

# THE WORLD AHEAD

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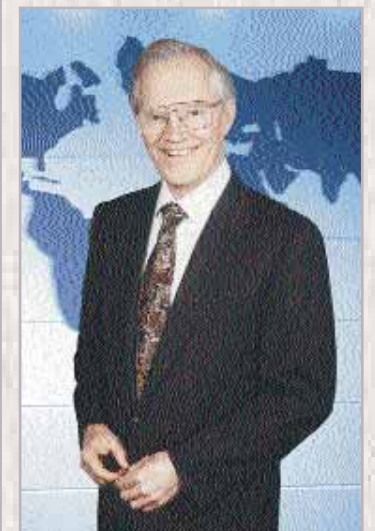
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## EDITORIAL



**Roderick C. Meredith**  
Editor in Chief

## How Vital Is Truth?

In this “come easy, go easy” age of compromise, *Truth* is often a major casualty. People are generally more anxious to be accepted and to “fit in” than they are to stand firmly on principle.

This may not appear to harm us much in some secular issues—though in the field of space travel even a seemingly small error could cause a spacecraft to miss landing on Mars by millions of miles! In like manner, if you veer “off course” just a little in serving the true God, without necessary course corrections, you may end up far from your planned spiritual destination!

The Apostle John was inspired to write, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 4). Christ explained that the “Spirit of truth,” would guide us into “all truth” (John 16:13). Our Creator, then, wants to guide us through His Spirit to grow in the knowledge of His Truth as much as we are able. So we should have a burning desire to *fully understand* God’s Word and His great plan and purpose.

While still a teenager, I began associating with a small Christian fellowship that sought after God’s Truth in an open-minded and wholehearted way. We were tired of tradition. We sincerely strove to *understand* and *practice* the Christianity of Jesus and His apostles. Most of us who experienced this religious awakening in those years spoke of “coming into the Truth.” Even years later, we would describe this crossroads in our life as being “when I came into the Truth.”

Truth is precious. Increasingly, many professing Christian organizations today water down or compromise Truth in order to be “acceptable” to the world or to other mainstream churches. Such a widespread, lax attitude on their part should make us all the more vigilant to *never* fall into the same trap! Obviously, such a position of standing up for the Truth is not easy nor popular with men. The Apostle Paul walked this path and suffered many terrible beatings because of it. In fact, even the very religious *authorities* of Christ’s day persecuted and attacked Him!

Brought before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea who had the power of life and death, Jesus was accused of perpetrating evil. In His defense Jesus said, “I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the *truth*. Everyone who is of the *truth* hears My voice” (John 18:37).

How easily our present society seduces too many of God’s people. How about you? Will you just “go with the flow” of truth-compromising,

(continued on page 20)

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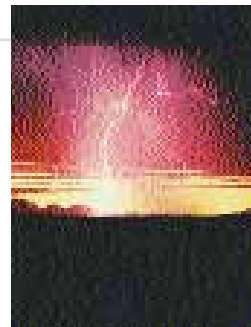
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## 3 Editorial

## Feature Articles

4

### Cover Story



### Who Controls the Weather?

Violent storms, flooding and other natural disasters have recently hammered the United States. Are they isolated incidents or part of the bigger picture of end-time prophecy?

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14

### Letters to the Editor

21

### Questions & Answers

8

### Revival in the Heart of Europe

Since the EEC was founded in 1957, there has been little unity in Europe. But 40 years later, do we finally see the stirrings of a REAL United Europe?



12

### Is the Old Testament Still Valid?

Does only the *New Testament* apply to modern-day Christians. Or does God instruct us through the *entire Bible*?

16

### Palestine and Israel Two Nations—One Land

As work begins on a new Jewish housing project in East Jerusalem, Palestinians and Israelis clash again.



22

### The Traditional Family—Is It Finally Obsolete?

“Social engineering” in the 20th century has sought to dismantle the traditional family. Is it succeeding? And at what price?



26

### The NEW Commandments of Jesus

Christ said that He gave to us a “new commandment.” What is this commandment? Did it replace God’s other commands?

## 31 Radio/TV Log

All scriptural references are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.

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# WHO CONTROLS THE WEATHER?

by Roderick C. Meredith

*Unusually violent weather recently struck the Midwestern United States. Many commentators have noted a marked rise in destructive storms and natural disasters. WHY? Are increasingly frequent "acts of God" part of a bigger picture?*

When savage storms or other weather-related catastrophes occur, they are usually blamed on Mother Nature. Weathermen are quick to cite statistics of similar storms that may have occurred 30, 60 or even 100 years ago. But what they often do NOT say is that such storms—as well as violent earthquakes—are becoming more frequent and more forceful.

And they are seemingly in total ignorance of the fact that there is a great GOD who ultimately *controls* natural events. A God who blesses nations that obey Him with “rain in its season” (Lev. 26:4). A God who can and often will *punish* a rebellious people with drought and famine (v. 19). Jesus Christ predicted that natural disasters would be one of the “signs” preceding His return to this earth as King of kings: “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences [i.e. disease epidemics], and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matt. 24:7-8).

## American Weather Disasters

The United States has the highest rate of church attendance of any major nation in the world. We *talk* a lot about religion. But we also have appalling rates of broken families, juvenile crime and drug abuse. We are increasingly engrossed in sexual immorality, violence, dishonesty and the headlong pursuit of a totally hedonistic lifestyle. And we regularly murder millions of unborn babies each and every year—disposing of them like so much household garbage. We call ourselves the “land of the free and the home of the brave.” But literally millions of Americans live in fortress-like, gated communities—*afraid* to go out at night into the streets of our own cities.

And as we will see, God is punishing us through various natural disasters. Even as our personal and national sins are increasing, so are floods, tornadoes, severe snowstorms and earthquakes. Thus, many of today’s so-called “acts of God” are, in fact, just that—the active intervention of Almighty God. And we

haven’t seen the last of it yet. Natural calamities are going to get *much* worse unless we as a nation REPENT and turn to the true God in heartfelt obedience.

*The New York Times* recently reported, “The Ohio River ran over its banks at Cincinnati and up the slope to Cinergy Field, the former Riverfront Stadium, which found itself in the river. The death toll from one of the Ohio Valley’s worst floods of the century rose to 28, including three more bodies found by rescue workers in Falmouth [Kentucky], one of the towns hardest hit by the deluge. The damage reached as far as Memphis [Tennessee], where the Mississippi River submerged several streets” (March 6, 1997).

And during the height of the flooding in the Ohio Valley and the killer tornadoes in Arkansas, the *Times* reported: “From Arkansas, where tornadoes devastated a small town, to Ohio and Kentucky, where floods swept cars off the roads and sucked two people down into culverts, a front of deadly storms

splintered homes and killed at least 35 people over the weekend.

“People who survived Saturday’s pounding winds called it the most violent day of weather in memory. The storm front sent floods, tornadoes and springlike thunderstorms through eight states, as far south as Mississippi and Tennessee and as far north as Ohio, but no state suffered worse than Arkansas. There, the twisting winds of several tornadoes flattened buildings and houses, killed 24 people and injured 200 in a few short hours Saturday night....

“Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas warned that the death toll could rise as rescue workers continued to sift through the rubble of homes and businesses. ‘This was an absolutely extraordinary event of weather,’ Mr. Huckabee said as National Guard units helped police officers and firefighters search through the damage. ‘We had more tornadoes and more damage than in all of last year.... I’m calling it apocalyptic’” (March 3, 1997).

“Apocalyptic,” the governor said. That expression, of course,

makes direct reference to the book of Revelation and the wrath of God.

## An Intervening Creator

Yet most politicians, farmers, merchants and weather forecasters leave out of the picture the One who *controls* the weather. They forget the Creator God who intervenes in His creation from time to time

to accomplish His purposes. Remember Noah’s Flood?

Of course, not every thunderstorm is from God’s direct intervention. For natural laws guide such weather patterns. And sometimes God allows *Satan* to control the weather (cf. Job 1:12, 19). But the Bible reveals that there are definite times when *God Himself* intervenes in the weather to either bless or curse certain nations.

When ancient Israel turned aside

## Floods, Drought and Pandemics

The truth is that present and prophesied monster floods and droughts are going to vastly increase the potential for polluted water, malaria-carrying mosquitoes and other sources of disease. Our licentious lifestyle will continue to increase the incidence of modern plagues such as AIDS, syphilis and

*Left:* Irene Devos, age 82, struggles down a path cut through a 20-foot-high snowdrift to check her mailbox in Marshall, Minnesota, on January 15. She stated, “I prayed for good weather, that it wouldn’t snow over the weekend. The Lord didn’t hear me.” The large amounts of melting snow threaten more flooding in places where the ground is already saturated—KRT. *Center:* A Jeffersonville, Indiana, farm is surrounded by floodwaters from the Ohio River on March 6. *Below:* A damaged Arkadelphia neighborhood on March 2, after one of several tornadoes hit in Arkansas, killing at least 24 people and injuring several hundred—Reuters.

from God, how did He respond? “‘I blasted you with blight [from drought] and mildew [from too much rain]. When your gardens increased, your vineyards, your fig trees, and your olive trees, the locust devoured them; yet you have not returned to Me,’ says the Lord” (Amos 4:9). And the same God who “spanked” nations and empires in centuries past is still very much in charge. He says, “**For I am the Lord, I do not change**” (Mal. 3:6).

The Word of God makes it clear that if the British Commonwealth and American peoples do not repent of our personal and national sins and return to God, He will punish us with such floods, drought, famine, earthquakes and disease epidemics as we have *never known nor even imagined!* Each of us, individually, needs to *seek God* in a way we have never done before.

other sexually transmissible diseases. And even if medical science can tame or conquer some of these diseases, other, more virulent plagues will undoubtedly take their place.

Eventually, our hospitals—already under great financial strain and space constraints—will simply be unable to cope with the disease epidemics that the Bible says will occur! For as we saw earlier in a parallel scripture, “there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs

from heaven” (Luke 21:11 NRSV). Because of our mounting SINS, these are destined to strike the American and British peoples, probably within *this generation!*

As explained in our brochure, *America and Britain in Prophecy*, we are identified as “Israel” in Bible prophecy. (Please call or write for your free copy today.) As remnants of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes” of Israel, we have been greatly blessed. But now, we are going to be severely punished for our own good by a loving God who wants to wake us up before our national debauchery proceeds too far (cf. Heb. 12:6).

### Divine Punishment Coming

Slowly but surely, the mind of the average American has been seared in regard to the meaning and consequences of *sin*. Millions have no clue of what is right and what is wrong. Their parents haven’t taught them. Nor have schools and colleges. And even the churches have utterly failed in making clear the reality of God, the meaning of His laws and the consequences of transgressing them.

Notice this excerpt from a powerful address delivered by William P. Barr, former attorney general of the United States: “America... now has among the highest divorce rates in the world—divorce is as common as marriage. As a consequence of this, we now have the highest percentage of children living in single-parent households.

“This breakdown of the family is particularly distressing because it is the family that is the principle institution by which we conduct moral education—by which we transmit moral values from generation to generation. As the family is weakened, so is our ability to transmit values to the next generation....

“Today, we face the immense power of mass communications and

popular culture—the mass media, the entertainment industry, academia. Today, I fear that the power and pervasiveness of our high-tech popular culture, not only fuels the collapse of morality, but also drowns out the scattered voices raised against secularization....

“In addition to mass popular culture, I am concerned there is another modern phenomenon that makes it harder for society to restore itself.... In the past, societies have been driven back to their senses by the sheer cost of misconduct.

“But today, something is new. The state—which no longer sees itself as a moral institution, but as a secular one—takes on the role as the alleviator of bad consequences. The state is called upon to remove the inconvenience and costs of misconduct. So the reaction to diseases and illegitimacy is not sexual responsibility but handing out condoms” (*Vital Speeches of the Day*, Nov. 1, 1992, pp. 39-40).

*Handing out condoms to school-children?* That typifies America’s pitiful response to the shocking state of our national morality! Can we fully grasp what is happening to our country? Instead of following President Abraham Lincoln’s example of calling for a national day of prayer and fasting to seek forgiveness of our mounting SINS before the Great God who gives us life and breath, our leaders want to simply alleviate the *consequences* of those sins. Can divine punishment be far behind?

### God’s Servants Understood

If you believe in the true God—the God of the Bible—you should understand that He is in control of the weather, as He clearly shows time and

again in His inspired Word. And God tells us of the *lessons* recorded in the Old Testament, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).

King David of Israel was one of the greatest servants of God in all human history—a *man after God’s own heart* (Acts 13:22). Notice carefully David’s *understanding* of what to do in time of famine: “Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the



Businesses on the southern edge of Cincinnati were flooded when the Ohio River crested above flood-stage on March 6—Reuters.

LORD answered, ‘It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites’” (2 Sam. 21:1). David knew that God controlled the weather. So when an unusual, continuing famine struck his land, *he knew exactly what to do*.

Do you remember Elijah the prophet? Many do, but they usually forget that he demonstrated God’s *absolute control* over the weather. In fact, Elijah is first introduced through this very matter: “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word’” (1 Kings 17:1).

But WHY had God inspired Elijah to prophesy *total drought* for a

period of three years? The answer is found when Elijah finally presented himself before wicked King Ahab: “Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, ‘Is that you, O troubler of Israel?’ And he answered, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and have followed the Baals’” (18:17-18).

And the New Testament directly validates this Old Testament story. For in the book of James—written by the brother of Jesus Christ—we find these inspired words: “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit” (5:17-18).

Have we, in the United States, Canada and Britain, “forsaken the commandments of the LORD” as Elijah condemned King Ahab for doing? The answer is pretty obvious. And will we receive the *same kind of punishment* that the land of Israel did back then? We have already seen the answer from the Word of God: “I am the LORD, I do not change” (Mal. 3:6). As the New Testament puts it, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

Notice Solomon’s inspired prayer wherein he acknowledges God’s direct control over the weather: “When the heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against You, when they pray toward this place and confess Your name, and turn from their sin because You afflict them, then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk; and send rain on Your land which You have given to Your people as an inheritance” (2 Chron. 6:26-27).

### Will We Repent?

*Far more* than most people realize, the lands of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Britain are indeed given us by God as an “inheritance.” When we turn away from our Creator, when we virtually *spit in the face* of the very God we claim to serve and *disobey His commandments continually*, God does CHASTISE us individually and nationally for our own good. He can and often does use the *weather* and other natural phenomena to humble us and make us realize how weak we are.

So if you believe in the God of the Bible, you should, frankly, *expect* more severe weather and natural catastrophes to dramatically affect the United States, Canada and Britain in the years to come. Yes, there may be some normal years here and there. But the pattern will be increasingly powerful storms, floods and *earthquakes* that will shake our cities to their very foundations. And there will also be severe *drought*, *forest fires* and eventually *famine* striking our lands. In the wake of all this, horrifying *disease epidemics* will grow rampant—**more so than at any time in our history.**

Writing *more than 100 years* after the Israelites’ ancient captivity, Ezekiel describes the end-time punishment of their modern descendants (Ezek. 36:16-23). Then our peoples finally *will* change their ways: “‘Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations. Not for your sake do I do this,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel!’” (vv. 31-32).

Yes, finally our people will be truly repentant over our escalating crime and violence, adultery and perversion, lying, cheating and stealing—and every foul thing imaginable

that is an *abomination* in the sight of a just God. Then our American and British peoples will LOATHE themselves in their own sight! They will *feel like vomiting* when they realize the rottenness and degeneration of our “modern lifestyle,” which is based on lust, instant gratification and a massive series of lies and self-deception. How deep we have sunk into the pit of immorality!

### What Should YOU Do?

The above prophecies are certain. In these last days, they *will* occur and they—including *massive disruptions in the weather*—will drastically change everything around you and alter your entire life. So what should you do?

If you sincerely want to serve God—and the true Jesus Christ of the Bible—you should wholeheartedly turn to God in a way you have probably never done before. You should begin to truly *study* His inspired Word, the Holy Bible, and begin to *obey* what you read there. You should start *praying fervently* to God every day—getting down on your knees to SEEK Him and ask Him for true understanding, knowledge and guidance (cf. Deut. 4:27-31).

Keep reading and even studying the articles in the *World Ahead* magazine. We will be giving you advance news of what lies ahead, and the genuine way of life you should be living for God’s guidance, blessing and protection in years to come. **Prove these things out of your own Bible.**

Even if our nations as a whole will not repent, *you can certainly change* and be forgiven and protected during these coming calamities. Jesus Himself gave this assurance in Luke 21:36: “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

In March 1957, delegates from six Western European countries signed the Treaty of Rome, which brought the European Economic Community into existence—laying the foundation for the powerful European Union we see today. It is truly remarkable how far things have progressed.

Now, incredible events are occurring in Europe! The geopolitical changes that have rearranged the map of the continent in recent years continue. Forces are building in Europe that are destined to shake human civilization to its foundation. Many nations—especially the United States, Britain, Canada and Australia—are going to experience the shocking impact of the thunderclouds gathering over Europe. We will all be affected. So we can't afford to be ignorant of what is happening. We need to *watch!* We need to *understand* where these crucial events in Europe are leading.

### Surprise Reunion!

The 80s ended and the 90s began with a series of sudden, jolting, totally unexpected events. In November 1989 the infamous Berlin Wall crumbled. The line that divided Germany for more than 40 years had disappeared almost overnight. By August 1990, East and West Germany had been reunited. In a matter of weeks, the once-powerful Soviet Union had begun to be dismantled.

# REVIVAL in the HEART of EUROPE

by Douglas S. Winnail, Ph.D., M.P.H.



It's been 40 years since  
the Treaty of Rome—  
and the unification of  
Europe grows ever closer.  
Why is it happening?  
Where will it lead?

Suddenly, a dozen satellite nations in Eastern Europe were free.

All told, in less than 24 months the map of Europe—unchanged for more than 40 years—had been radically redrawn. These seemingly isolated events are actually part of a much bigger, more significant picture. Author David Marsh observes, “When the Wall disappeared, *Europe reappeared*” (*Germany and Europe*, 1994, p. 132). With the crumbling of the Berlin Wall, the uniting of Germany, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, **the heart of Europe began beating again!** The *shocking abruptness* of these events took the whole world by surprise! For Germans, the unification of their divided nation was a dream come true. For their neighbors, who had felt the fury of German military adventurism twice in one century, old fears resurfaced.

Just what caused this swift and dramatic turn of events? One German newspaper stated, “Just a year ago, no German politician was pursuing this goal, and no foreign politician wanted it. So *no human being* can take credit for having brought Germany together—**it was God's work.** God has forgiven us our guilt for the murder of six million Jews” (Peter Schneider, *The German Comedy*, 1991, p. ix).

While the modern secular mind may scoff at such

reasoning, the Bible tells us that God *does* intervene in history at specific times and in dramatic ways! The prophet Daniel told a very surprised Babylonian king, “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His.... He removes kings and raises up kings” (Dan. 2:20-21). God has His own timetable! When Daniel inquired as to when the visions he saw would come to pass he was told, “**The words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end**” (12:9). Jesus explained to His disciples that when they saw a specific series of prophesied events, they would *know* that the return of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom of God was *near*—even “at the very doors”! (Matt. 24:33). As we will see in this article, we appear to be living in very momentous times—the very times Christ was speaking of!

The euphoria of the early 90s didn't last long. The unification of Germany has not erased the deep divisions between East and West—both in values and expectations. Strains have developed, and disillusionment has set in. In Eastern Europe, as the ice of the Cold War melted, old rivalries and antagonism suddenly reappeared. Frozen hatred burst into flames. Nations patched together by politicians began to break apart—such as Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. *Modern Europe* suddenly began to resemble *medieval Europe!*

So now, the big question facing Europeans and the rest of the world is: What lies ahead? Will Europe unite as a solid, peaceful pillar of democracy—or will its internal problems *once again* bring the world to the brink of chaos and ruin?

### Missing Keys

In our modern, fast-paced, progressive age, we keep up with world events through radio, TV and newspapers. We feel informed. Yet we are often surprised and shocked by how swiftly events can unfold. But we needn't be unsettled. Not if we keep in mind two vitally important perspectives—an understanding of the *continuity of history* and a knowledge of *Bible prophecy*. Each of these dimensions has a vital contribution to make toward understanding where current events are heading. One draws lessons from the past. The other provides key insights for the future.

But so many people think history is *boring!* It's something that already happened—“yesterday's news.” How could it possibly relate to our lives today? This notion overlooks what we can learn from the *continuity* of history—the fact that ideas, habits and cultural tendencies of a particular people persist over time. They may be masked

for decades or even centuries, only to reemerge and reestablish old patterns. Knowledge of the past, then, is an important key in sensing where current events may lead.

This is especially true regarding events in Europe. The roots of European problems are found in the Middle Ages and even earlier. From a distance, the continuity of history in Europe is plain to see. From this broader vantage, what we have come to accept as “normal” in Europe for the last 40 years appears to be only an *aberration* in the continuing flow of history. The “real” Europe is awakening from its prolonged slumber and is starting to break free from the shackles imposed by Allied politicians and military leaders. The future we're heading toward seems much like the past!

In like manner, while many in our modern, secular society view the Bible as a source of solace and comfort, they fail to see its relevance to world affairs. Yet prophecy is literally the record of selected world affairs *written in advance!* And as such, it is one of the proofs of the divine inspiration of Scripture (cf. Is. 41:21-24). And this advance source of current affairs doesn't neglect the political changes that have swept through Europe.

### Significance of Europe

For the last 40 years Europe has lived in the shadow of two superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union. Europeans have to some extent “watched from the sidelines” while others shaped the modern world. However, this is a recent development totally contrary to historic trends. Europeans have, for thousands of years, been the *trendsetters* for human civilization in science, art, economics, government, diplomacy and warfare. Moreover, Europe is the seat of a powerful, organized world religion—Roman Catholicism—that has had a profound influence on Western civilization.

This continent is also the birthplace of empires—Greek, Roman, Spanish, French, Portuguese, German and Austro-Hungarian. These are the empires that have influenced, ruled and colonized the globe. “The memory of Europe's glorious centuries, when it dominated the world” has never been forgotten (Luigi Barzini, *The Europeans*, 1983, p. 259). The “ancient desire to see Europe pacified and merged into one political unit” is a dream that still lives in the hearts of the people (p. 12).

However, European nations have struggled for centuries with rival ambitions that have divided the continent with intrigue and ravaged it with armed conflict. Twice in this century Europe's internal strife has erupted into World War! Given its turbulent history and

uncertain future, it appears that “the destiny of the whole world hinges on events in Europe” (Flora Lewis, *Europe: A Tapestry of Nations*, 1987, p. 22). Bible prophecy indicates both *how* and *why*!

### The Beast Awakens

The prophetic visions recorded in Daniel and Revelation offer a panoramic view of world history from the distant past to the return of Jesus Christ. (These incredible prophecies are explained in our booklet, *The Beast of Revelation*, which is free upon request.) Daniel saw a great image of a man symbolizing four empires that would rule the Middle East and the Mediterranean world. The fourth empire was represented by legs of iron (a conquering military power) and feet mixed with iron and clay (2:33, 40). The two legs imply that this empire would be divided into two parts. The feet depict the final manifestation of this empire at the time of Christ’s return, characterized by an inherently weak coalition of ten kings—the ten toes (vv. 42-43; Rev. 17:12).

Daniel later received another vision in which the fourth empire had ten horns (7:7) representing ten resurrections (or revivals) of this empire over time (v. 24). The last seven revivals would be dominated by a mysterious “little horn” (v. 8). Other prophecies indicate the world will be shocked by the reemergence of this fourth

empire in its tenth, and final, revival as a political, military and economic entity—the Beast! (Rev. 13:3-4).

Like the image in Daniel, the Roman Empire divided into eastern and western portions. The Western Roman Empire, which fell in A.D. 476, experienced a *series of revivals*—such as that of the Frankish kingdom of Charlemagne, as well as the *Holy Roman Empire* of the Middle Ages with its succession of German kings. Charlemagne’s crowning by Pope Leo III at Rome on Christmas Day in A.D. 800 is generally recognized as the “*revival of the Roman Empire*” in the West and a “*rebirth of the ancient pagan Roman empire in the guise and shape of a new Latin-Christian one which was for all practical purposes identical with the notion of Europe*” (Allen Brown, *The Origins of Modern Europe*, 1972, p. 52).

The idea of a Europe united economically, politically and militarily is nothing new in the continuous

flow of European history. The roots of these powerful traditions are found in the Roman Empire. It is to these deeply ingrained traditions that French statesman Jean Monnet and other visionaries have looked in their quest to unite Europe and restore its lost grandeur. The current drive to create a European Union is based on the old dream of a larger-than-national identity to remedy the “plague of nationalism which had all but destroyed Europe” in the past (Lewis, p. 29).

In fact, referring to the 1957 Treaty of Rome, “Henri Spaak, the former secretary-general of NATO admitted in a BBC documentary on the European Union that **‘we felt like Romans on that day.... We were consciously re-creating the Roman Empire once more’**” (Grant R. Jeffrey, *The Signature of God*, 1996, pp. 190-191). Thus, we appear to be witnessing today the reemergence of a powerful European empire—just another chapter in a well-documented historical theme. And yet, not “just another chapter.” For this will be the *final* revival of the Roman



**Left:** Pope John Paul II talks with German President Roman Herzog after arriving at the Berlin-Bellevue Castle garden in Germany on June 23, 1996. The pontiff was on a weekend visit to Germany, his first visit after reunification. **Right:** German Chancellor Helmut Kohl speaks to parliament members during a session of the European Council on September 28, 1995, in Strasbourg, France. Kohl said that a unique currency was not enough to make Europe strong—AFP.

Empire. The “Beast” is awakening for the last time! And this revival will be aided by an unsuspected source....

### The Mysterious Lady

One of the major features in the European historical thread is religion—specifically, Roman Catholicism. Journalist Flora Lewis comments, “It was the spread of [Roman] Christianity and the medieval Holy Roman Empire (under mostly Germanic kings) which gave the peoples of this land a first sense of European identity” (p. 22). Historian W.R. Southern states, “It is not absurd to say that the Roman Empire achieved its fullest development in the thirteenth century” under the German kings and the papacy—which was the “*ghost of the Roman Empire sitting crowned on the grave thereof*” (quoted by Brown, p. 19).

The Roman Catholic Church played a central role in the development and preservation of European civilization—especially in the face of a *common enemy*. When the Roman Empire collapsed under the invasion of pagan Germanic tribes, “the Christian faith in general and the Roman Church in particular, stood as the one stable and wholly desirable element in a disintegrating world” (p. 64). When the people of Europe were threatened by the invasion of an alien culture (Muslim) in the eighth century, their *common religious heritage* “created a bond of *community* among the quarrelsome Europeans” (Lewis, p. 23).

The deeply intertwined relationship of the Roman Church and the Frankish and German kings is one of the *historical constants* of the Western world. Popes begged protection from powerful enemies, kings sought legitimacy from the Roman Church and they wrestled with one another for power and dominance. And it was to be expected. For it is exactly the picture that emerges from Bible prophecy!

As we have already seen, Daniel describes a “little horn” that will dominate the final seven revivals of the Roman Empire (Dan. 7:8, 24-25). Indeed, the Roman papacy has already dominated six different manifestations of this empire in recorded history—while one yet remains! (cf. Rev. 17:10). And what do we know about this remaining revival? John saw a woman (a church) dressed in purple and scarlet—“with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication”—sitting on the *final* revival of the Roman Empire (vv. 2-6). The Bible indicates that religion will once again be a decisive factor in rearranging the face of Europe. But who will *lead* this final revival?

### A German Heart

The Roman Empire conquered the Mediterranean world. And *all* of its revivals took place in Europe. Germany is at the very “heart” of Europe—geographically, economically and politically. “Its central position in Europe is indeed the *great constant* of German history” (Renata Fritsch-Bournazel, *Europe and German Unification*, 1992, p. 124). After the demise of Charlemagne’s Frankish Empire, “the German kingdom

was in fact the first and most powerful monarchy to emerge on the mainland of Europe from the chaos of the ninth and tenth centuries.” Because of German preeminence, “the future of Latin Christendom lay in the hands of the rulers and people of the German-speaking lands” (Brown, p. 155). As we have seen, the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages “under mostly Germanic kings” gave Europe its greatest and most enduring sense of unity and identity.

The Holy Roman Empire of medieval times from Otto the Great (A.D. 962) to Frederick the Great (A.D. 1197) “was in reality a *German Empire*” (p. 161). Under Frederick the Great, the crusading Order of the Teutonic Knights spread “German power and militant Christianity” eastward into Prussia and what is now modern Poland (p. 168). From 1438 to 1806, the Hapsburgs, also a Germanic family, sat on the throne of another revival of the Holy Roman Empire. Thus, the central role Germany has played in successive revivals of the Roman Empire has become a historical theme. And history suggests that the final revival will also involve Germany—as does Bible prophecy. (For more on this, please write for our free brochure, *America and Britain in Prophecy*.)

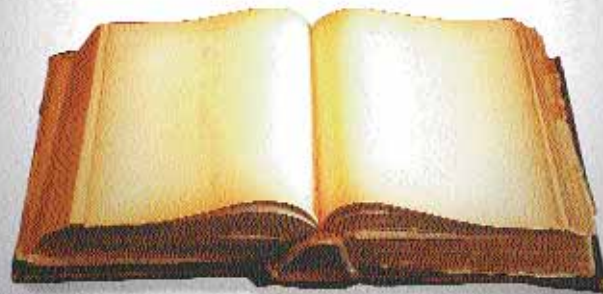
### Signs of Revival?

It is widely recognized today that Europe stands at a critical juncture. Ominous signs are appearing on the continent that could result in a calamitous disruption of world events! The dream of a United Europe is linked to the drive to create a common currency. Bernard Connolly, a widely regarded economist who has served in a senior post on the European Commission, says that Europe will be “created via a currency or not at all” (*The Rotten Heart of Europe*, 1995, p. xviii). However, this could spark a disaster. Connolly asserts that a Europe built simply on its money “would be a Europe sitting atop the fault lines of an earthquake zone” (p. 378).

Numerous observers sense that the real danger in any attempt to forge a European Union is the *continuing, age-old rivalry* for power between France and Germany.

(continued on page 30)

# Is the Old Testament Still Valid?



by Dibar Apartian

Some may find it surprising to learn that the Holy Bible never refers to an Old or a New Testament. These arbitrary divisions were made by theologians and scholars for the sole purpose of grouping scriptural writings prior to Jesus Christ's earthly ministry separately from those that were written afterward. However, despite a certain usefulness in our study of God's Word, the concept of an Old versus a New Testament has created much confusion in the minds of many Bible readers—even causing division among them.

Many adherents of nominal Christianity today have the idea that the Old Testament was simply for the Jews to follow until Christ came.

Now that He's come, according to this perspective, the *New Testament* is all that's needed for *Christians*. That's why a number of churches pass out small copies of the *New Testament* (perhaps with the Old Testament books of Psalms and Proverbs thrown in for "inspiration") rather than the entire Bible. The Old Testament is viewed by them as having a few good stories for teaching moral lessons to children, as well as some wise maxims and comforting words. But for the most part, it is rejected as having divine authority over Christians. Can we prove this assumption to be wrong? Yes, we can. All we need to do is compare a number of passages from both Testaments to see how they are inextricably intertwined.

## The Scriptures in Christ's Day

Do you realize that the only "Scriptures" in existence when Christ taught His disciples—and even many decades after His death and resurrection—were what we know today as the Old Testament?

For instance, Christ told Satan, who was tempting Him in the wilderness, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Matt. 4:4). He was quoting, of course, from the Old Testament (Deut. 8:3).

On another occasion, when the Jews challenged His authority, Jesus declared that "the *Scripture* cannot be broken" (John 10:35). Once again, He was referring to the Old Testament since no other "Scripture" existed in those days.

Some today pretend that we are no longer required to keep the Ten Commandments because they were given by Moses and are part of the Old Testament. But the Bible clearly does not support that point of view. First of all, it was *God* who gave the Ten Commandments to Israel—not Moses (Deut. 5:22). Moreover, they are confirmed in the *New Testament*. Notice Christ's answer to a rich man who wanted to know what he should do to inherit eternal life. Christ told him, "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother'" (Mark 10:19).

If the Ten Commandments were no longer in force, why then did Christ specifically name so many of them in answer to this man's question? Likewise, if the Old Testament were no longer valid, then why did Christ refer to it here and in so many other places?

## Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

The New Testament is filled with the teachings of Jesus Christ. But did you know that the Old Testament clearly pointed to Him as well? Yet even His disciples did not always understand many of these Old Testament prophecies regarding His First Coming. Time and again, Christ had to point out to them how certain events involving Him fulfilled such prophecies. For instance, after His resurrection from the dead, when His amazed disciples couldn't believe their own eyes, He reminded them that the Old Testament writings foretold His resurrection as well as other major events that had taken place in His life.

And Christians should realize something else. Not only is Jesus Christ a major *focus* of the Old Testament—but these Holy Scriptures were actually written by Him, since He is also the *God* of the Old Testament! In the first chapter of Genesis, we are told that, in the beginning, God (Heb. *Elohim*) created the heavens and the earth—that is, all things. The Hebrew word is plural, suggesting more than one Personage (cf. Gen. 1:26). We get more details in the first chapter of the New Testament Gospel of John. We learn that one divine Person, here called "God," created all things by the *other* divine Person, here called the "Word" (vv. 1-4). And it is the Word who later became Jesus Christ (v. 14; cf. Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16-17).

The preincarnate Jesus, then, was the "LORD God" mentioned in the Old Testament. He was the "spiritual Rock" the children of Israel followed as they came out of Egypt (1 Cor. 10:4). He was the Messiah who was to come the first time to suffer and die for our sins (cf. Is. 53). And He was shown to be the Messiah who would come again,

but then in full power and glory (Is. 9:6-7; Rev. 19).

More proof of the authenticity and relevance of the Old Testament is found in how often the prophets of God, under His inspiration, give crystal-clear, detailed accounts of the future Messiah's life on earth—what we now know to have been Jesus Christ's life! They describe His birth (Micah 5:1-2), His betrayal (Zech. 11:12), His death (Is. 52:14-15; 53:3-9) and His resurrection (Ps. 16:10). They also describe His future return to set up the Kingdom of God (Zech. 14; Is. 2:2-4).

We just saw how the Old Testament clearly reveals that the Messiah's coming would take place at two different times. But many misunderstand these messianic prophecies. Jews who reject the *New Testament* are still waiting for the Messiah's *First Coming*. Christians who reject the *Old Testament* don't believe that the Messiah's *Second Coming* will establish a literal Kingdom or Government on this earth.

When some of the scribes and Pharisees asked Christ for a sign proving that He was the Messiah, He reminded them what had happened to the Prophet Jonah. He said, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40). In fact, this was to be the *only* definitive sign given to the Jews of Christ's day that He was the long-awaited Messiah. And notice from where this

## The Old Testament Canon

Jesus Christ explained to His disciples how the Old Testament prophesied of Him: "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the **Law of Moses** and the **Prophets** and the **Psalms** concerning Me" (Luke 24:44). The very next verse labels all of these as the "Scriptures."

Just what are these three divisions of the Old Testament that Christ spoke of? They were quite familiar to the Jews of His day.

1) The **Law** (*Torah*) comprises Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

2) The **Prophets** (*Nebiyim*) include the former prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings) and the latter prophets—both major (Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel) and minor (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi).

3) The **Psalms** (or **Writings**, *Kethubim*) refer to Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles.

You may wonder why the "Apocrypha" was not included in these three groups. The answer is simple—although its subject matter is related to the Bible, the Apocrypha was never part of the Old Testament canon.

So, according to Jesus, the Holy Scriptures we know today as the Old Testament are inspired in their entirety. And they are, therefore, binding upon Christians.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## EFFECTIVE ARTICLES

With greatest joy I write to you this letter after reading "The Real Solution," published in your January–February 1997 issue of *The World Ahead*.

It gives me great peace to realize that someone else truly feels the way that I have for many years now. And a true grasp of what has entangled this generation has been presented here for all to see!

**Sherwood L. Webb**  
Smith Falls, Ontario, Canada

I would like very much to express my deepest appreciation for your magazine and other literature. Also, it is a privilege to share with everyone the fact that all the articles have been a major help to me in my studies and "walk" with the Lord.

I would like to add that I found the cover story of the March–April issue very intriguing because sometimes I ask myself that very question: Have I been deceived?

**Douglas E. Burns**  
Gatesville, Texas

Thank you for your wonderful work on "Have You Been Deceived?" (March–April 1997). I'm very impressed and challenged after reading the article. I'm 21 years old and have been searching for this message my whole life.

Now I understand why many professing Christians fail—because they "disobey God's commandments." Satan has for so long been blinding our eyes from seeking the Truth, weakening our resolve to study God's Word and thus

influencing us to become failures.

Thank God for someone like you, whom God dwells within through His Spirit, to share such marvelous knowledge and wisdom. I am beginning to understand my Bible better with the help of the *World Ahead* magazine.

**Johnny Wilson**  
Port Vila, Vanuatu

## INTERNET ACCESS

This is just a note to thank you. I give the Internet version of your magazine to two friends and appreciate very much the printed one you send me.

**James Templeton**  
Internet e-mail

Just came across your data on the Ten Tribes, etc. Most comprehensive I've seen by about two orders of magnitude. Mr. McNair's magnificent work is faith-inspiring.

**Gordon Owen**  
Internet e-mail

## EUROPEAN RADIO

I just discovered your radio broadcast on station RTL during my recent hospitalization. I found your original position on the subject of evolution to be very interesting. Would you please send me the information you offered.

**Marc Sainton**  
Tours, France

*The World Ahead* radio program is broadcast in the French language over Radio Luxembourg. It is presented by a longtime minister in God's Work, Evangelist Jean Carion—ed.

I never get tired of listening to your broadcasts even though, in the beginning, I couldn't admit to having been wrong for so many years. Thank you so much.

**Roger Conord**  
St. Etienne, France

When listening to your radio broadcasts, I experience the joy of discovery. The precision and clarity of your explanations have made me rediscover the Scriptures.

**Xavier Ropars**  
Villabé, France

I am a recent listener to your radio broadcast and am so happy to see that there are at least 15 minutes a day reserved for God on this radio station. I pray that we will always have such freedom in our country.

**Marc Leblanc**  
Bois d'Arcy, France

## USA/UK PROPHESED

*America and Britain in Prophecy* is top stuff. I haven't seen a better publication anywhere!

**Kevin J. Watson**  
Glen Waverly, Victoria, Australia

I requested your brochure, *America and Britain in Prophecy*, and, being of British descent, found it very fascinating. I lent it to a friend, who in turn lent it to a friend, who has misplaced it. Could you please send me another one? I would like to read it again.

By the way, on the subway one afternoon on my way to work, I was reading the brochure and a gentleman sitting next to me noticed it. He said he had a similar booklet by Herbert Armstrong.

**Joe McNicholl**  
Jackson Heights, New York

*The late Herbert W. Armstrong was our predecessor in God's Work. An estimated 10 to 12 million copies of the various editions of his book, The United*

*States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy, were freely distributed internationally between 1940 and his death in 1986. Perhaps as many as 20 million people have read it.*

*Sadly, this book is no longer in print. But we have endeavored to republish many of the same teachings contained in it through our brochure, America and Britain in Prophecy. Mr. Armstrong, believing the Bible alone was sufficient to identify our nations, never attempted to prove it through secular history. But our publication does just that. Although we accept the sufficiency of God's Word, we realize that some people need more to convince them—ed.*

## EXPRESSING SUPPORT

We are with you in doing the Work of God. You have our support and prayers. We think you are doing a good job. Keep up the good work. We love you all.

**Noah and Sylvia Taylor**  
Gainsville, Missouri

I am in prison in Texas and have just started receiving the *World Ahead* magazine. I really enjoy what I have learned from you so far. I do know that the world is set for the end times.

As long as you all continue to operate in God's will, I pray that He blesses each one involved. Thank you.

**R.H.**  
Tennessee Colony, Texas

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your January–February issue of *The World Ahead* and also to let you know that, with the two issues I have read so far, I am now committed to reading and studying the Holy Bible better than before. Please send me a copy of the booklet, *Your Ultimate Destiny*. I wish you God's blessings and knowledge in the great Work you are doing.

**S.E. Adahorn**  
Nigeria

**We welcome your comments, criticism or questions. Please mail letters for this section to "Letters to the Editor" at our U.S. address. Be sure to include your name, address and daytime phone number. We reserve the right to edit your comments for clarity, propriety or space.**

important sign was derived—the book of Jonah, an Old Testament prophecy!

## The Old Testament Complements the New

The Apostle Paul, shortly after his conversion, was "increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwell in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ" (Acts 9:22). And he certainly used the Old Testament to do this. In fact, a few years later, a Christian named Apollos "vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the *Scriptures* [again, the Old Testament] that Jesus is the Christ" (18:24-28).

Moreover, when Paul wrote his second epistle to Timothy, exhorting him to continue to walk in the Christian path, he stated, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (3:16-17).

Can anything be clearer? Paul speaks here of "all" Scripture—not just certain books or chapters. Again, bear in mind that the only "Scripture" that existed at the time Paul wrote his epistle was the Old Testament. Theologians and scholars all agree that the New Testament, as we know it today, was not yet written at that time. In fact, Paul told Timothy not to forget the things he had learned "from childhood"—the things written in the "Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you [and all of us] wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (vv. 14-15).

So contrary to what you may have heard, the Old Testament doesn't contradict the New. Rather, the two complement and complete each other. The Bible is *one book*—unbreakable, indivisible and divinely inspired in its entirety. Indeed, there are more than 250 references and quotations in the New Testament taken from the Old.

Some 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ—the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament—came to earth and brought a Message from God the Father. That Message is known to us as the Gospel, which is the Good News of the Messiah's return and of the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth.

Jesus Christ, at His First Coming, did not establish that Kingdom on earth. He came, among other reasons, to die for our sins, to reveal His Father to us and to show us the way to salvation. He also said that He did not come to *destroy* the Law or the writings of the Old Testament—but to *fulfill* them (Matt. 5:17).

Finally, notice something else Paul said about the Old Testament: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4). Thus, the Old Testament is *indeed* still valid for Christians today. This basic teaching is revealed in God's Word from Genesis to Revelation—for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear! ■

# Palestine and Israel *Two Nations—One Land*

by Raymond F. McNair

**Terrorism and  
Palestinian  
uprisings erupt  
in the face of a new  
Jewish housing project  
in East Jerusalem.  
Will this be a death  
knell for the Mideast  
peace process?**

**Above:** An ultra-Orthodox Jew walks past posters in Jerusalem decrying PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. These portraits show Arafat wearing a helmet and calling for a *jihad* (holy war) to gain control of Jerusalem. **Right:** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu points to the Har Homa neighborhood. It is slated to be the 11th Jewish suburb of East Jerusalem, despite Palestinian threats of a violent backlash if the project continues—*AFP*.

**M**odern-day Israel is a deeply divided nation. Israelis have historically rallied around their leaders—ever since the Arab-Israeli struggle began in 1948—as they fended off repeated attacks from their foes. But why has this unity begun to crumble in recent years? And why does Israel increasingly feel vulnerable and isolated from the rest of the world?

As is so often the case, part of the answer lies with land use and disputed territory. In early March, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met with United States President Bill Clinton. A few days later, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak also visited the White House, followed by King Hussein of Jordan. Why? Because they, as did former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, believe that "the U.S... holds 99% of the cards" in the high-stakes Mideast political process (Sadat, *In Search of Identity*, p. 293). Foremost in their minds was bringing pressure on the United States to *help prevent* the Israelis from building 6,500 housing units in the Har Homa district of East Jerusalem.

President Clinton told the Arab leaders that, though he *regretted* the Israeli decision to build housing units at Har Homa, the U.S. has *no authority* to make the Israelis desist. Another controversial topic was the ongoing Palestinian and Israeli attempts to reach a "final settlement" concerning the Occupied West Bank.

Arafat, Hussein and Mubarak want American diplomacy to pressure Israel into *making a deal* with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Authority whereby the Israelis would return most of the land they have occupied since the Six-Day War of 1967.

And the Palestinians have other fears. Arafat believes Israel's decision to build housing in East Jerusalem is not *all* the Jews plan to build. He said that "Israel's decision to build in east Jerusalem will destroy the peace process and [he] threatened to declare a *Palestinian state*.... Arafat declared that the neighborhood at Har Homa will cut Arab access to the Old City, adding that **Israel has a plan to build a new temple on the Temple Mount where Al-Aksa stands today**" (*The Jewish Press*, March 7, 1997).

## An Israeli Perspective

But the Israelis have a different perspective. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims that his country has every right to build since "75% of the land of Har Homa was private Jewish

land. All of this land was expropriated a long time ago." He tried to reassure the Palestinians, saying, "It is well known that we have plans to build for *both* Jews and Arabs in East Jerusalem" (*ibid.*).

Mr. Netanyahu is walking a political tightrope. We have just seen some of the Palestinian opposition he faces. And the situation is just as volatile on the domestic front. Delays in construction at Har Homa have many *Israelis* up in arms. Hard-liners elected Netanyahu because they believed: 1) he would not make further concessions to the PLO; 2) he opposed the creation of a Palestinian state; and 3) he favored the establishment of more Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories.

Jerusalem's Mayor Ehud Olmert says, "For me, the clearest test of the leadership of this government will be the matter of Har Homa.... We are talking about an area, like all the neighborhoods around Jerusalem, where there isn't even *one Arab*. The land was expropriated mostly from *Jews*. It is a *strategic location* of the first degree which creates a continuous band of Jewish settlement at the southern entrance to Jerusalem" (*Jewish Press*, Jan. 17, 1997). This same article also quoted Israel's Interior Minister Eliyahu Suissa as saying, "**It's either Har Homa or war**; the Palestinians must understand that Har Homa will be built, no matter what."

Why are the Palestinians so hostile to Israel's projected housing project in East Jerusalem anyway? The answer lies in the conflicting dreams and beliefs of sovereignty and destiny. The Palestinians look to the day when East Jerusalem will be the capital city of a free Palestinian state. This, of course, can never happen so long as Israel continues to view the *entire* city of Jerusalem as capital of the Jewish State that still partly controls the Palestinians! (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*, March 11, 1997).

The Palestinians, then, are determined to block Israeli construction. They claim the disputed territory is "Arab land," and say that completion of the Har Homa project would enable Israelis to almost completely *encircle* the Palestinians living in East

Jerusalem. Arafat and his people threaten the Israelis with *more rioting* if they continue with construction. Netanyahu's reply: "We are prepared. We are resolute. I'm not going to settle for the idea of *periodic acts of terror* and call it PEACE!"

## Through Palestinian Eyes

The Palestinian view regarding the ongoing struggle with Israel is clearly expressed in *The Politics of Dispossession*:

"The Palestinian Arabs were promised independence by Britain after World War I... for joining the war against the Ottomans on the Allied side. In 1917, however, Palestine was also promised to the *Zionists* by the British, even though the population of Palestine was at that time about 90 percent Arab. After decades of Jewish immigration... Palestine in 1948 was still only 30 percent Jewish and about 70 percent Arab. Zionist settlers still owned only about 6 percent of the land surface of Palestine, the Arabs owning all the rest. **Yes, the Arabs contested the [U.N.] Partition project of 1947**

for perfectly sound reasons then: that it would allot 55 percent of Palestine... to a Jewish state comprising less than a third of the total Arab and Jewish population" (Edward Said, 1994, p. 139).

Years later, in 1967, "Israel acquired the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights, and the entire Sinai peninsula. It returned Sinai to Egypt in 1982... even as more *illegal settlements* were being built on the West Bank and Gaza. Today... more than 50 percent of Palestinian land in the Occupied Territories has been *expropriated*; 120 settlements and 65,000 settlers sit provocatively on land taken from Arabs" (p. 140).

"We have accepted Israel's existence, we have said we are willing to *live in peace* and coexistence [but] Israel will not withdraw its military occupation, will not recognize Palestinian rights... will *not*—even in principle—accept a *Palestinian state*.... [nevertheless] **our attachment to Palestine is as significant, as deep**



and as lasting as theirs” (pp. 142-143).

Palestinians have long harbored deep-seated feelings of ill will toward the United States, seemingly as resentful of Americans as they are of Israelis. Mr. Said explains why: “The challenge of Palestine to people in the U.S., which virtually underwrites the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and in effect pays for the bullets that kill Palestinians, is an especially serious one.... Today, because of the massive uprising on the West Bank and Gaza, the world is being asked to confront reality as if for the first time. A new truth has emerged... the Zionists in fact came to Palestine, found another people already there, and then for several decades have *dispossessed* them with the moral approval and support of the West generally and the U.S. in particular.... As the *intifadah* [Palestinian uprising] demonstrates... only forceful and creatively original action can make a difference” (pp. 138, 143-144). And, of course, all too often the “forceful and creatively original action” is nothing less than indiscriminate terrorism and bloodshed!

### Jewish Perspectives on the Occupied Territories

(1) The **leftist, ultra-religious Jews** believe it was biblically and morally wrong to establish a secular state in the land of Israel. They think the Jews should have waited for the Messiah to establish His Kingdom in Jerusalem to rule over all nations (cf. Jer. 3:17; Is. 2, 11). Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is indebted to their religious party, which now makes up 20% of the Knesset, because it put him “over the top” in his close-run election with Shimon Peres in May 1996.

Netanyahu further describes their position: “On the left, this *messianic belief* focuses today on the ‘sin’ of Israel’s conquest of the territories during the Six Day War.... In this *leftist* revision of history, the incorporation of the [conquered] territories into Israel during the Six Day War was the *beginning of all evil*. Israel became smug and self-satisfied, insensitive and inhuman, repressing the Palestinian Arabs and tarnishing the Israeli soul in the process. To save Israel’s soul, we must amputate part of the body” (*A Place Among the Nations*, p. 375).

(2) By sharp contrast, the **religious Jews on the right** offer quite a different solution to Israel’s woes. Israel’s prime minister says, “A mirror image of this *messianism* is found on the *religious right*, where it is believed that the act of settling the land is in and of itself sufficient to earn divine providence and an end to the country’s woes. If Israel were merely to *hang tough* and erect *more* settlements, it could dispense with world opinion and international pressures.”

(3) Finally, Netanyahu describes the third view: “A variation on the religious right’s view is the idea advanced by a segment of the **non-religious right** that Israel could achieve lasting stability if only it could get rid of the Arabs living in its midst. That is, the *left* believes that getting rid of the [occupied] territories would cure all of Israel’s ills, [while] the *right* believes that keeping the territories would achieve the same effect” (pp. 375-376).

### Standing on Biblical Ground

Why are there such divergent and mutually exclusive views of these two peoples? Part of the answer is that the Israeli viewpoint is heavily influenced by the Old Testament Scriptures. “The modern State of Israel was created upon the concept of *Zionism*, the biblical concept of Jewish return and rebuilding of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel. From the very inception... **claims made by all Zionist leaders... were always based on the Jewish Bible**” (Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, *Jewish Press*, Jan. 17, 1997).

Rabbi Waldman continues, “Certainly, after [God] has helped us to achieve Jewish independence in our *homeland*.... it is absurd that Israeli leaders should think that the way to secure the lives of this people is by compromising upon their *land* and handing parts of it to their enemies!”

The Jews, much like the Palestinians, were also dispossessed of *their* land. This was at the hands of the Romans, nearly 2,000 years ago: “From the time of the

Exile [A.D. 70] the Jewish People cherished the hope of renewing national life in [the land of] Israel. **They never considered themselves a people without a land, but rather a nation dispossessed and daily prayed for the Return**” (*Encyclopedia of Jewish History*, p. 116).

Clearly, God promised Palestine to the descendants of Abraham’s son Isaac and *his* son Jacob or Israel (Gen. 26:3-4; 28:13-14; 35:10-12). God *never* promised this land to the descendants of Abraham’s *other* son Ishmael or to Jacob’s twin brother Esau: “The covenant which [God] made with Abraham... Isaac, and... Jacob... saying, ‘To *you* I will give the land of Canaan as the allotment of *your* inheritance’” (Ps. 105:9-11). (Note: As a previous article in this series has shown, most Arabs are descendants of the patriarch Abraham and his son Ishmael. The *Palestinians*, however, have descended primarily from either Israel’s brother Esau—also known as Edom—or Ishmael.)

But despite biblical evidence to the contrary, the Palestinians claim that the Jews *drove them out* of “their land” during the War of Independence and the Six-Day War. The Israelis, of course, dispute this. But not only on biblical grounds. They also claim that leaders of nearby Arab states *urged* the Palestinians to flee from their homeland prior

to the outbreak of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. This was to prevent them from being harmed during the carnage that Arab armies expected to inflict as they attempted to crush the infant Israeli nation! In fact, history shows that much of the misery suffered by Palestinian refugees during the past 50 years is due, in great measure, to the fact that their Arab brothers have been reluctant to do very much to help them.

### A Palestinian State?

On September 1, 1992, President Ronald Reagan said in his national address, “Beyond the transition period, as we look to the future of the West Bank and Gaza, it is clear to me that peace cannot be achieved by the formation of an independent Palestinian state in those

territories.... **So the United States will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.**” And this has been a consistent foreign policy position both before and after President Reagan’s term of office.

In the past, *Israeli* leaders said they would *never* permit a Palestinian state to be established on the West Bank. More recently, however, a number of them have changed their position. As a concession toward the peace process, they have permitted the Palestinians to establish, not an independent state, but a Palestinian “Authority” or “Entity” in the Occupied Territories. The Israelis have decided to return about 50% of the territory for Palestinian use, and to keep the other half for their own self-defense.

The Israeli people are deeply divided on what their leaders have done. Many are *weary*—fed up with decades of terrorism—and are now willing to give back a sizable portion of the Occupied Territories in exchange for “peace.” And if Mr. Netanyahu’s government were to fall because of this hotly debated issue, a successor prime

minister might go further still. One such leading contender is General Ehud Barak, **who now says he would be willing to see Israel accept “a Palestinian state, maybe with certain limitations on... its sovereignty”** (*Christian Science Monitor*, Feb. 22, 1997).

On the other side of the debate, Israeli Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon (Minister of Defense, 1981-83) explains why many Israelis still think it is *dangerous* to compromise with Arafat. “The fact is that a Palestinian state *has* existed since 1922, when Great Britain split off 75 percent of Palestine to create Transjordan. Transjordan—Jordan

**Left:** Israeli soldiers guard bulldozers in the disputed Har Homa area (also known as Jebel Abu Ghoneim by the Palestinians) in East Jerusalem. **Top:** An injured Palestinian is carried away during a riot in Bethlehem on March 20 after the decision was announced to build the controversial Jewish Har Homa neighborhood. **Right:** Israeli tanks are lined up to prevent rioting Palestinians from reaching the disputed construction area—*AFP*.

now—is a country where most of the population... [the] members of parliament... the cabinet... and most of the prime ministers have been Palestinian. **Jordan is in fact if not in name a Palestinian state....** Whatever the political rhetoric, the reality here is that a Palestinian state exists in Jordan with its capital in Amman, and a Jewish state exists in Israel with its capital in Jerusalem”! (*Warrior—The Autobiography of Ariel Sharon*, 1989, pp. 545, 551).

But, in spite of these Israeli protests, Arafat seems determined to pressure the United States and the rest of the world into persuading the Israelis to grant him his demand: An independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital! After Israel turned 80% of Hebron over to the Palestinians, he said, “We have liberated Hebron.... We will continue to Jerusalem. A promise is a promise, and an oath is an oath. **On to Jerusalem**” (*Jewish Press*, Jan. 24, 1997).

Arafat has often said he is determined to carve out

a Palestinian state on the West Bank with Jerusalem as its capital. And though Netanyahu has repeatedly said Israel won't permit this, Palestinian terrorist groups are confident nonetheless. For example, in November 1996, Hamas spokesman, Dr. Mohmoud Zahar, said, "God revenged the death of Fathi Shakaki by sending someone to kill [Yitzhak] Rabin.... *Jihad* (holy war) is our strategic decision. We have put fear [in] the Jews.... Guns will be directed towards Jerusalem until the promise of God is achieved in an *independent Palestinian state*." And Jihad spokesman Nafez Azzam said, "**Jerusalem is us, Hebron is us, and all the land of Palestine is us**" (*Jewish Press*, Nov. 7, 1996).

All this bloodshed, all this conflict and the intractable, opposing points of view are not a new story. In fact, long ago God's Word foretold that modern Palestinians, many of whom are descendants of Esau called Edomites, would claim the ancient lands of Israel and Judah as their own possession. In Ezekiel 35:10, they are prophesied as saying, "These *two nations* and these *two countries* shall be *mine* (cf. vv. 1-15; 36:5-7; Obad. 1-21).

### How Will It All End?


Israelis are now quite concerned about the increase in terrorist activity against civilians within the Occupied Territories and in Israel proper. They believe another "war of liberation" is now being planned by certain Arab nations using various terrorist organizations to

their own ends. Many Israelis are fearful about their future, wondering when and how the violence will end.

Today's Israel is deeply divided, and a divided house cannot stand (Mark 3:24-25). So said Jesus Christ shortly before a deeply divided *Judea* fell to the Romans in A.D. 70. In both ancient and modern times, Israel's *religious* and *secular* Jews often clashed over divergent political and religious issues.

But the deepest rift dividing Israelis in recent years concerns how to deal with *internal security matters*—in particular, how to cope with the *intifada* and how to handle terrorism. In a compromise for peace, some Israelis are now willing to give back much of the West Bank to the Palestinian Arabs, trading "land for peace." Other Israelis argue that to do so will only whet the Palestinians' appetite to demand *all* of Palestine, and will, in the end, result in *even more* bloodshed.

Bible prophecy reveals that the Middle East *will* continue to be a dangerous powder keg, which at any time could ignite World War III—with nightmarish consequences for the whole world!

Only Bible prophecy sheds a clear light on major events yet to take place in the volatile Middle East. Few realize that **the stage is now being set for the final, decisive battle for control of the Middle East—and of the whole world—the so-called "Battle of Armageddon!"** This coming apocalyptic event will be fully explained later. Be sure to keep reading *The World Ahead*. 

### EDITORIAL *(continued from page 3)*

mainstream "churchianity." Or will you courageously defend the "line in the sand" of God's Truth as revealed in the Bible? Many churches today, whether large and powerful, or small and barely significant, seek unity with other "believers." Unfortunately, Truth is often a major casualty in this subtle but pervasive ecumenical movement. Many religions today have substituted "touchy-feely" emotions for sound doctrine and spiritual Truth as the basis of Christian unity.

In the rush to forge religious unity, the prophetic teachings of the Bible are also usually ignored or watered down. Nevertheless, Revelation 19:10 states, "For the testimony of Jesus is the *spirit of prophecy*." And Peter wrote, "We have also a *more sure word of prophecy*; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed" (2 Peter 1:19 KJV). So it is especially vital that the whole thrust of end-time prophecy does not fall as a casualty of compromise with God's Truth.

More and more sincere men and women are beginning to realize how important it is that they stand up for the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the *truth*, and the *truth* shall make you free" (John 8:32). We thank God for the liberty—the freedom—to preach and practice the *whole Truth*. You too are free to help us *warn* our peoples of the prophesied world cataclysm while there is still time. Yes, you are free to join in God's Work of preaching the Gospel.

Thousands of our *World Ahead* readers are undoubtedly "new" to the Truth. May God help motivate you to genuinely *study* the Bible, to PROVE to yourself who God is and where He is working, and to begin to fulfill the exciting *purpose* for which you were created.



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**How do you explain the mention in Genesis of supernatural beings or "sons of God," who supposedly married the women of the earth, and the subsequent existence of giants?**

This refers, of course, to Genesis 6: "Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

"And the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.' There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown" (vv. 1-4).

According to *Halley's Bible Handbook*, "the 'sons of God' (6:2) are thought to have been either fallen angels... or leaders in Sethite families who intermarried with godless descendants of Cain" (24th ed., p. 72). The first possibility here cannot be correct, even though angels are sometimes called "sons of God" (cf. Job 38:7). Angels are created spirits (Heb. 1:14), not physical, fleshly beings. They neither marry nor sexually reproduce (cf. Luke 20:34-36).

And this would violate the principle God established in Genesis 1 of each kind reproducing only "according to its kind." Moreover, there are no scriptural examples of "fallen angels" or demons manifesting themselves materially like holy angels do. Rather, we only see them as possessing individuals or appearing as ghostly apparitions.

The second explanation in *Halley's* makes much more sense and better fits the context here. Genesis 4 records the story of Cain killing Abel and follows with the genealogy of Cain. Genesis 5 is "the book of the genealogy of Adam" and begins with God creating Adam and how his line continued through Seth. Just as the angels, Adam was a "son of God" by

creation (cf. Luke 3:38). Next, Genesis 6 shows "the sons of God" (men of Seth's line) intermarrying with "the daughters of men" (women of Cain's line).

Furthermore, human beings were clearly the problem here—not angels. In verse 3, God says, "My Spirit shall not strive with MAN forever." And verse 7: "I will destroy MAN whom I have created from the face of the earth." So the "giants" mentioned here must have been human also—descended from Adam and Eve (cf. Acts 17:26). These very tall people were destroyed in the Flood. But later there would be more like them, who were descended, as everyone else in the post-Flood world, from Noah—not angels! (cf. Deut. 2:20-21; 3:11). Remember Goliath, whom David slew? He was more than *nine feet tall* (1 Sam. 17:4) but was still just a man (vv. 24-25, 33)—not some half-human, half-angelic creature!

**You teach that Christians should observe the same seventh-day Sabbath that the Jews keep. But isn't Sunday the Lord's Day?**

Yes—and no. Sunday is *called* the "Lord's Day" by the mainstream Christian world. In the Council of Laodicea (c. 363), the Roman Catholic Church ruled, "Christians must not Judaize [follow Jewish example] by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honoring the **Lord's Day**, resting then as Christians" (*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*, vol. 14, p. 148). And one reason Catholics give for keeping Sunday is that "the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea transferred the solemnity from Saturday [the Sabbath] to Sunday" (*The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine*, 3rd ed., p. 50).

According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, "the earliest recognition of the observance of Sunday as a legal duty is a constitution of [Roman Emperor] Constantine in 321 A.D., enacting that all courts be at rest on Sunday (*venerabili die solis*)" ("Sunday," 11th ed.). By using this term, "venerable day of the sun,"

Constantine promoted the traditional identification of the first day of the week with Sol, the sun-god, to whom he remained devoted his entire life—even though he supposedly embraced "Christianity."

Of course, many historians place the transfer of Christian worship from the Sabbath to Sunday at a much earlier point. For example, Will Durant, in his acclaimed *Story of Civilization*, states, "The serious temper of the Jewish Sabbath was transferred to the Christian Sunday that replaced it in the *second century*" (vol. 3, p. 599). But was Sunday really Christian? Notice this about the pagan sun-god of the Persians, Mithras, who became identified with the Roman Sol: "**Sunday was consecrated to him, and known as the LORD'S DAY long before the Christian era**" (Esme Wynne-Tyson, *Mithras: The Fellow in the Cap*, p. 24). So Sunday IS the "Lord's Day"—*but of the wrong lord!*

What, then, is the *true* Lord's Day? Some will point out Revelation 1:10, where the Apostle John says, "I was in the Spirit on the **Lord's Day**." However, no day of the week is mentioned here. John is plainly speaking of being projected in vision into the "Day of the Lord." Mentioned more than 30 times in Bible prophecy, it is the future period in which God will punish the nations and Jesus Christ will return.

So is there a day of the week that could be referred to as the Lord's Day? Yes. Jesus said, "**The Son of man is... Lord of the Sabbath**" (Mark 2:28). If the Sabbath is the day He is "Lord" of, then the Sabbath is the "Lord's Day"! Furthermore, the Sabbath is called "**the holy day of the LORD**" (Is. 58:13). And the fourth commandment says, "**The seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God**" (Ex. 20:10).

Clearly, the seventh-day Sabbath is the true Lord's Day. And the Bible is very specific in commanding it to be kept as a day of weekly worship. From Genesis to Revelation, no other day of the week has been sanctified in this way. And as the Ten Commandments of God are still in force, Christians must still observe His Sabbath. (To learn more about this vital subject, please write for our free booklet, *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*)

legalized in 1920 and, by the 30s, outnumbered live births by 50%.

usurping the roles of the family. The question is, what will be the conse-

quences of such a move? Has the traditional family with Dad as the provider and Mom as the homemaker become an anachronism? Will society in general (and our children in particular) be better off if the state replaces the family in the rearing and training of children?

# The Traditional Family—Is It Finally Obsolete?

by John H. Ogwyn

## In early March,

an announcement from Scotland reverberated around the world. A sheep named Dolly had been successfully cloned from an adult female. Immediately, leading figures from the fields of science, government and religion began debating what man's ability to produce clones might portend. Astounding advances in genetic engineering and test-tube fertilization had already raised fears of many far-reaching implications concerning humanity's future. Now, cloning human beings has moved from the realm of science fiction to an all-too-likely reality looming just over the horizon.

Is the society postulated more than 65 years ago in Aldous Huxley's satirical novel, *Brave New World*, finally on the verge of becoming reality? This noted British author and philosopher described a world in which test-tube babies and genetic engineering

enable scientific masterminds to create their version of "utopia." Mood-altering drugs ensure universal contentment. And government experts oversee the training and education of youth by providing "conditioning" in politically correct responses from infancy on. Parents are therefore totally obsolete, their responsibilities having been completely taken over by the state.

Such a concept of replacing the role of the family with a state-controlled apparatus directed by "experts" is nothing new to utopian thinkers. About 400 years before Christ, the Greek philosopher, Plato, envisioned such a system in his famous work, *The Republic*. He

believed that the abolition of the family and state-run parenting was necessary to the creation of his new utopian world.

Many centuries later, Lenin and his revolutionary comrades sought to apply similar ideas in the wake of Russia's 1917 Communist Revolution. The new Marriage Law of 1918 made wedlock a simple matter of civil registration. Divorce was obtained by one party notifying the other of termination. Abortions were

Women were pushed out of the home and into the work force under the guise of "equal opportunity." Beginning in 1922, a system of state-run nurseries and kindergartens was developed to take over what had formerly been the role of parents.

The school system functioned as a propaganda machine for the Soviet state. "It emphasized the teaching of social relationships and reduced emphasis on mastery of facts and methods" (William Kirchner, *History of Russia*, p. 255).

In reality, this social experiment, far from bringing about utopia, wrought havoc in Russian society. It became so bad that, by the mid-30s, Joseph Stalin sought to swing the pendulum back toward more traditional values. He greatly tightened laws regarding easy divorces and abortions. Unfortunately, Stalin was not motivated by moral outrage. He was simply a pragmatist who saw the need to regain some social stability.

Despite the failure of the great Soviet experiment to replace the traditional family, social engineers and utopian thinkers haven't given up. What the Soviet Union was unable to accomplish by coercion in the 20s and 30s, it seems the United States is doing through the enticement of materialism and convenience in the 80s and 90s. Increasingly, the state is

quences of such a move? Has the traditional family with Dad as the provider and Mom as the homemaker become an anachronism? Will society in general (and our children in particular) be better off if the state replaces the family in the rearing and training of children?

## Decline of the Traditional Household

Divorce has skyrocketed in Western society with no end in sight. "In 1915 one out of every ten marriages ended in divorce. In 1983 five out of every ten marriages

ended in divorce" (Harold Lindsell, *The New Paganism*, p. 146). In his syndicated column, noted psychologist John Rosemond reports, "For the past 30 years, the American family has

sion created is that some natural, inexorable evolutionary process is behind the steady increase in single-parent and two income-earner families.... Here's the truth: For more than a generation, the American family has been in a steady state of decline, precipitated by social experiments and forces which are fundamentally at odds with a general state of family health. Here's another undeniable truth: The American family worked better when there was a parent in the home during the day" (*The Advocate*, March 15, 1993).

In the United States today, more than two-thirds of all mothers work outside the home and 40% of children live apart from their biological fathers. In addition, about one out of every four children born in this country is illegitimate. How did this state of affairs come to be? Actually, it has been a convergence of several contributing factors. One has certainly been the tinkering of social engineers and feminist ideologues who would like to see the state supersede the family as the basic unit of society. In addition, there has been the powerful lure of materialism and personal comfort. The most crucial component, however, has been the pursuit of instant gratification coupled with the collapse of moral restraints in a society in which God is increasingly unreal. This has further fueled the entire process.

What are the results of this collapse of the traditional family? Has

it set us on the brink of entering a “brave new world” of personal fulfillment and happiness? Are our children better adjusted and better equipped to deal with life than generations past?

Frankly, the human cost brought about by the downfall of the traditional family is horrific. As *U.S. News & World Report* explained, “an epidemic of violence is killing America’s inner cities one child at a time. The number of killings by kids younger than 18 increased 125 percent between 1984 and 1994, and last year the nation’s juvenile-justice system spent \$20 billion to arrest and jail children, only to see 70 percent commit new crimes. In Chicago alone last year, 231 children under the age of 17 were arrested on murder charges” (Feb. 27, 1995, p. 50).

All of the government-funded nurseries and daycare centers, all of the Head Start programs and the entire gamut of K-through-12 public education have not, and will not, solve these problems. No government program or educational professional can take the place of a healthy, functional family whose approach to life derives from the timeless values of the Creator.

### How Important Is Mom?

“He has a face that only a mother could love,” the old saying goes. The point is that mothers are special. They love you no matter what! From the moment a baby makes his traumatic exit from the womb, mother is there to nurture and comfort. Designed by God to provide the environment where a tiny, fertilized cell can grow into a fully functioning human being, mothers are intimately connected with their offspring. They provide nourishment and comfort to this miniature person. But most of all, they provide love.

Love and respect should be the underlying values by which people relate to one another in society. A child first learns to love by being loved. Honoring parents is the first of God’s commandments that a child can understand and obey. Learning respect in the home sets the stage for showing respect to others in the community.

Of course, a mother is there not merely to comfort her infant, but also to encourage and teach as the baby grows. Seeing that her child has proper clothing to wear and nourishing food to eat is important. However, a wise mother is not only concerned that her child be fed good food to build a healthy body. She is also concerned that his mind be fed the things that lead to moral and spiritual health.

The example and teaching of a godly mother is one of the greatest blessings that any child could have. It is of far greater value than the most expensive toy or educational “gadget.” It has far more long-term, proven benefit than any “program” dreamed up by the “experts.” My mother’s greatest gift to me was herself. There can be no greater legacy for your children.

### What About Dad?

Dad’s role in the family is different from Mom’s, but certainly no less important! One of the most demonstrable causes of escalating violence in the inner cities is the almost total lack of fathers raising their children. Psychologist Christopher Bacorn, writing in *Newsweek*, gives this analysis. “I have come to believe that most adolescent boys can’t make use of professional counseling. What a boy can use, and all too often doesn’t have, is the fellowship of men—at

least one man who pays attention to him, who spends time with him, who admires him. A boy needs a man he can look up to.... As a nation, we are racked by youth violence, overrun by gangs, guns and drugs. The great majority of youthful offenders are male, most without fathers involved in their lives in any useful way. Many have never even met their fathers” (Dec. 7, 1992).

Not only does an involved and loving father have a crucial impact on the social development of his sons, but he has just as great a role to play in the rearing of daughters. A good relationship with her father is an important key to a young woman developing a proper relationship with her own husband. An absent father, on the other hand, is one of the factors that lead many girls into hasty, ill-considered marriages.

A father should provide leadership, loyalty and love to his family. Taking responsibility to be the

breadwinner for the family is a vitally important role—but by no means is this to be the sum total of Dad’s contribution. His *interest* and *active leadership* will make a big difference in the family. When a father is detached and aloof there is a vacuum. On the other hand, an abusive, tyrannical father can discourage every member of the family and sow seeds of resentment that will yield bitter fruit for years to come.

Realizing the tremendous responsibility that children and a family entail, a right-thinking man is not going to be prowling the streets looking for “conquests.” The last thing he would want is to father children he won’t be there to raise. By cherishing and honoring their

mother, Dad sets the proper family example for his children. This plays a crucial role in preparing them to relate to their own mates in the future. The honor that my father accorded my mother was a priceless example for my brother and me.

### What’s the Future of the Family?

There is no adequate substitute for the family—neither professionals nor the latest government program can replace loving parents. Despite the ideas of utopian dreamers past and present, the family is here to stay. But right now it seems that many of our families in the Western world, particularly in America, are, if not already broken, at least seriously bent. And make no mistake, the farther our society drifts away from the traditional family, the deeper it sinks into a mire of devastating social consequences.

But that’s not the end of the story! The Bible reveals what lies ahead for our world and its families. It describes a “brave new world,” but one quite different from that envisioned by Aldous Huxley. It is a world where elderly men and women will watch little children play in the streets (Zech. 8:4-5). It is a world where families will dwell safely and have nothing to fear (Micah 4:4). This is the future of the family in the World Ahead that will be established after the return of Jesus Christ in power and glory.

But what about between now and then? Though there is truly a new world coming, we still have to live in this old one—which is increasingly retreating from right

and sane values. Even so, it is still possible to have healthy, happy families despite our mixed-up world. Our Creator provided mankind with an instruction book that reveals the keys to successful living. The values taught in it aren’t out of date or old-fashioned. They’re based on timeless and eternal truths. In reality, they are the values upon which all society will be based after the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings. And those who embrace these values today have a *head start* on real joy and fulfillment.

Two of the Ten Commandments directly set the tone for the family. Israel’s God, the Creator of heaven and earth, thundered from Mount Sinai, “Honor your father and your mother” and “You shall not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:12, 14). Morality guards the sanctity of marriage, and marriage is the basis of home and family. When children learn to show honor and deference to their parents

and resulted in the inhabitants being “vomited out” (v. 28). Frankly, our modern, English-speaking nations are headed down the same path. And rest assured, they will suffer the same judgment of God for all of their perversions and immorality.

But we need not suffer with the rest of society. Following God’s instructions to be chaste and faithful will produce strong marriages and protect innocent children from the horrors of sexual abuse. A stable, loving home becomes the place where instruction and discipline can direct a child’s energy into constructive outlets. Sadly, the society in which most of us live no longer reinforces right values, as was more often the case as recently as 30 or 40 years ago. Through music, television, movies and often even the public school system, society offers strong enticements to lead children and adolescents into a maelstrom of corruption, decadence and rebellion.

A stable, loving home becomes the place where instruction and discipline can direct a child’s energy into constructive outlets.

# The **NEW** Commandments of Jesus

by Roderick C. Meredith

**T**his is definitely a *lawless* age. Television news and newspaper headlines daily scream at us about the horrifying stories of more murders, rapes, robberies—and of the continuing breakdown of law and order in America and, to a large extent, Canada and Britain as well. Writing for the Scripps Howard News Service, Michael Hodges recently stated that, according to a new study, “the number of riots across America increased to nearly one a month last year, and the nation should expect more frequent flashes of violence as the number of youths in inner cities rises and respect for authority erodes” (*The San Diego Union-Tribune*, Dec. 4, 1996).

Former U.S. Supreme Court nominee, Judge Robert H. Bork, writes: “We are accustomed to lamentations about American crime rates, the devastation wrought by drugs, rising illegitimacy, the decline of civility, and the increasing vulgarity of popular entertainment. But the manifestations of American cultural decline are even more widespread, ranging across virtually the entire society, from the violent underclass of the inner cities to our cultural and political elites, from rap music to literary studies, from pornography to law, from journalism to scholarship, from union halls to universities. Wherever one looks, the traditional virtues of this culture are being lost, its vices multiplied, its values degraded—in short, the culture itself is unraveling.

“These can hardly be random or isolated developments. A degeneration so universal, afflicting so many seemingly disparate areas, must proceed from common causes” (*Union-Tribune*, Dec. 1, 1996).

What *are* the “common causes” of our massive moral decline? Certainly, a *basic lack of respect for authority* as Michael Hodges indicated. Yet we should ask, “For *whose* authority? And how did this lack of respect begin?” The *real* answer is that men have come to the place—even in organized “Christianity”—where they no longer feel obligated to obey the basic LAW our Creator gave to all mankind, the Ten Commandments. Sometimes directly, but more often *indirectly*, they are taught that the Ten Commandments are “done away.” Or that they have been

replaced by the “new” commandments of Jesus.

But *did* Jesus Christ replace His Father’s great spiritual law with some “new” commandments? What *are* these commandments, anyway? Do they really *replace* the Ten Commandments? Since *all* of us have our human opinions veering this way and that, we should ask ourselves, “*What does the Bible actually say on this vital subject?*” For God reveals His will in the Holy Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17). And human viewpoints are completely worthless if they contradict the inspired Word of Almighty God.

## What Jesus Actually Taught

First of all, let us notice one of the all-important purposes for Jesus Christ coming to this earth as a flesh-and-blood human being. Isaiah prophesied of the Messiah, “He will magnify the law and make it honorable” (Is. 42:21). Here we find that Christ came not to abolish the law, but to magnify its meaning. “Magnify” is the direct opposite of “diminish.” And it’s totally incompatible with “abolish.” To magnify something means to reveal it in minute detail—to *enlarge* upon it. Certainly the life and teachings of Jesus do just that with the Father’s law.

Jesus said, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill**” (Matt. 5:17). And He did just what these words imply. Both in His life and teaching, Christ fulfilled the law. He magnified it by His perfect example. He *filled it to the full*, passing beyond the mere letter of certain commandments to observe even the minutest spiritual intent and purpose of His Father’s perfect law.

Those who knew Jesus as a teacher could never have charged Him with substituting the traditions of men for the commandments of God. He magnified God’s law by His perfect example. He OBEYED the Ten Commandments in word and in deed. He taught and lived them as the perfect *way of life*.

And He further said, “Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;

but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven” (v. 19).

## How to Gain Eternal Life

When a young man came to Him asking the way to eternal life, Jesus said, “If you will enter into life, *keep the commandments*” (19:17). The young man asked, “Which?” And Jesus answered, “You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery...” (v. 18) and proceeded to list a number of the Ten Commandments. Jesus Christ knew the way to salvation! According to Him, **that way was obedience to the law of God the Father and surrender to His will.**

Jesus declared, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (7:21). Far from abolishing the Ten Commandments, Jesus obeyed them (John 15:10). He was the “light” that God sent into the world to show men HOW to live.

After His death and resurrection, Christ sent His apostles out with this command: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20).

The apostles had been there when Christ told the young man to “keep the commandments.” They had heard Him magnify the commandments of God in what is called the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7). They had witnessed His obedience to the Ten Commandments—and knew

that His was the perfect example. Therefore, when Jesus Christ sent them out to every nation with the order to teach all things He had commanded them, there could be no possible doubt in their minds but that this included the Ten Commandments of God. Obedience to the Ten Commandments, then, was the very basis of the teaching of Christ and His original apostles.

But what about the “new” commandments of Jesus? Did they alter or abolish the necessity for literally keeping the Ten Commandments that were revealed in the Old Testament?

## A “New” Commandment?

Actually, in spite of what many think, there is only one place in all the Bible where Jesus said He was giving a “new” commandment: “A new commandment I give

to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35). The other references—by the Apostle John—are to the exact same principle, as we shall see.

Jesus gave this new commandment the last night of His physical life on earth. But was it really “new”? He



had—by teaching and example—*already* shown the disciples that keeping God’s commandments was simply an expression of love.

Christ had *already* summarized God’s law into two great principles: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.... [and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matt. 22:37-39). In fact, both of these principles are taken from the Old Testament—the first being a close paraphrase and the second a direct quote (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18).

What, then, was *new* about Jesus’ command to love our neighbors? The answer is plain. The *principle* of loving our neighbors was not new, but Jesus’ *magnification* of that principle in His own perfect life shed a completely new light on the spiritual intent and depth of this commandment.

Remember Jesus’ emphasis: “Love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also love one another.” His own perfect example of love and service was the greatest and most meaningful magnification of love for one’s neighbor that there has ever been! Jesus demonstrated how that love actually functions in day-to-day life.

## How to Love Your Neighbor

On more than one occasion, a voice from heaven announced God’s satisfaction with the life of Jesus (Matt. 3:17; 17:5). Even Roman Procurator Pontius Pilate declared, “I find no fault in Him” (John 19:4).

This was because Jesus led a life of giving to others. Whether in His constant teaching of the multitudes, His healing of the sick, His feeding of the hungry crowds or acts of humility such as washing the disciples’ feet, He was always giving of Himself.

But this same Jesus also sharply rebuked the Pharisees, saying, “Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?” (Matt. 23:33). Are these strange words from this man of love? No. Rather, they are a manifestation of how perfect love sometimes says and does things for the good of others, even though they may not appreciate them at the time.

Jesus loved these Pharisees! It was in love that He thundered these words to wake them up from a life of religious hypocrisy and perversity that was damning them to the Lake of Fire. Remember, it was also for these same Pharisees that Jesus died, since Jesus died for each and every man and woman who has ever lived! (cf. Rom. 5:18). It was for these men and others like them that Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

It was in that perfect, understanding love that Jesus

withdrew Himself occasionally from the multitude to rest, to meditate, to pray. For He knew that only by keeping close to the Father and being an instrument in His hands could His human presence and teaching enrich the lives of others.

Jesus did not just *act* as though He loved others. He *did* love them—with a perfect love. Through God’s Holy Spirit within Him, He desired in love from the heart to serve His fellow human beings for their highest good.

Paul quoted Christ as having said, “It is more blessed to *give* than to receive” (Acts 20:35). And Jesus literally LIVED these words! In this way, His directive that men love one another even “as I have loved you,” certainly does become a “new” and all-encompassing command in governing human relationships.

## Did Jesus Literally Obey the Ten Commandments?

Many religious people think that Jesus had a sentimental type of “love” in His heart, but that he didn’t really obey God’s commandments literally.

The truth is that Jesus Christ kept and obeyed every one of the Ten Commandments in the letter and in the Spirit—just as His followers today should do. As we have already seen, He declared that He had obeyed His Father’s commandments (John 15:10).

To make it perfectly clear, Jesus Christ never had another god before the true God. He never committed idolatry or took His Father’s name in vain. Jesus *kept holy* the Sabbath that God had made holy and worshiped in the synagogue on that day as was His custom (Luke 4:16).

Jesus honored His parents, and He never killed, committed adultery, stole, lied or coveted. He set us an EXAMPLE that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

Today, a true Christian is one so surrendered to God that Christ is actually living *His* life in that person through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. For the Apostle Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20 KJV).

A true Christian should not only have faith *in* Christ, but should live by the very faith *of* Christ—built within him by the Holy Spirit. **Christ—through the Spirit—should be LIVING in the true Christian.** And remember, Christ will live the same life in you today that He did almost 2,000 years ago—setting the same example. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

Jesus, in the flesh, “was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15). Yet in His fleshly life He obeyed the Ten Commandments. Dwelling now in His servants by the Holy Spirit, He will keep the same commandments through them.

It is Christ’s love and power IN us that enables us to keep the spiritual law of God. For Jesus Christ was, and is, obedient to God the Father.

## Did John Give a “New” Commandment?

In the first epistle of the Apostle John—the apostle Jesus loved—we also find reference to a “new” commandment: “Brethren, I write no new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which you heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now” (2:7-9).

Here the apostle refers the Church first of all to the “word” of God that they had from the beginning. Which beginning? John further wrote, “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, **not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother**” (3:11-12). So this message goes back to the beginning of the Old Testament! But John does mention a “new” thing—the deep spiritual love that brethren in Christ should have for one another. There is simply no room in this love for hate, envy or malice.

Does this Christian love, however, “do away” with or change the Ten Commandments of God? Of course not! It only *emphasizes* and *magnifies* the personal love Christians must have toward their fellow man. This love goes *far beyond* the letter of the Ten Commandments—but by no means *replaces* them!

Again John wrote in his second epistle, “And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it” (vv. 5-6; cf. 1 John 5:3).

Here John defines Christian LOVE as *keeping the commandments!*

We are not just to love the persons of God and Christ. We are to love their *way*—their very *character*—which is expressed in the Ten Commandments. Christ not only taught obedience to the commandments, *He lived them!* And so John adds, “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9).

When we examine the positive side of the *new* commandments, we find that they simply reinforce and make more binding the old! They outline a way of love—of giving, of serving—that can only be attained through Christ Himself living in us. In perfect unselfishness, we are to learn to love our fellow man as Jesus loved us.


That is New Testament doctrine! It is FAR MORE BINDING than the letter of the commandments stated in the Old Testament. But it does not replace them! Rather, it magnifies them to their full spiritual intent.

And these *new* commandments themselves refer to the perfect magnification demonstrated by the life of Jesus. Christ obeyed the Ten Commandments in spirit as well. He is to be our “light”—our example.

Describing the principle of how we should love our neighbor, the Apostle Paul stated, “Love is the fulfillment of the law” (Rom. 13:10). For God’s spiritual love flows down the riverbed, or channel, expressed in the Ten Commandments.

In perfectly obeying the Ten Commandments—in their every phase and facet—Jesus’ entire life was a radiant expression of love itself. And love is the fulfillment of the law. The *new* commandment He gave called attention to His perfect example of obedience to the Father, and of kindness and service to all men.

Far from “doing away” with God’s law, Jesus’ life and teachings show us that *all ten* of God’s commandments should be practiced in the life of every one of us. Though modern man has strayed very far from God, *this is what true Christianity is all about!*

This is the basis of the CHARACTER God wants to build in you before He grants you eternal life. Do you deeply want to live forever in His soon-coming Kingdom? Then never forget Jesus’ own directions to reach that goal: “If you will enter into life, *keep the commandments.*” Be a *true* Christian! Surrender to God and let Christ FULLY live in you the same *obedient* life He lived on this earth almost 2,000 years ago. 

*In perfectly obeying the Ten Commandments—in their every phase and facet—Jesus’ entire life was a radiant expression of love itself. And love is the fulfillment of the law.*

## HEART OF EUROPE (continued from page 11)

Connolly reports that high-stakes European monetary games are actually a “battle for control of the European superstate, in which French technocrats confront German Federalists, both sides claiming to fight under the banner of Charlemagne” (p. xvi). The French elite want to dominate both Europe and Germany by controlling fiscal policy. The Germans will be tempted to make concessions on monetary policy in order to pursue their diplomatic goals (especially in Eastern Europe) under cover of a German-dominated European Union (pp. 4-7; cf. George Bailey, *Germans*, 1972, p. 440).

The president of the European Parliament, Jose Maria Gil Robles, gestures at the start of a gathering of EU foreign ministers on March 25 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. This amid renewed worries over foreign policy and the bloc's ambitious plans for a single currency—*Reuters*.

But can a common currency recreate the empire of Charlemagne? The idea of “trying to lock countries like France and Germany together

via currencies does not forge a nation; instead it turns domestic monetary questions into *international political conflict*” (Connolly, p. 392). Connolly sees real danger in “the growing divergence... between France and Germany **that now threatens the whole future of the European Community**” (p. xvii). The “monetary union so fervently wished for by the French elite will not restore legitimacy in France. Instead it would be the one thing *most* likely to reawaken ‘old demons’ in Germany” (p. 390).

Those “demons” are already stirring! The newly united Germany is seriously divided both against itself and against the outside world. Unemployment has risen to pre-World War II levels—thus paralleling one of the economic factors that helped bring Hitler to power (*Arizona Republic*, Feb. 11, 1997). The influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe has rekindled a resentment of foreigners and a “Germany-for-Germans” movement—again reminiscent of a pre-Hitler Germany! Neo-Nazis march in the streets (*Arizona Republic*, March 3, 1997). An economic crisis could swing Germany sharply to the political right. Faced with these perplexing developments, many fear that

“Germany will be pushed back into the *continuity* of German history,” which spells trouble for Europe and the world! (Arnulf Baring, *Germany's New Position in Europe*, 1994, pp. 10-11). Journalist Mark Fisher concludes, “Fifty years after the defeat of Hitler and five years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany stands as the most conflicted, powerful, promising and *dangerous* country in Europe” (*After the Wall*, 1995).

History has repeatedly demonstrated the critical role of a “common enemy” in forging a union between rival European nations. Today, America and Japan are being cast in that role—as villains leading an alien cultural and economic invasion that threatens to obliterate national identities and deprive Europe of its share of a world market. Italian journalist Luigi Barzini has noted, “The Nazis were the first to identify the United States as the Enemy, the destroyer of the legends, the myths, and the archaic soul of Europe” (p. 112).

There is also a growing feeling in Germany and Europe that materialism has failed. People are adrift without a compass or direction. Morality has plummeted to disturbing levels and observers predict there will be a “reaction” (*National Review*, Feb. 6, 1995, pp. 25-26). *Something* will fill the spiritual void created by the headlong pursuit of material goods. Historically, the Roman Catholic faith has been the glue that held Europe together. And as we approach the end of this millennium, it is perhaps not surprising that the Roman pontiff, John Paul II, has repeatedly urged Europeans to “discover their roots”—the unifying bond of their common religious heritage. Bible prophecy indicates they will—at least for a while.

One of the key events of this final decade of the 20th century has been the “*reassembly of Europe*” (Marsh, p. vii). Quite unexpectedly, the “heart” of Europe has begun beating again!

While the world at large wonders where this revival in central Europe will lead, *both* the continuity of history and Bible prophecy provide insight and understanding. Germany will once again dominate a loosely knit United Europe, albeit only for a short time. This “iron-and-clay” union will be held together once again by the *glue* of the Roman faith. And the coming final revival of the Roman Empire—thought to be “long dead”—will shock the world and spell trouble for Israelite nations.

The revival in the heart of Europe that is currently underway will lead both Europe and the world once again to the brink of destruction. But beyond the coming troubles there is an exciting World Ahead. We need to *watch!* We need to be *prepared!* We are living in *momentous times!* 