blessings, prosperity, peace and happiness.

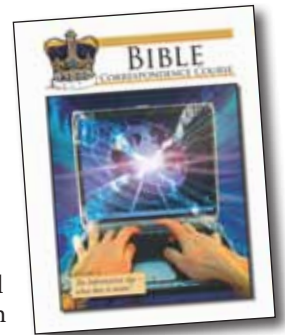
The *utopian paradise* which mankind has always longed for will finally be ushered in. Men will at long last **WAKE UP!** They will finally see through the veil of prejudices that have prevented them from following the way that would bring the fulfillment of their true desires.

The millennial world will be filled with **HAPPY** people guided, helped, protected and ruled by Christ and the saints. And all human beings will be called by God to inherit **EVERLASTING LIFE** in supreme happiness and thrilling joy!

WHAT A FABULOUS WORLD THAT WILL BE!

Although a utopian paradise is indeed *impossible* by the hands of men—none of this world’s governments can bring us true peace, prosperity and abundance—your Bible shows **THE GREAT GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH CAN AND WILL PRODUCE UTOPIA ON EARTH ... SOON!**

May God speed that glorious day!



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.

T You can read previous articles in this series online at theTrumpet.com/BibleIQ

A wake-up call

Wow! (“A Monumental Moment in European History!” February). That’s a powerful opening statement. It’s a statement that I know wants to move me to action. This nation is asleep; or distracted with technology for all the wrong reasons. It needs a jolt. Maybe someone will listen before it is too late. I do find myself, at times, asleep. Thank you for this wake-up call. I needed that.

Russell—NEW YORK

A world saturated in idolatry

Thank you so much for clarifying the depth of these two most important commandments (“The Sin of Idolatry,” February). They are the most important to me because if I can master these two, I know my Lord and Master will teach me the rest. We all suffer from failing to put God first.

Maria Petruzzi—BUFFALO, N.Y.

Great article, especially for the times we live in. This world is saturated with the pull of idolatry (sports heroes, Hollywood heroes, alcohol, drugs, self-indulgence, vanity, etc.)—especially if obeying God is not priority in your life. Believe me, I am certainly guilty of more than one of these problems stated in your article. May God help us overcome!

Orlando Forrest—BELLEVILLE, IL.

Idolatry is at the root of this society’s problems. People should read their Bibles and they could see it, but they don’t care or have faith.

Jennifer—UNITED STATES

If only I had heeded

Thank you for your insight in this well-written article! (“Marriage—Soon Obsolete?” February). As a man who is divorced 14 years now, I struggle with the lack of security and companionship a strong family and marriage brings. Most people my age have such a negative view of marriage that this statistic of 4 in 10 viewing marriage as obsolete seems low. I often wonder what could have been if I heeded the words in Mr. Armstrong’s booklet all those years ago. I wait for the day that I may be married if God sees fit to bless me with such an honorable union before the return of His Son. I will say this—I will never mock or knock marriage as it is the only union that helps us



understand the very purpose for our future! I am ashamed that I never worked harder to save my marriage all those years ago—I have definitely felt the effects of my poor decision. Thank you to the *Trumpet* for the continued hope and encouragement that is continually found in your articles!

Ted—ALBERTA

Intellectual stimulation

This is the most intellectually stimulating piece I have ever come across (“The Emotional Corrosion of Casual Sex,” February). Great insights! I will start sharing this right away with my unsaved friends!

Gaetan Sognigbe—ENGLAND

In my 40 years of existence, this is the finest article I have read about the damage that adultery and casual sex will do to mankind. Thank you.

Sunday Itodo—ABUJA, NIGERIA

Face death with hope

This is a compelling article that provides much insight and Bible-backed support on how we can face death with hope and courage (“Longing to Live,” February). I thank you for your clarity, truth, and wisdom.

Martin—INDIANA

You write, “For so many, the last days of life are spent not in peace, but in warfare, armed with faith in the frail weapons of science.” Well penned. Indeed, modern medicine is regarded as a deity in the Western world. Just as man longs to live forever, he also longs to believe in something. He longs to associate himself with a worthy cause. Thank you for giving the readership a worthy cause to believe in. You give us real hope in a time when others are staring at hopelessness.

D.M.—KANSAS CITY, MO.

America is in denial

America is in the stage of denial in the sequence steps of grief over loss (“America: Only Two More Years?” February). Can the subsequent stage of anger be far behind? Last evening on the news about poisoning in some of the nation’s waters, several of those cities being in California, a woman said in absolute certitude that California is the richest state and unclean drinking water is not acceptable there. One has to wonder at how anyone could miss the fact that

the dream is over. California is bankrupt, as is the nation. Washington State last Sunday implemented deep austerity measures and not a word about it on national news. Washington is the “mini me” of California. . . . We are reaping what we have sown for years. I’ve written letters to the editor and spoken about this for 20 years to no avail.

Christine—WASHINGTON

Spot-on analysis! Clearly stated and to the point. Thank you for continuing to tell the truth about the state of this nation, because no one else in the media really is.

S.L.W.—UNITED STATES

Your article game me the answer

I found your article fascinating! (“How Important Is Music?” February). Only recently, I’ve been thinking why music plays such a big part in many people’s lives. Your article provides the answer. My mind has been somewhat tainted over the years by all the bad music out there, but to think of all the beautiful music that emanates from the Church’s auditorium is very comforting.

Jason—AUSTRALIA

Thank you for the magazine

My husband and I have been married 46 years, and we only fight once a month and that is about who gets to read the *Trumpet* first when it comes in the mail! Fortunately for me, I retrieve the mail every day so I hide the magazine until the next day and then give it to him to read! After he reads it, then we have a good discussion on all of the wonderful articles. We are both conservative Christians, so we are in 100 percent agreement with all the articles. We thought we were well informed, but we have learned so much from Gerald Flurry. You are very talented in your writings. Thank you for all the wonderful articles. Keep them coming!

Catherine Pozega—CHARLESTON, W.V.

Thank you so much for your great magazine. There is no doubt that somebody spends a lot of time in tracking down the truth. It is great to have a magazine that tell things as they really are instead of putting right for wrong and wrong for right. I started reading the *Plain Truth* many years ago, and during a trip to America I was privileged to spend some time walking on the campus in California. It always amazes me that so very few people believe in the British-Israel message and want to call the present Jews “Israel.” They have a lot to account for.

Maurie Kingston—BIGGERA WATERS, QLD, AUSTRALIA

It's Hard to Watch Your Country Die

One can't help but sigh and cry.

THE TALK IN GLOBAL POLITICAL CIRCLES IS THAT THE U.S. is washed up. America's defense secretary, traveling to China in January, addressed the gossip. "I've watched this sort of cyclical view of American decline come around two or three times, perhaps most dramatically in the latter half of the 1970s," Robert Gates said. "And my general line for those both at home and around the world who think the U.S. is in decline is that history's dustbins are filled with countries that underestimated the resilience of the United States."

Maybe. But it seems hard to underestimate the U.S. these days.

The secretary's words ring especially hollow when you look at where he was heading. China has plenty cause for a low estimation of the United States. America owes it probably a trillion dollars. And China looks poised to single-handedly neutralize America's robust, decades-long influence in the Asia Pacific thanks to a military spending binge that will yield aircraft carriers, stealth planes and aircraft-carrier-killing missiles.

Meanwhile, Secretary Gates, just days earlier, announced that America will slash military spending by \$78 billion. The contrast between a country rising and a country sliding is stark.

It's painful to watch someone you love dying of a terminal sickness. The same must be said of seeing a country you love die.

America suffers with several ills from which it will not recover. This reality is becoming inescapably plain. There is hope—a bright, shining, sure hope for this country. But it is most certainly not to be found in any of the sources that naive optimists look to. We must face facts.

The virtues America once embodied have largely faded. The blessings America once enjoyed have been squandered. America's military dominance is proving inadequate. Its wars are proving impossible. Our allies are leaving us. Our enemies are provoking us.

The epic indebtedness to China and the shrinking military are both symptoms of an irreparably broken economy. Not only has America's fiscal irresponsibility gone on too long to correct, the country shows no sign of having the will to even try.

Despite growing unemployment, despite ruinous private and public debt, despite whole states risking bankruptcy, despite the federal government now paying its bills with nothing but printed paper, Americans keep spending like good times will roll forever. Frugality, thrift, moderation, self-control, self-sufficiency—it seems such perennially American virtues are permanently lost, buried by rank materialism and excess.

The nation simply will not recover from this condition before it pays dearly for it. The last Congress racked up a stupefying \$3.22 trillion in debt in two quick years. After an election that supposedly rebuked Washington for its profligacy, Republicans agreed to a spending bill that will add another trillion to the debt.

This new Congress will not reverse this juggernaut trend. Newcomers agitating for change face a House controlled by one party, a Senate controlled by the other, and a president with veto power and a bulldog determination to keep expanding the government.

And, truth be told, he's got the people behind him. Maybe not for healthcare. But Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare represent more than \$100 trillion in unfunded liabilities—and no politician plans to lose his job trying to prevent those programs from bankrupting the country. The problem isn't Obama: The wild spending, the disastrous deficits, the entitlements, the bailouts—these all started with his "conservative" predecessor. The problem is Washington—and the voters that decide who to send there.

The children of hard-bitten, self-reliant settlers who conquered the West have become grabby government dependents.

The nation's spreading economic and political sickness is matched by its moral decline. Despite warnings from military leaders and front-line soldiers of how it will hurt America's fighting capability, civilian leaders decided that homosexuals can now freely serve in the military. At a press conference celebrating this policy "victory," the president said his views on same-sex "marriage" are "evolving." Those views, like those of the public, will *never* "evolve" back to upholding the plain definition of marriage that has underpinned stable families and strong societies for millennia.

As if the stabilizing force of family isn't being rocked enough. Out-of-wedlock births and single-parent households, once associated with inner-city poor, are now common among the rural white working class as well. In the nation's capital, more than half of family households are run by single parents. In one area of Washington, only a quarter of homes contain a functioning marriage; of the remaining homes, nearly 9 in 10 are run by women.

No wonder 40 percent of Americans think marriage is becoming obsolete: A generation is growing up without even seeing what it is supposed to look like. Fractured families breed more fractured families. This is a sickness that simply will not heal.

The litany of such problems goes on and on. Each headline shows a bleaker prognosis, a new pain, another symptom bound only to get worse. "The passing of the Christian West signifies the end not only of a worldview, but of a character type—one based on honor, family, self-help, blood-and-soil patriotism, personal responsibility and a God-centered moral order," wrote Jeffrey Kuhner. "Self-indulgence and self-expression have filled the vacuum. Life is no longer about sacrifice and duty; it's about maximizing pleasure and self-fulfillment."

Viewing this, one can't help but sigh and cry—as the Prophet Isaiah did, speaking prophetically of America today: "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. . . . [T]he whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (Isaiah 1:4-6). It's painful to watch, particularly in a country you love.

Secretary Gates may have been technically accurate. But the far more relevant truth is that history's dustbins are filled with countries that overestimated their own resilience.



The true hope for the United States is prophesied in the Bible. You can read about it by ordering a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

► **DOLLAR** from page 7

Journal just prior to his arrival in Washington, however, that should have all Americans preparing for one massive sugar crash. He said *the dollar should no longer be the world's reserve currency*. It is a “product of the past,” he said. It is time for a more fair and balanced system.

What does China think should replace the dollar? Hu himself said it wouldn't be the yuan. What does that leave? Follow the sugar.

“The euro will overcome the region's deficit crisis,” assured Song Zhe, China's ambassador to Europe, back in December. The cementing of the euro's status will “promote the building of a *diversified global currency system*,” he said.

Remember: When anyone talks about “diversifying” the global currency system, by definition it means ditching the current system—which is the dollar.

And China isn't alone in shifting support to the eurozone. Japan has also announced that it will step up its efforts to back Europe by purchasing eurozone debt. According to Reuters, Japan will purchase 20 percent of soon-to-be-issued Eurobonds. The Eurobonds would be jointly issued and backed by all members of the eurozone—creating a new debt market that will directly compete with U.S. treasuries. Where will Japan get the money? As America's second most important lender, it has a whole stack of treasuries it would probably love to “diversify” out of.

If the world wants out of the U.S. dollar, there is only one viable paper alternative: Europe.

According to Li Daokui, an academic member of the Chinese central bank's monetary policy committee, Americans only have months to prepare—while Europe works to get its act together. “For now, market attention is still on Europe and for the coming 6 to 12 months, it will not shift to the United States,” said Li on December 8. “But we should be clear in our minds that the fiscal situation in the United States is much worse than in Europe. In one or two years, when the European debt situation stabilizes, attention of financial markets will definitely shift to the United States. At that time, U.S. treasury bonds and the dollar will experience considerable declines.”

Strange things are happening in Europe. Now you know why. The international monetary system set up at Bretton Woods in 1944 is on the verge of breaking down, and the dollar will soon be fighting for its survival as the world's reserve currency. ■

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Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30, Sun

Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30, Sun

Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30, Sun

Phoenix KPPX 5:00, Fri

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

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Jonesboro KJOS 8:30, Sun

Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30, Sun

Chico KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

El Centro KWJUB 9:30, Sun

Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30, Sun

Los Angeles KPXM 6:00, Fri

Monterey KMWB 9:30, Sun

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

Redding KHSL-DT 9:30, Sun

Sacramento KSPX 6:00, Fri

Salinas KION 9:30, Sun

San Francisco KKPX 6:00, Fri

Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00, Fri

Denver KWGN 10:00, Sun

Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHXP 6:00, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30, Sun

Salisbury WMVD-DT 9:30, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30, Sun

Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00, Fri

Miami WPXM 6:00, Fri

Orlando WOPX 6:00, Fri

Panama City WJHG-DT 8:30, Sun

Tallahassee WTXL 7:30, Sun

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

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

West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30, Sun

Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30, Sun

Brunswick WPXC 6:00, Fri

Columbus WLGA 9:30, Sun

Macon WBNN 9:30, Sun

Savannah WGSB/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

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 WCUI 9:30, Sun; WCPX 5:00, Fri

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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, Hagerstown WJAL 12:00 pm, Sun

Salisbury WBD 9:30, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBXP 6:00, Fri; WZMY 8:00, Sun

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 WLAI-DT 9:30, Sun

Marquette WBKP 9:30, Sun

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

Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30, Sun

Mankato KWYE 8:30, Sun

Minneapolis KPXM 5:00, Fri

Rochester-Austin KTTC-DC 8:30, Sun

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

Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30, 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 WGEN-DT 8:30, Sun

Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30, Sun

Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30, Sun

Kansas City KPXE 5:00, Fri

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Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00, Fri
New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30, Sun
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Washington WNCT-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 KALZ 8:30, Sun
Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00, Fri
Tulsa KTPX 5:00, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30, Sun
Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, 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
Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00, Sun
Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30, Sun
Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun
Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30, Sun

South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30, Sun
Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30, Sun
Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBKJ 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
Arillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30, Sun
Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30, Sun
Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30, Sun
Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30, Sun
Houston KPXB 5:00, Fri
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Tyler KCEB 8:30, Sun
Victoria KWVB 8:30, Sun
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Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00, Fri
Vermont, Burlington W V N Y 10:00, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville W VIR-DT 9:30, Sun
Harrisonburg W VIR-DT 9:30, Sun
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Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00, Sun; WPKW 6:00, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30, Sun
Richland KCWK 9:30, Sun
Seattle-Tacoma KWPK 6:00, Fri
Seattle KCPQ 7:00, Sun; KVOS 8:30, Sun
Spokane KGPX 6:00, Fri
Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Charleston WLPX 6:00, Fri
Clarksburg WVPX-DT 9:30, Sun
Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30, Sun
Parkersburg WBPB 9:30, Sun
Weston WVPX-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
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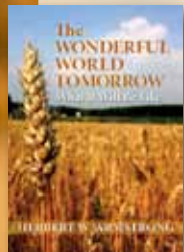
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for every one

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