

MARCH-APRIL 2005

THE

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



Form **8829**

Expenses for Business Use of Your Home

Part I Part of Your Home Used for Business

- 1 Area used regularly and exclusively for business, regularly for day care, or product samples (see instructions)
- 2 Total area of home
- 3 Divide line 1 by line 2. Enter the result as a percentage.
 - For day-care facilities not used exclusively for business, all others, skip lines 4-6 and enter the amount from line 3
 - For day-care facilities used for day care during year by hours used
 - Multiply days used for day care during year by hours used
 - Total hours available for use during the year (365 days x 24 hours)
 - Divide line 4 by line 5. Enter the result as a decimal amount
 - Business percentage. For day-care facilities not used exclusively for day care, enter the result as a percentage. All others, skip line 6

Part II Figure Your Allowable Deduction

- 8 Enter the amount from Schedule C, line 28
- 9 Deductible interest
- 10 Depreciation
- 11 Real estate taxes
- 12 Allowable expenses
- 13 Add lines 8 through 12
- 14 Enter the amount from Schedule C, line 28
- 15 Enter the amount from line 13
- 16 Enter the amount from line 14
- 17 Enter the amount from line 15
- 18 Enter the amount from line 16
- 19 Enter the amount from line 17
- 20 Enter the amount from line 18
- 21 Add lines 19 and 20
- 22 Multiply line 21 by line 3
- 23 Carry over
- 24 Add line 22 to line 23
- 25 Allowable expense
- 26 Limit on excess depreciation
- 27 Excess casualty loss
- 28 Depreciation
- 29 Carryover of excess depreciation
- 30 Add lines 27 through 29
- 31 Allowable excess depreciation
- 32 Add lines 14, 25, and 31
- 33 Casualty loss portion
- 34 Allowable expenses for depreciation

2004

Instructions for Form 8889 Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

General Instructions

Purpose of Form
Use Form 8889 to:
• Report health savings account (HSA) contributions (including those made on your behalf and employer contributions),
• Figure your HSA deduction, and
• Report distributions from HSA.

Contributions to an HSA
Any eligible individual may contribute to an HSA. For more information, see instructions by an employer.

High Deductible Health Plan
An HDHP is a health plan that meets the following requirements:
• Self-only coverage
• Family coverage

COMING - TAX RELIEF!

For Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page 15.

THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. III | NO. 2 | MARCH-APRIL 2005

A R T I C L E S

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The Rise of the Red Dragon

China has very suddenly become a major world power—a strong ally to some, but a threat to others. Its economic growth and ability to produce goods is virtually unrivaled. But what are the implications? What lies ahead for China, and how will it affect the world?

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PHOTO CREDITS: All photographs courtesy of ArtToday, Inc., unless noted otherwise.

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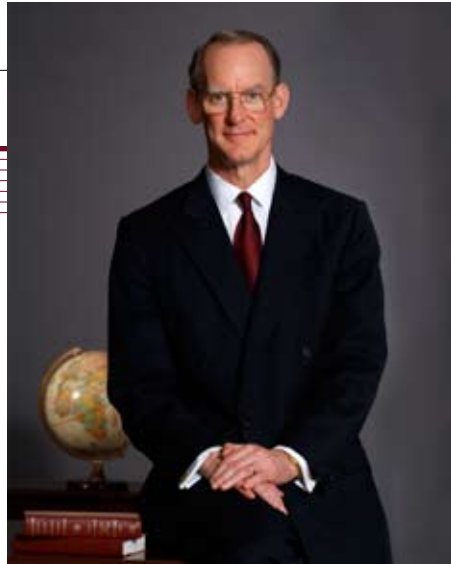
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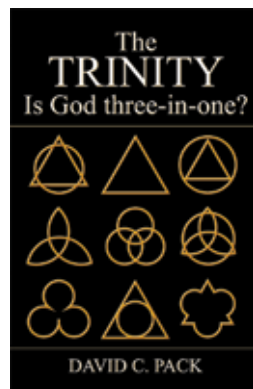
Three Persons in One Being?

THE SUBJECT of God is mysterious, confusing to almost all. Millions, indeed billions, have asked WHO and WHAT is God? The single most important subject in the universe is knowledge of the true God. What could be more important than which God one worships? This all-important question has confounded man for millennia.

He still has not found the answer!

With the explosion of new and different brands of Christianity, this confusion about God has only grown worse in the modern age. The so-called great religions of the world have only added to this confusion. Yet, correctly identifying the true God is the central issue and question towering over EVERYTHING that is important in life. The answer to this question lies at the very core of all that is true religion. And, for those who believe that the God of Creation authored the Bible—Christians!—the question comes into sharper focus. Who and what is the *God of the Bible*?

Millions of professing Christians believe in, speak of and weekly sing about God as a “trinity”—“Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” Acceptance of this god has become perhaps the greatest litmus test of orthodox or



Our new book about the trinity doctrine solves the “mystery” of this most ancient teaching.

traditional Christianity. But is the true God of the Bible a trinity—*three persons in ONE BEING*? Can this be proven? Or is God a Family—and can *this* be proven? If the “trinity god” is false—if it is *not* the god of the Bible—it must be rejected. In its place must come an understanding of the true God.

Which Is Better?

Consider this question. Which would be better: having correct understanding of every single doctrine in the Bible, but having neither true knowledge of nor contact with the God who inspired it?—or, having absolutely no knowledge of a single Bible truth on any subject except the nature and identity of the true God and contact with Him?

Let’s consider this further. The Bible is filled with hundreds of distinct, separate doctrinal truths: the gospel, salvation, baptism, identity and location of the true Church, the name of that Church, whether one should keep holy Saturday or Sunday, whether one should observe the annual festivals of Leviticus 23 or various humanly-devised holidays, financial laws, the purpose of marriage, principles of proper childrearing, punishment in the afterlife, the nature of repentance and conversion, the unpardonable sin, dietary laws and health, healing, scores of prophetic truths, the Law of God,

the role of Christ, and many, many more. I ask again: Would it be more important to understand all of these Bible truths while at the same time lacking the knowledge of who is the true God—or to know nothing of them, but to have direct contact with the God who recorded them?

Think! If one knew and was worshipping the TRUE GOD, he would automatically be led into all the true *knowledge* offered by that God, revealed only to those who have a relationship with HIM. This would no doubt happen relatively quickly after entering into such contact. The true God would not leave such a one in ignorance about exactly *how* He was to be worshipped—in other words, knowledge of all the many truths contained in His Word. The knowledge of the true Plan of God, the location of the true Church and Work of God—and every other divinely-revealed point of understanding—flows from being in direct contact with the true God. On the other hand, possessing all of the knowledge about every Bible doctrine would be *utterly useless* if one was worshipping the WRONG GOD! Mere knowledge of doctrine would *not* necessarily, and certainly not automatically, lead such a person to that God, and thus, his religion would be in vain.

God has to *reveal Himself* to any who come to know Him!

Careless Assumptions

Have you ever asked yourself why people believe as they do?—why so many have come to accept the doctrines that they hold as having come from the Bible? Why have YOU believed and accepted the things that YOU do? Almost all who consider themselves Christians have carelessly *assumed* from childhood the answer to the most important question they could ever address—that is, do they have and are they worshipping the RIGHT GOD?

Many come into adulthood having accepted without question what they repeatedly heard, read or were

taught in Sunday school. They have been unwilling to challenge what all their peers have accepted without question as well. Strangely, these same people will often vigorously defend their beliefs with absolutely no need to examine PROOF of *why* they believe what they do—or to consider *how* they came to such beliefs. Human nature wants to follow the crowd. And this has been the case with virtually every one of the popular church teachings, traditions and practices found in orthodox Christianity, which have been taken almost entirely from paganism, false customs and human reasoning. This is why the masses have followed a god that was conceived and developed entirely outside the pages of the Bible.

Incredibly, I have even seen those who knew the true God become willing to carelessly exchange Him for another god as easily as taking trash to the dumpster. Yes, throughout history, many who have *known* the true God of the Bible have been willing to blur and even lose altogether the knowledge of who and what He is.

Source of Deception, Confusion

The apostle John described Satan the devil as having “deceived the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). His goal has been to keep man from having a relationship with his Creator. The apostle Paul described Satan as “the god of this world” who “has blinded them that believe not” (II Cor. 4:4). Is it strange to think of Satan as this world’s GOD? Does this seem impossible to believe? Yet, there it is in your Bible. After all, as deceiver, what would the devil most want to deceive—blind—mankind to, other than the identity of the true God? In fact, you will learn that Satan is the *author* of the trinity doctrine—that this false god is a counterfeit—a substitute deity—designed to deceive millions into unwittingly worshipping *him*, while thinking they are serving the God of Christianity and the Bible.

The highly educated of this world ought to know WHO God is! But they do not, because this is *spiritual* knowledge, DIVINELY REVEALED by the very God these educators have been unable to discover on their own—and whom they could *never* discover on their own.

These modern educators have been steeped in the false understanding of the theory of evolution. Because they have believed this fable, they have taught it to unsuspecting minds, and conditioned them to reject God’s revelation of Himself at the very beginning of Genesis. Then, having rejected the creation account of Genesis, inspired by the God of the Bible, these have become blinded to the identity of the true God—utterly unable to find their way out of the maze of confusion in which they have placed themselves. Evolution has taught them self-reliance, and ultimately cut them off from the knowledge that would have freed them from ignorance in all the most important matters of life. There they sit, left without the answers to life’s greatest questions. Because intellectual vanity would not let them seek a higher power greater than their own minds, these have literally trapped themselves in confusion, with no idea where to turn for light.

The Unknown Book

If the Bible is as it has been called—“The Book that nobody knows”—then the One who authored it is truly the *God* that nobody knows! While this was *not* what He intended, this God has remained a mystery, concealed from a humanity willing to follow a “mystery god” that *cannot* be understood.

Some years ago, a world-famous evangelist declared of the trinity, “When I first began to study the Bible years ago, the doctrine of the Trinity was one of the most complex problems I had to encounter. I have never fully resolved it, for it contains an aspect of mystery. Though I do not totally

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 29

A close-up photograph of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, both holding yellow pencils. The hands are positioned as if about to write or are in the middle of writing. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a person's torso in a white shirt and a red tie.

COMING – TAX RELIEF!

Many feel that they are overtaxed, and they long for a more equitable system. Others want no taxes at all. Is tax relief on the way?

BY JAMES F. TURCK

AS THE ADAGE goes, “Nothing in life is certain except death and taxes.” Many people feel that they spend their whole life paying the “tax man,” and then they die. Yet, even at death, the reality of taxation continues in the form of inheritance taxes.

All industrialized nations of the world tax their citizens to one degree or another. The list of taxes one is required to pay seems endless. In the United States alone, there is federal, state and local income tax, social security, Medicare, property tax, sales, luxury, gasoline, clean air, scholarship, value added, gas guzzler, hotel room, hidden taxes and, just to make sure you pay your fair share, alternative minimum tax!

If most were to figure the total amount, they may find that 40 to 50 percent of their income goes to pay taxes. Some pay more—much more!

In 2004, the average citizen worked 101 days just to satisfy their tax burden.

Still, governments, whether local, state or national, never seem to have enough of their citizens’ money. Constantly spending beyond budgetary means, politicians work and rework the system of taxation, finding ever new ways of separating people from their hard-earned cash. Believing that the higher a person’s income, the higher the percentage of tax he should pay, many opt for a “progressive” tax code. “The rich ought to pay more!” is their cry. Yet, it is never enough.

Tax Season

At the turn of every year, American citizens must wade through a variety of complicated and sometimes mind-boggling tax forms. Taxpayers spend hours upon hours to make sure they are in compliance with endless volumes of confusing tax code. Many make a mad dash to file by the April 15th deadline. Post offices in larger cities stay open until midnight for last-minute filers. For many, this is

not enough time to comply and so they file forms requesting an extension. Daunted by this, thousands willingly pay others to prepare and file their taxes for them.

Trying to hold on to as much of their hard-earned cash as possible, individuals find ways to “shelter” their income, even to the point of going into debt. They invest in money-losing ventures, or place it in tax-deferred accounts where they cannot access it for decades without incurring stiff penalties. People will do almost anything, just as long as the government does not get their money!

Why does it—why should it—have to be so difficult to figure and pay what you owe? And why so much?

An Ancient Warning and Cry for Relief

After the nation of Israel had entered the Promised Land, they were led under a system of judges with the Levitical priesthood ruling on religious matters. God’s fair and equitable laws of tithing were practiced. Yet, after roughly 400 years under this system, Israel decided that they wanted to be like the nations around them. They came to Samuel, who had served as a judge and priest, insisting that he set a physical king over them. In doing so, they rejected God’s government and His rule over their lives.

God permitted this, setting up Saul as their king. However, God gave a stern warning of what was to come: “This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear [plow] his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth [tax] of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth [tax] of your sheep: and you shall be his servants. And you shall cry out in that day because of your king which you shall have chosen you” (I Sam. 8:11-18).

God knew that His tithing system would eventually be abused and misused by men. They would misapply it, turning it into a burden that it was never meant to be. There would be military drafts and property would be taken “for the good of the state.” More and more money would be needed to finance endless projects. And, over time, this would only grow worse.

By the time Solomon’s son Rehoboam ascended to the throne over Israel, the people were crying out for relief. Solomon had taxed the nation

heavily for the construction of his *own* palaces, stables and vineyards. Through their spokesperson Jeroboam, the northern ten tribes of Israel asked Rehoboam to lighten their tax burden: “Your father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make you the grievous service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve you” (I Kgs. 12:4).

Rehoboam refused, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions” (vs. 14). Instead of providing relief, Rehoboam increased the labor and tax demands.

As a result, the northern ten tribes, under the leadership of Jeroboam, broke away to form a separate nation. Eventually, this northern nation of Israel became lost to the world’s view. But those people still exist today. (To learn more about what happened to the “Lost Ten Tribes of Israel,” read our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY*.)

Tax Reform

Most everyone welcomes a tax cut. To one degree or another, most citizens feel that they pay too much in taxes. One of the reasons for the American Revolution was excessive taxation. The Boston Tea Party and the battle cry “Taxation without representation” helped pave the way for the colonies’ separation from England.

The U.S. tax system as we know it was not instituted until March 1, 1913. Since that time, it has only grown in size and scope. Feeling the pressure mounting, the population routinely cries out for relief. While most feel that *some*

taxes are necessary, a growing minority want no taxes at all. Some in this group actively *refuse* to pay taxes.

Many politicians have run for office on the platform of tax reform. Promising to reduce the amount you owe, they plead for your vote to put them in office. In fact, tax reform was one of the deciding issues in last year’s Presidential election.

Endless proposals are made, from abolishing income tax altogether in favor of a national sales tax, to varying forms of a flat tax, to all sorts of new deductions or tax credits. Yet, it is never easy to pass tax reform legislation. After all, there is much money to be made in the collection and allocation of taxes. No one wants to be on the losing end.

For example, if a simple flat tax were to be adopted, think of how many people would have to find a new occupation. It would affect thousands of IRS employees, tax attorneys, tax preparers, accountants and all individuals and businesses whose livelihood is dependent on the status quo. Others do not want to lose the tax dollars that come their way in the form of public works. While many are *for* such reform, others would be absolutely *against* it.

Is an equitable, fairly administered system possible? If so, how will it come about and who will bring it?

Tithing—God’s Tax System

There is a fair and just system of taxation, and it has been in existence for millennia. Its earliest mention is found in the book of Genesis. Around the year 1900 B.C., there lived a man named Abram—later called Abraham. He is described as a man who obeyed God—

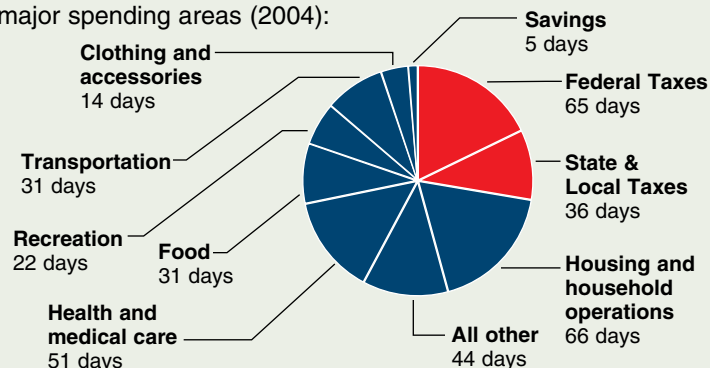
WORKING TO PAY TAXES

■ In 2004, Americans worked 101 days to pay for various types of taxes:

	Federal	State & Local
Individual Income taxes	28 days	8 days
Social Insurance taxes	27 days	1 day
Sales & Excise taxes	3 days	13 days
Property taxes	0 days	11 days
Corporate Income taxes	6 days	3 days*

*Also includes two days’ worth of other business taxes.
Note: Due to rounding, days do not sum to total.
Source: www.taxfoundation.org

■ Days Americans spent working to pay taxes compared to major spending areas (2004):



one who kept His charge, commandments, statutes and laws (Gen. 26:5).

After rescuing his nephew Lot from hostile forces—and, in the process, having taken many valuable spoils of war—Abraham stopped with his servants near the ancient city of Salem (later known as Jerusalem). He was greeted by Melchizedek, the King of Salem, who brought out bread and wine to refresh them. Unlike the kings of the surrounding cities, Melchizedek (who later became Jesus Christ) was not only King of Salem, but also the High Priest of the true God. He blessed Abraham, saying, “Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be the most high God, which has delivered your enemies into your hand” (Gen. 14:19-20).

Following this blessing, “he [Abraham] gave Him [Melchizedek] tithes [or a tenth] of all” (end of verse 20). Abraham recognized that God owns EVERYTHING, and has a prior claim to it (Psa. 50:10-12). Because Abraham obeyed the Eternal, he kept His tithing law. But, unlike the tax laws of men, which take 25 percent or more of a person’s income, God only requires that we pay a tithe—10 percent—in return.

This is the same financial law that God gave to Israel through Moses. Notice: “And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’s: it is holy unto the LORD” (Lev. 27:30).

God further instructed, “I have given the children of Levi all the tenth [tithe] in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation” (Num. 18:21). The Creator always intended tithes to be used for His purposes. This system is the means by which God has always financed His Work, and it has been in effect since long before Abraham. In ancient Israel, the tithes were paid to God, who then gave them to the Levites for the work they performed.

In essence, tithing is a simple 10-percent flat tax paid on an individual’s wages. Under God’s system, *all* pay their fair share. No one is *undertaxed* or *overtaxed*. Whether you earn a dollar or

multiple millions, the rate is the same. It truly is fair and equitable and, when practiced, yields *blessings* (Mal. 3:8-10). There are no complicated forms to fill out; no need to spend hours upon hours trying to figure out what you owe; no need to go into debt or lose money in business ventures just to “shelter” your money to avoid a higher tax rate.

How simple are the ways of God. His tithing laws truly are progressive! When kept, God’s laws always produce every good result.

Pay Your Taxes?

Jesus Christ’s physical ministry took place during the time when the Roman Empire ruled Judea. As with all governments of men, it imposed a heavy tax burden on its citizens. More than once, there had been a tax revolt involving the Jews under Roman domination. Feeling it to be excessive and unjust, many simply did not want to pay it. It had become a source of much debate and contention.

At one point, certain religious leaders asked Christ for His opinion on the matter: “Tell us therefore, what think You? Is it lawful to give tribute [taxes] unto Caesar, or not?” (Matt. 22:17). Of course, their real motive was to trick Christ. If He said not to pay the taxes, they could accuse Him of speaking against Roman law and turn Him over to the authorities. If He said to pay the tax, they could accuse Him of *siding with Rome*. Regardless of His answer, they sought to trap Him.

However, Jesus answered them wisely. “Show Me the tribute money,” He said, and then asked, “Whose is this image and superscription?” The religious leaders answered, “Caesar’s.” Concluding the matter, Christ said, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:19-21).

Governments have the authority to collect taxes. Christ’s words do not support the views of those who refuse to pay taxes. On another occasion, Christ, with His disciples, paid a tax (Matt. 17:24-27). While it may not be pleasant, if the government levies a

tax on your income, you are required to pay it.

Christ Taught Tithing

Did you notice that while Jesus said we are to fulfill our tax obligations to our nation, state or local community, He also commanded that we keep our obligations to God? He said, “Render... unto God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21).

The Jews were very zealous and meticulous about paying tithes. Yet, in other areas of God’s Law, they were lacking. Teaching on these issues, Jesus said, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone” (Matt. 23:23).

Christ was saying that tithing is an important obligation to God that we must faithfully keep, as with all of His Law.

Remember, God owns everything and has a prior claim to it. But He allows man to use what is His to earn an income. In return, He only asks for a tithe. As mentioned, this system is the means by which God has always financed His Work. That Work is publishing the very magazine you are reading.

Under man’s system of taxation, it can be difficult, time-consuming and frustrating trying to figure out what you owe to humanly-devised governments. Under man’s financial laws, it can be difficult to make ends meet after paying all the required taxes.

Yet, true, effective tax relief is coming. When practiced correctly, God’s tithing law is never a burden. The very same system of tithing that finances the Work of God today will, at the Return of Jesus Christ, replace the complicated, inequitable and unjust taxation imposed at the hands of man. That time is just ahead. If you would like to know more about tithing, the blessings that flow from it and how to better manage your finances, read our booklets *End All Your FINANCIAL WORRIES* and *Taking Charge of Your FINANCES*. □

A “New Arab World”?

Free elections in Iraq—a “pink revolution” in Iran—Syria poised to withdraw from Lebanon—reforms in Egypt and Saudi Arabia—is a “new Arab world” suddenly on the horizon? Where will this power shift in the Middle East lead?

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

IN LATE 2002, Iraqi officials proudly announced that President Saddam Hussein received 100 percent backing in a referendum on whether he should rule Iraq for another seven years. Of the 11.4 million eligible Iraqi voters, every one of them voted for Mr. Hussein to remain in office.

Of course, government officials and reputable news organizations around the world saw through this election farce. They pointed out that Mr. Hussein was the *only* candidate—and that the voters knew he routinely tortured and murdered anyone who opposed his rule. Simply slandering Saddam Hussein brought the penalty of having one’s tongue cut out.

With the removal of Mr. Hussein and his underlings from power, the Iraqi people were given a chance to start anew.

In spite of ever-mounting obstacles—the rising death toll of soldiers and civilians alike, the increasing onslaught of terrorist attacks from Iraqi insurgents, a growing intoler-

ance for the presence of American and British troops, now viewed as occupiers rather than liberators, and the unceasing drumbeat of criticism from political pundits and news analysts—U.S. President George W. Bush boldly announced that free elections would take place in Iraq.

Hoping For Democracy

It was said that the American-led invasion would not succeed, and that even if it did, the war would result in a bloodbath for the U.S. and its allies. It was said that America and Britain would face humiliating defeat and be chased out by Iraqi resistance. It was then predicted that Iraq’s free elections would end with utter disaster—that the people would bow to the intimidation of terrorists and be too afraid to vote—that polling places would be under fire from terrorist attacks—that, even if the people had the courage to vote, the election results would lead to civil war.

Democracy and the idea of majority rule is a foreign concept in the Arab world, where transfer of power is done through hereditary lines or by military coup.

America believes that democracy can take root in Iraq. After all, the

argument goes, it was established in Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan after World War II, two countries that were once bent on world domination. With America’s guidance and aid, Germany and Japan have risen from the ashes of military defeat, and are thriving. Germany is expected to have a large voice in the affairs of the European Union. Even Russia and its former satellite states have embraced democracy, to varying degrees.

The hope is that if democracy takes hold in Iraq, it will inspire the peoples of other Islamic states to cry out against the governments that oppress them.

Establishing a New Government

Of the nearly 7,500 political candidates running under 111 parties, as many as 50 parties dropped out of the race, either in protest to the election or for fear of violence (at least four candidates had been assassinated).

When the day of the election came, everyone anticipated the worst. Polling stations were defended by loops of razor wire and sharpshooters atop the roofs. There were at least nine separate attacks around polling stations, resulting in 44 deaths—but not hundreds, as was feared. About 300,000 Iraqi and U.S. troops patrolled the streets, ready to protect voters. Using loudspeakers, the Americans stressed to the voters that every ballot was important.

On January 30, 58 percent of registered voters (nearly 8.5 million nationwide) came out to cast their ballots, and a new National Assembly was elected. The 275 seats will be filled proportionately (i.e., a party that received 50 percent of the total vote will get to fill 50 percent of the seats).

Three political groups won the largest share of assembly seats. Winning 48.2 percent of the vote, the Shia Muslim-dominated United Iraqi Alliance received 140 seats. Endorsed by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's leading cleric, one of its policies is to demand a timetable for U.S. military withdrawal. For years, they had to endure Saddam Hussein's regime, despite being the majority group in Iraq. They are now poised for one of their own to become Iraq's next prime minister.

The Kurdistan Alliance won 25.7 percent of the vote, receiving 75 seats. The Alliance represents traditional elements in Kurdish society, and has charge over the western part of the Kurdish self-ruling area.

Coming in third, with 13.8 percent of the vote, or 40 seats, was the Iraqi List, headed by Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, who was backed by the U.S. This party included a mix of Sunnis and Shias, and is considered more secular than the United Iraqi Alliance.

Most of Iraq's seven to eight million Sunni Muslims, about 20 percent of the population, boycotted the elections; only about two percent turned out to vote. Since 1920, the Sunnis ruled Iraq, despite being a minority party. For them, this is the most dramatic shift in political power.

The newly-elected National Assembly, a parliamentary-style governing body, will select the president and two deputy presidents, and a committee for drafting a new national constitution. The president will name a prime minister and a Cabinet, who will serve for 11 months, until new elections are held. The assembly will serve as a legislative body until the new Constitution comes into effect.

The January 30th election also resulted in the establishing of local councils in each of Iraq's 18 governorates, and a 111-member council for the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Despite the predictions of naysayers around the world, Iraq has taken a large, historic step toward democracy, and the Islamic nations of the Middle East have taken notice. *CNN* reported that the Arab media reacted to the elections

with a mixture of "hope, concern, and skepticism."

Iran's "Pink Revolution"

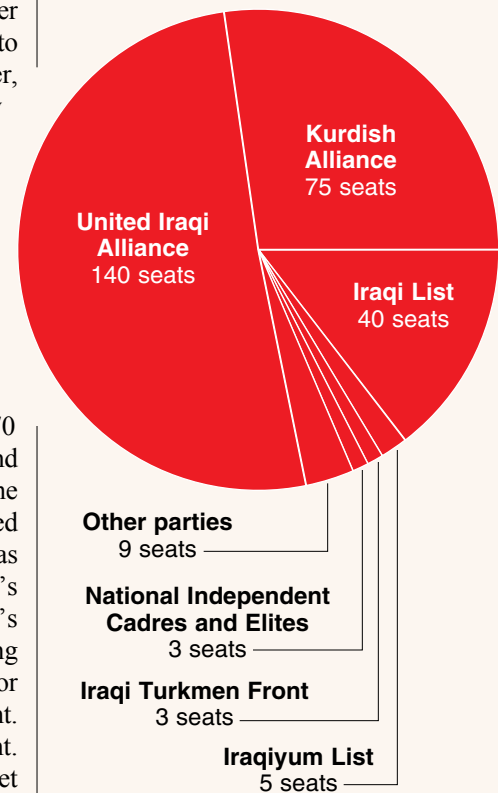
Now that the United Iraqi Alliance has the most seats in the Assembly, there is concern that the Shiites might attempt to re-impose Islamic law over the people. Also, Iraq is expected to have stronger ties with Iran. However, many feel that it is unlikely the new Iraqi government will model itself after Iran's theocratic system. It has been argued that Iraq's key clerics understand that the Iranian model has failed—and they are keen to avoid making the same mistakes.

There has been speculation that Iraq's free elections will cause a political fervor among the Iranian youth. More than half of Iran's 70 million people are below age 30, and many of these are contemptuous of the rigid theocratic government imposed over them, and the problems this has wrought. Despite being the world's fourth-largest oil producer, Iran's economy is plagued by never-ending inflation. The unemployment rate for young people has reached 15 percent. Government corruption is prevalent. Journalists and writers of Internet weblogs have been imprisoned for daring to call for reforms. Moderate and reform-minded politicians have been ejected from Iran's Cabinet, and were barred from running in 2004's parliamentary elections.

Though outright opposition to Iran's political regime and rigid cultural code is not tolerated, a "pink revolution" has gradually taken hold among Iranian youth, and is being silently demonstrated in the streets. The Koran teaches that women should cover virtually every part of their bodies, from head to toe, whenever they venture outside the home. But, over the years, many young women have quietly substituted their garments of black for pink apparel—coats, head scarves, shoes, handbags, etc. And young men are beginning to forgo the Islamic tradition of growing beards and wearing their hair short. Many youths wear jeans, a universal symbol of embracing Western culture.

IRAQ'S LEGISLATIVE ELECTION RESULTS

Shown below are the number of seats each party won in the January 30th elections for Iraq's 275-member transitional National Assembly:



Source: AFP

Only time will tell if this change in culture will eventually trigger a shift in Iran's political makeup.

Mass Protests in Lebanon

In the wake of the assassination of Lebanese leader Rafik Hariri, mass protests have erupted in the streets of Beirut, demanding that Syria's 14,000-man occupation force leave the country. These demonstrations have led to the resignation of Prime Minister Omar Karami, effectively terminating Lebanon's pro-Syrian government.

Under pressure from the U.S. and Britain, and even from Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has announced that Syria, in a two-step plan, will redeploy its troops to the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon by March 31st. This pullback would be the biggest since 1976, when Syria



■ **PROTECTING THE VOTERS:** Members of the Iraqi Police and U.S. Marines watch over the lines of Iraqi citizens waiting to cast their ballots at a polling station in Jolan Park in Fallujah, Iraq, on Jan. 30, 2005.

PHOTO: U.S. Marine Corps

sent its forces to intervene in Lebanon's civil war. (But America and France have said this is not good enough.)

In the second step of the plan, Syrian and Lebanese military officials will discuss how many troops will remain in Bekaa, and for how long.

A White House adviser commented that when it comes to Syrian promises, actions speak louder than words.

Tens of thousands of Lebanese protesters, along with the international community, are demanding that Syria abide by a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a total and immediate pullout. Speaking to *Voice of America News*, many demonstrators said Syria's troops and spies must leave so that Lebanon can reclaim its independence.

"We want to be free," one protester said. "That's what we want. We want to build an economy. We want to put Lebanon again on the map, on the world map. That's what we want."

Some news commentators, who have opposed President Bush at virtually every turn, believe (although reluctantly) that the recent elections in Iraq emboldened the Lebanese people to voice their demands.

In a recent press briefing, White House spokesman Scott McClellan

said, "Well, the President has often spoken about how all people desire to live in freedom. I think you're seeing today in Lebanon that the Lebanese people are clearly demonstrating their desire to have a free and independent future, free from outside interference."

He also said that across the world, and most notably in the Middle East, democracy and freedom are on the march: "The Iraqi people demonstrated their desire to live in freedom and peace when they went to the polls in overwhelming numbers and showed their courage and determination to defy those who want to return to the past, the terrorists.

"And I think you're seeing in other parts of the Middle East that there is a commitment to moving forward on democratic reforms. You're seeing that with regards to the Palestinian territories. The Palestinian people want a future that is built on a free and democratic and viable state. And you have a leadership now that is committed to helping them realize that vision that the President outlined."

Some critics have admitted (albeit with great reluctance) that the recent changes in the political scene of the Middle East are due to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. The historic events taking

shape in that part of the world are slowly being compared to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. When U.S. President Ronald Reagan had challenged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the infamous wall that kept West and East Germany divided, German politicians and other critics made sport of Mr. Reagan's speech. The looming, bear-like presence of the Soviet Union made it difficult to imagine that a united Germany could ever become a reality.

Walid Jumblatt, current leader of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party and a prominent leader of the Druze community, said, "It's strange for me to say it, but this process of change has started because of the American invasion of Iraq. I was cynical about Iraq. But when I saw the Iraqi people voting three weeks ago, 8 million of them, it was the start of a *new Arab world*... The Syrian people, the Egyptian people, all say that something is changing. *The Berlin Wall has fallen*. We can see it" (*Washington Post* – emphasis ours).

The head of the Syrian Press Syndicate told the *New York Times*, "There's a new world out there and a new reality. You can no longer have business as usual."

Rippling Effects?

Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, in power since the 1981 assassination of Anwar Sadat, has recently asked his nation's parliament to amend the constitution to allow for direct, multiparty elections. The announcement came on the heels of Iraq's historic free elections.

Currently, the president is nominated by the People's Assembly, the legislative body, to serve a six-year term. The nomination must then be validated by a national, popular referendum.

Responding to White House pressure to become an example of democracy for the Arab world, President Mubarak has agreed to allow other political candidates to run for the presidency.

Skeptics say they will wait for more details, concerned that such a constitutional amendment will only create the *appearance* of democracy. One

political analyst pointed out that, in spite of talks of more direct elections, emergency laws are still in effect in Egypt, political opponents continue to be imprisoned, the state still controls the media, and political parties exist in name only.

But what if Mr. Mubarak's proposal leads to more reforms? Could this, along with events taking shape in Iraq, inspire changes in other Islamic states?

Within days of the Iraqi free elections, Saudi Arabia, a monarchy-led state governed according to Shari'a (Islamic law), permitted local elections to take place.

Even talks of peace between the Palestinians and the Jews have taken on a new life. Since the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, his successor, Mahmoud Abbas, is apparently setting out to prove to Israel that he is serious about peace. Mr. Abbas has stated that he will implement reforms that will make peace a reality between the Palestinians and the Jews. Also, new faces now occupy the seats of the interim Palestinian Cabinet, with nearly all of the 17 new ministers considered to be technocrats, experts in the areas they are to oversee.

Putting these together, one has to wonder if the emergence of democracy in Iraq triggered a rippling effect across the pool of Middle Eastern politics.

So far, America's agenda, starting with Iraq, seems to be working. But where will it ultimately lead? Nicolas Rothwell, in his article "The Genie is out of the Bottle," writes, "Just as the dominoes tumbled across the heart of Europe 15 years ago, so today the headline events of the changing Middle East, all meticulously captured by the new Arab satellite TV channels, are breeding radical ideas in the minds of the watching public in neighbor-

ing states. If there are free elections across the border, they ask, why not with us?" (*The Australian*.)

The article concludes with a scenario in which calls for open elections could backfire for America: "The Arab response to the U.S. and the broad example of the West combines attraction and repulsion, envy, awe and fear, as local observers know. All these elements lurk in the reactions of Arab leaders to the newly stressed U.S. demand for democratization. In each Arab capital, young generations long for a free social climate, educated intellectuals crave political space and a serried establishment aims to preserve the existing terms of the power structure.

"This is a recipe for potential instability as much as for democratic revolution. Although U.S. President

George W. Bush and new Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are doubtless gratified by the way the pressure they have applied to their Arab allies, from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, has produced a swift set of electoral concessions, the flow and ebb of democratic government is hard to impose—it grows, it is not born the moment free votes are held.

"U.S. and European demands for open elections could well produce unpredictable results in many countries: under level-playing-field conditions, Arab voters may choose to back conservative religious parties, as they have in Iraq. Strange forces might then come to hold the balance of power: In Lebanon's May elections, a key bloc of seats is almost certain to fall once more to the Shia Hezbollah militia.

"No single formula can apply when the move towards 'Arab' democracy must cover entities as diverse as the oil-rich, liberal Qatar or the United Arab Emirates and, at the other extreme of the spectrum, the charismatic dictatorship of Libya. There is no road map, no easy model for the region's political shift—and this is doubtless just as it should be.

"Recent history offers no hint of what will come in the weeks and months ahead. For the key, as with all democratic transformations, is simple: Arabs will be making it up themselves."

History may not show what will happen in the Middle East's future—but there is a source that does.

Peering Into the Future

For many years, the Bible has been the world's best-selling book—and yet, ironically, it is also the *least understood*. Few realize that approximately one-third of



■ **VOTERS CELEBRATE:** Iraqi voters dance and clap at a secure polling location after casting their votes.

PHOTO: U.S. Marine Corps

Please see **NEW**, page 27

Why Democracy Cannot Succeed

Although created to protect citizens from tyranny, democracy has also become an open window for immorality and corruption to enter into and plague society. In the end, all forms of democracy will fail. Here's why.

AFTER DECLARING their independence from the yoke of the British crown, and enduring a long and bloody war, the thirteen American colonies were finally free to create a new nation. The Founding Fathers crafted the U.S. Constitution, creating a new form of government that offered hope and promise.

Throughout history, men have devised every kind of government imaginable, with their varying shades and colors—monarchies, fascist regimes, communist dictatorships, socialist states, etc. Yet, no manmade government has ever produced the lasting peace, security, liberty and prosperity for which all people yearn.

Referred to as “the Great Experiment,” the system that America’s founders set out to devise would “establish justice” and ensure “domestic tranquility” and “the blessings of liberty.” And thus, the United States of America was born.

In 1947, Sir Winston Churchill said, “Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this

world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” A brief examination of democratic government in American history shows how right Mr. Churchill was.

Not a True Democracy

It will come as a surprise to many that the founders did not intend to establish a true democracy in the classic sense. In fact, the word “democracy” does not appear in the Constitution. Nor is it found in the Declaration of Independence.

The Founding Fathers feared democracies at least as much as they detested the tyranny from which they had won their freedom. James Madison, a key framer of the Constitution, wrote, “Democracy is the most vile form of government...democracies have ever been the spectacles of turbulence and contention: have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property: and have in general been as *short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths*” (emphasis ours).

The founders understood the

destructive nature of democracy, in which centralized power is subject to the whims of majority opinion. This is why they created a Constitution-based federal republic, with a strong democratic tradition. In establishing a new government for their fledgling nation, the founders framed a compromise among the states, which left most regulatory power over individuals and property residing in state governments.

The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution states the document’s purpose: “to form a more perfect Union” between the independent governments of the thirteen former colonies. This required that each state establish and maintain a republican form of government: “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government” (*Article IV, Section 4*). This is why state governments are very similar to the federal government. Yet, each state was provided wide autonomy in determining its civil statutes, business codes, and criminal punishment.

The Seeds of Change

The purpose and intent of what we call “democracy” in America today was to protect people from the tyrannical rule of despots and to guarantee certain freedoms to all citizens, small and great. Yet, ever since the Constitution was first adopted and ratified, the American government system has changed from its original form. Sometimes for the best—many times for the worst.

Consider the following:

■ Prior to the ratification of the 17th Amendment, U.S. senators were appointed by state legislatures. Today, they are elected into office by popular vote in their respective states.

■ Along with ending slavery in the U.S., the outcome of the American Civil War also determined who won the debate between those who viewed state law as pre-eminent in civil matters and those who wanted the national government to have supreme power throughout the land.

It was not until *after* the Civil War that the Bill of Rights and Amendments to the Constitution applied to state governments. In fact, prior to 1868, Americans were technically considered citizens of their *states*, and not *United States* citizens!

The northern states ratified the thirteenth amendment in 1865, making slavery illegal. Three years later, the fourteenth amendment was passed, ensuring that African-Americans received equal protection under the law, as well as the right of due process.

The U.S. government acquired the power to enforce amendments throughout the nation. The entire Bill of Rights—which was originally intended to restrain the powers of the *federal* government, not state governments—became viewed as enforceable within each state.

■ Many commonly assume that the Constitution guarantees everyone of age the right to vote, also known as “one man, one vote.” But nowhere does this appear in the document! For over 150 years, voting could be denied to individuals for any number of reasons.

For example, poll taxes were common in most states until modern times, denying suffrage to those of insufficient means. This prevented citizens who did not own property, usually the less educated, from voting largesse to themselves. It also discouraged those who did not have a legitimate interest in the election’s outcome from paying the required fee. And, it kept the reigns of power firmly in the hands of the wealthy and influential.



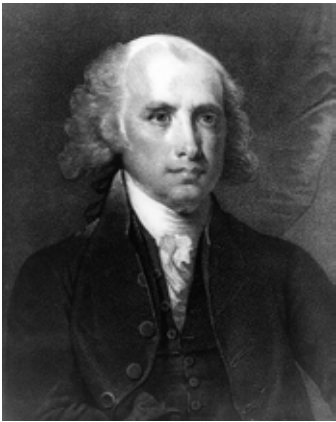
■ **A HISTORIC MOMENT:** Howard Chandler Christy's painting, "Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States," portrays the Founding Fathers signing this great document.

PHOTO: Teaching Politics



■ **A HISTORIC DOCUMENT:** Shown above is the first page of the U.S. Constitution, the document that defines and governs the United States of America.

PHOTO: Teaching Politics; Library of Congress



“Democracy is the most vile form of government ...[and] have been the spectacles of turbulence and contention...”

– James Madison

The nineteenth amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women the right to vote. Celebrated as a landmark amendment, women were empowered to directly affect not only the outcome of elections, but also the platforms on which candidates campaigned.

The Rise of Activist Judges

Federal judges are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and not by popular vote. Their tenure is for life, shielding them from the whims of politicians and the citizenry. In addition, removing a federal judge is extremely difficult.

This system was established so that these judges would apply existing law without partiality. A judge is not to feel pressured into deciding a case based on politics, reward or polling data. His decision is to be based solely on current law and precedent.

However, unaccountability can still introduce corruption into the system. Ideologically-driven judges have rendered decisions (and still do) in order to further their political or personal beliefs—even ignoring or redefining the law in the process!

You are probably familiar with the term “activist judge”—one who uses his private interpretation of law or precedent to shift society in the direction he desires. Such judges establish their desired outcome, and then assemble precedents and arguments to support it. In effect, an “activist judge” takes for himself the power of the elected legislature, *creating* law rather than *interpreting* it.

In the past 50 years, the American

cultural landscape has been redefined, much of which is due to activist judges. They have created “rights” that are new freedoms for some segments of society, while infringing upon the liberty of others. Granting rights to one group usually takes rights away from another group.

In short, rights that were intended by the Founding Fathers have been done away with—while rights that appear *nowhere* in the Constitution have been imagined, fabricated and established: the right to privacy, freedom of virtually *any* kind of expression, separation of church and state, freedom from moral regulation, enforced egalitarianism and redistribution of wealth, to name only a few.

The Role of Sexuality in Constitutional Change

America’s strongly-embraced democratic tradition has given birth to a society that is ever more tolerant of various “alternate lifestyles.” Long-held stigmas that were once discouraged—and a new language of euphemisms developed to excuse, and even justify, every form of vile behavior—have become socially acceptable and, in some cases, applauded.

For example, prior to the “sexual revolution” of the 1960s and 70s, a woman’s self-interest caused her to be prudent in her sexual conduct. She knew that bearing a child out of wedlock brought certain social stigmas upon her and her illegitimate child, assigning them to disgrace and poverty. Because of these pressures, as well as basic religious morality, the

average woman guarded her reputation and went on to preserve the traditional family unit. By keeping herself from engaging in extramarital affairs, she served to strengthen American families and helped to rear and educate the next generation.

And then came the emergence of the birth control pill and certain other contraceptive devices. These became tools of convenience for those engaged in behavior outside social norms. Adultery and fornication could be practiced in secrecy, with less fear of unwanted pregnancies coming to light.

However, this was not enough. Men and women wanted *complete* freedom from the natural, inevitable consequences of sex outside marriage. To satisfy them, the early termination of an unwanted pregnancy needed to become lawful.

First, to remove the guilt naturally experienced by those who would choose to end an unborn human life, the status of unborn *baby* had to be redefined and dehumanized to *fetus*.

In the 1965 case of *Griswold v. Connecticut*, an outdated state law prohibited the use of contraceptives. Although not rigorously enforced, the law existed to prevent distribution of contraceptives from birth control clinics. The potential, but unlikely, event of the law being used against married couples was used as justification for the court to create a new “constitutional right of privacy.”

In the case, the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to decide whether the Constitution protected the right of marital privacy against state restrictions on a couple’s ability to be counseled in the use of contraceptives.

The court concluded, “Though the Constitution does not explicitly protect a general right to privacy, the various guarantees within the Bill of Rights create penumbras, or zones, that establish a right to privacy. Together, the First, Third, Fourth, and Ninth Amendments create a new constitutional right, the right to privacy in marital relations.

Please see **DEMOCRACY**, page 28



The Lure of GAMBLING

Gambling is exploding in popularity! How has this happened? Should you be concerned?

PART ONE

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

LIKE AN INFECTIOUS disease, it spreads throughout the nations of the world. It infects virtually every household, young and old, rich and poor, ignorant and educated. From high-stakes casinos and government-run lotteries to penny ante bingo matches, raffles and office pools, gambling is everywhere—and is becoming more common with each passing year.

The practice of gambling can be described as “staking something of value on the outcome of an event that involves chance, in hopes of gaining the objects of value that have been staked on the event by others.” In other words, *risk* motivated by *riches*.

The history of this practice stretches back nearly to the beginning of human history. And, in the modern age, as technology expands and the character of individuals and nations declines, gambling is quickly becoming a virtual epidemic.

Types of Gambling

Modern gambling exists in many forms, which vary in popularity among different cultures and groups. These include: (1) betting on sports or games of skill, including horse and dog races, football, baseball, basketball, hockey, prizefights and others; (2) card games, including poker and blackjack, which may be played at casinos or in private homes; (3) dice games such as craps; (4) lotteries and “scratch-off” games (typically sanctioned by state or federal governments, with tickets sold at outlets such as convenience stores); (5) bingo; (6) mechanized betting such as electronic slot machines (known as “one armed

bandits”) and video poker; and (7) other casino games such as roulette, big six, and keno.

A method of organized public betting often used at horse or dog tracks is the “*pari-mutuel*” system, which translates to “mutual stake” in French. This system pools bettors’ money and distributes winnings in proportion to the amount wagered. The intent of this method is to facilitate gambling tax collection and safeguard against theft (“Gambling,” *Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia 2005*).

A Growing Problem

The growth of gambling in wealthy, “developed” countries has exceeded overall population growth, as *ever larger percentages* of individuals in these nations yield to the temptation of this habit. Many of these nations are so prosperous that even those “below the poverty line” enjoy a standard of living that is higher than the *majority* in the “developing” world. Yet, these peoples still seek easy avenues to increase their “net worth.” Gambling, both in its legal forms and otherwise, has long been one of the most popular methods of pursuing this goal. Recent statistics gathered in these countries bring the expanding scope of the problem into focus.

In The United States

According to the *National Gambling Impact Study Commission Report*, legalized casino gambling in America grew 10 percent in 1975. Compare this to 29 percent growth in 1998. Meanwhile, playing the lottery increased from 24 percent to 52 percent.

The commission estimates that 125 million U.S. adults gamble, and 7.5 million of these are either problem or compulsive gamblers. Between 1993 and 2003, total

gambling *revenue* in the U.S. more than doubled, from \$34 billion to \$72 billion!

Gambling in some form is legal in all states except Hawaii and Utah. 38 of the 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, conduct lotteries. Also, many of these states participate in combined multi-state lotteries such as Powerball.

Figures from the *U.S. Census Bureau* show that the capital of the American gaming industry, Las Vegas, Nevada, was the fastest growing metropolitan area in the country between 1990 and 2000, with an 83.3 percent population increase. It is still the most rapidly growing major U.S. city, both in terms of population and in the amount of new construction. According to *The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority*, the number of visitors to the city has increased from 6.7 million in 1970 to 35.5 million in 2003. During this same period, gross gaming revenue for greater Las Vegas grew steadily from \$3.6 million to \$7.8 billion, and overall visitor dollar contribution jumped from \$1.1 billion to \$32.8 billion! The city is now the top tourist destination in the country, as well as the most popular convention site.

In Canada

Since 1992, net revenue from government-run lotteries, video lottery terminals and casinos has mushroomed from \$2.7 billion (CAD) to \$11.3 billion. In 1999 alone, government-run gambling generated \$8.6 billion—\$5 billion of which was profit. Sixty-four percent of households with incomes under \$20,000 spent an average of \$333 on gambling that year. And 76 percent of all Canadian households took part in at least one gambling activity, spending an average of \$499. In 2001, the average household spent \$257 on government lotteries alone.

According to the Canada Safety Council (a private charitable organization), up to 360 suicides per year are related to gambling, and other problems—such as domestic

violence, breakup of families, and bankruptcy—are also linked to the habit (www.csmonitor.com).

In Britain

Britain takes a tolerant position regarding gambling. Betting offices have been licensed by the government since the early 1960s, and gambling devices such as slot machines are legal, as are games of chance in homes or private clubs (“Gambling,” *Microsoft Encarta Online Encyclopedia* 2005).

According to the *National Centre’s British Gambling Survey*, 72 percent of Britain’s population—about 33 million adults—took part in some form of gambling activity within the one-year period ending in July 2004, and about two-thirds (65 percent) had bought a National Lottery ticket. However, the lottery is only the third most popular form of gambling in Britain, surpassed by horse racing and slot machines. Britain also supplies the highest percentage of foreign visitors to Las Vegas.

Despite Britain’s passion for waging bets, the survey reveals that three out of four British gamblers rarely ever win! The reason that most give for gambling is “fun and pleasure.”

In Australia

BBC News reports that, from 2001 to 2002, Australians wasted more than \$15 billion (AUD) on gambling—an average loss of \$1,017 per adult! This should not be surprising, since more than 20 percent of the world’s poker machines are in Australia.

The *Australian Bureau of Statistics* reports that 330,000 Australians (2.3 percent of adults) have “significant gambling problems, with 140,000 experiencing severe problems.” On average, such gambling problems can last nine years. Each of these 330,000 problem gamblers has lost an average of \$12,000 per year! Once again, as a result, the pressures of this mounting debt have led one in ten to contemplate suicide.

Yet, even though an astounding eight out of ten Australians gamble, two other Western nations—Sweden

and New Zealand—have surpassed this. There, *nine* in ten adults gamble!

From the Casino to the Computer

The arrival of Internet gaming is a major factor in the recent explosion of gambling’s overall popularity. The availability of gambling “at the click of a mouse,” at any hour of day or night, equals increased *convenience*. Gone are the days when one needed to travel to a casino, or recruit players for a card game at home, to indulge an appetite for gambling.

Although difficult to accurately measure, it has been estimated that between 1997 and 1998, Internet gambling more than doubled—from 6.9 million *online* gamblers to 14.5 million. The generated revenue increased even more—from \$300 million to \$651 million. For 2004, this figure increased to \$6.6 *billion*, and industry experts project total revenue of \$20.8 billion in 2005 (www.winneronline.com)! The online poker industry alone grew threefold in 2004 (www.rgtonline.com).

Although online betting is illegal for American companies to offer, a U.S.-based company may still establish an overseas operation to dodge the law. Most online casinos are based in the Caribbean. In 2003, the United States accounted for an estimated 60 percent of all Internet gambling worldwide, despite the fact that wagering with U.S.-issued credit cards or checks is also illegal (www.foxnews.com). The World Trade Organization, in a recent case brought against the United States by the Caribbean nation Antigua and Barbuda, ruled that American laws against cross border gambling are in violation of free trade standards (www.bbc.co.uk).

In a related development, the British Parliament is expected to approve Internet gambling soon, including specific provisions to allow gaming companies to accept bets from parties outside the U.K. This is viewed by some as purely a push for new tax revenue, and some observers expect America to follow in Britain’s footsteps soon.

The Image of Gambling— New and “Improved”

Even in the relatively recent past, the practice of gambling carried a sense of dishonor and was considered a vice. This is no longer the case. Social organizations—even religious groups—commonly sponsor bingo games, riverboat gambling trips, and other events that involve games of chance. Bingo and gambling “outings” are now common even at nursing homes and at group homes for the mentally disabled.

As with many social trends, this shift in public opinion may be to some degree influenced by media outlets such as television and motion pictures. Several cable television shows currently exist that are based on “Texas Hold ‘Em,” a newly popular version of the card game poker. The groundbreaking program “World Poker Tour” first appeared on the Travel Channel in 2003, and has since become the highest rated program in the network’s history, drawing 5 million viewers per show.

Competing cable channels followed suit with their own variations on the theme, including *Bravo’s* “Celebrity Poker Showdown,” *ESPN’s* “World Series of Poker” and *Fox Sports Network’s* “Championship Poker at The Plaza.” The success of these shows encouraged the development of poker tours and tournaments co-sponsored by companies such as *Harrah’s Entertainment*, a casino gambling powerhouse, and networks such as *ESPN*.

Other current television programs featuring gambling themes include *NBC’s* “Las Vegas” and *CBS’* “Dr. Vegas”, as well as “reality” shows such as “The Casino” on *FOX* and the *Discovery Channel’s* “American Casino.” A new cable channel devoted *entirely* to gambling is now reported to be in the works (www.afa.net).

Prior to the television phenomenon, a remake of the 1960 film “Ocean’s Eleven” appeared in theaters in 2001, boasting a number of top-flight actors in its cast. This highly successful movie, along with its 2004 sequel, follows a group of gamblers and professional con artists as they plan elaborate thefts in

Las Vegas and Europe. The storylines of these films deliberately glamorize the gambling habit while blurring the roles of hero and villain—the audience is manipulated to cheer for the main characters as they commit robbery.

The increased interest in gambling, in particular “Texas Hold ‘Em,” has trickled down to the average American household. Home poker parties are on the rise, and the retail industry has responded enthusiastically to the demands of this lucrative market. Mainstream retail chains—including children’s toy stores—now carry equipment such as poker chips and portable game kits, as well as scores of books devoted to the subject.

The image of Las Vegas underwent what has been called an “identity crisis” during the 1990s. The city spent much of the decade pursuing a “family-friendly” approach to the planning of resort properties, building amusement parks and other attractions appealing to those with children. This was partly due to competition from the many Indian tribe-operated casinos springing up across the rest of the country. One apparent result of this approach is the flood of permanent residents discussed above, which led to a 1994 *Time* magazine cover story proclaiming it the “New All-American City.” However, in recent years, the city’s marketing strategy has shifted back to a focus on vice, excess, and the appeal of the forbidden—with a determination to push the envelope on each of these elements. This is seen in Vegas’ new marketing tagline, “What Happens Here...Stays Here,” which is featured in suggestive television commercials promoting an “edgier” Vegas experience. According to the CEO of the agency responsible for these ads, “We need to set Las Vegas apart. When people are in Las Vegas, they are less inhibited” (www.usatoday.com).

Likewise, the city’s tourist attractions are changing with the times. For example, Treasure Island, built in the mid-1990s as a Disney-style family resort, has changed its name to “TI.” It now hosts a racy theater piece titled “Sirens of TI,” as well as a burlesque

bar. Also, a business promoted as “the world’s largest strip club” opened in Vegas in December 2004, one of several recent additions to the city’s adult entertainment industry.

A Budget Remedy— Past, Present and Future

Many nations of the western world struggle with worsening debt. In America, more than 40 of the 50 states reported budget deficits in both fiscal years of 2003 and 2004. The shortfall totaled many billions of dollars in more populous states such as California.

This problem has prompted state officials to view revenue generated by casino taxes, lotteries, and other forms of legal gambling as a source of much-needed cash. In 2004 alone, ten states passed or enacted laws that maintained or increased gambling availability. Many other ballot proposals are in the works (www.ncsl.org).

While some citizens oppose this approach on moral grounds, tolerance for funding government with gambling is increasing. This is especially true when it is presented as an alternative to increased taxes on the individual. Property taxes, used in many states to fund public education, are often reduced or stabilized using this alternate source of money. In many states, gambling now helps finance schools from elementary level through secondary education.

State governments have a long-standing love/hate relationship with gambling. Lottery profits were used in building Jamestown, Virginia, the first American colony, in the early 1600s. This type of funding has since been used to finance the United States colonial army, colleges (including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton), courthouses, hospitals, libraries and many other public endeavors—including churches.

This lenient environment in early America led to the creation of many private lotteries by the 19th century. However, corruption became widespread in these games. Often, the “win-

*Please see **GAMBLING**, page 27*



The Rise of the Red Dragon

China has very suddenly become a major world power—a strong ally to some, but a threat to others. Its economic growth and ability to produce goods is virtually unrivaled. But what are the implications? What lies ahead for China, and how will it affect the world?

BY MARK P. DENECE

CHINA, THE WORLD'S largest country by population, and one of the largest by area, has been a topic of great interest in recent years.

Many items purchased in the “Western world,” particularly North America, have a “Made in China” label on them. North American businessmen now refer to the “China price” with a look of either fear or glee in their eyes.

When international oil and gas prices rose recently, part of the blame was directed at China's near-insatiable demand. Natural resource companies are just now experiencing a major influx of Chinese interest, investment and even control. Diplomatic and financial deals have been made in order to secure key commercial and strategic shipping routes and ports. Modern Chinese cities have greatly expanded in only ten years—indeed, they are virtually unrecognizable from 20 years ago.

On the international stage, China continues to advance its position and stature. It has been standing up to the world's so-called only remaining superpower, the U.S., on a number of issues: trade disputes, fixed exchange rates, the spy plane incident, and Taiwan. In addition, it has forged ahead with its own strategic maneuvering: trade and technology deals with Europe, energy and military deals with Russia, raising tensions with its long-time enemy Japan, and covert support for North Korea.

What does it all mean? Does the world have a new superpower? Who are its likely allies? Who are its likely enemies? We will answer these questions by examining China's history, as well as current events, to see where the country has been, what may be driving it, and how it has achieved and is using its present status. Most importantly, this article will serve as an introduction to the topic of

China's role in Bible prophecy, which will be presented in more detail in a future issue of this magazine.

China—1600 B.C. to Late 1800s A.D.

For most, China is often considered one of the world's leading historical civilizations. From the 7th through the 14th century A.D., it dominated much of East Asia. Historical technology such as paper, printing, gunpowder, porcelain and silk all originated in China. Chinese culture was so dominant in ancient times that its neighboring countries reflect Chinese influence to this day.

From the 2nd millennium B.C. to the early 20th century, China was ruled by a succession of dynasties. The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the last native Chinese dynasty, experienced multiple raids by Mongols from the north, as well as the Japanese along the southeastern coast. In 1592, when Japanese forces attacked Korea, China sent its armies to support Korea. Seven years later, this resulted in an exhausted country with a depleted treasury. Civil unrest began intermittently, essentially unending until 1949.

The early Ming dynasty emperors established what history refers to as the "tribute system." Foreign rulers

were expected to periodically send tribute missions to the Chinese capital. Those that paid tribute received valuable gifts in return and, more importantly, were allowed to officially trade goods. This system was highly advantageous to foreigners, but also to the emperor—to the point that the Ming dynasty established several controls and limits (i.e. a monopoly) on all foreign trade and contact. Such was the socio-economic environment of China at the time of the arrival of the Europeans.

The European empires did not appreciate the limitations on trade into China and, to a large degree, forced acceptance of their terms. They achieved this by using their superior military might and through opium trade.

The Treaty of Nanjing ended the first Opium War (1839-1842) and granted large concessions to the European powers, particularly the British, who obtained Hong Kong. France joined Britain in waging the second Opium War (1856-1860), eventually forcing China to sign the Treaty of Tianjin, further expanding Western advantages in the region. Militarily weak, the emperor agreed to most demands, severely curtailing China's sovereignty.

The End of the Dynasties (Late 1800s to 1978)

In the late 1800s, the foreign powers began to dismantle the system of tributary states. This led to continued civil unrest in China and also laid the groundwork for several bi-lateral wars (China-Japan, and Russia-Japan), the eventual overthrow of the last dynasty in 1911 and the First and Second World Wars. In the decades following the emperor's fall, the devastation continued, with Chinese warlords, the Japanese army, and a civil war (1941-1949) wreaking havoc on the country. Finally, in 1949, the communist People's Republic of China (PRC) was formed, with the remaining nationalists fleeing to Taiwan (hence the China-Taiwan dispute that continues to this day).

The new Communist government immediately established alliances with the Soviet Union and the countries of its emerging bloc. Internally, China was transformed into a typical communist state, based on a communal order in which all would work together for the common good. In 1957, the party Chairman, Mao Zedong, launched a radical development plan known as the Great Leap Forward, in which he predicted that China would surpass

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

■ **Population:** 1.3 billion, with a 0.57% growth rate*

■ **Natural resources:** Coal, iron ore, petroleum, natural gas, mercury, tin, tungsten, antimony, manganese, molybdenum, vanadium, magnetite, aluminum, lead, zinc, uranium, hydropower potential (world's largest)

■ **Environmental issues:** air pollution (greenhouse gases, sulfur dioxide particulates) from reliance on coal produces acid rain; water shortages, particularly in the north; water pollution from untreated wastes; deforestation; estimated loss of one-fifth of agricultural land since 1949 to soil erosion and economic development; desertification; trade in endangered species

■ **GDP:** Purchasing power parity – \$6.449 trillion**

■ **Military age and obligation:** 18 years of age for compulsory military service, with 24-month service obligation; no minimum age for voluntary service; 17 years of age for women who meet requirements for specific military jobs (2004)

- **Availability** (males ages 15-49): 379,524,688*
- **Fit for military service** (males ages 15-49): 208,143,352*
- **Reaching military age annually:** 12,494,201 men*

Source: CIA World Factbook *2004 estimate **2003 estimate



Britain in industrial output after 15 years. However, within a few years, the plan proved to be a disaster, and China found itself increasingly isolated, both from the West and the Soviet Union. In 1966, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution, with goals of eradicating the remains of any capitalism, recapturing the zeal of the early Chinese communists and increasing his power over the government. But foreign relations continued to sour.

Ironically, at the seeming height of the Cold War, relations between the two Communist giants, China and the Soviet Union, were seemingly the worst. Territorial disputes and border skirmishes between the two countries during the 1960s and 70s were common. The Chinese were afraid of becoming a Czechoslovakia-like Soviet state, and the Russians feared a nuclear-armed, billion-person populated neighbor. While Soviet forces were diverted to protect its border with China, the Chinese government sought Western weaponry as a balance against the Soviet "social imperialism." At the same time, China became perhaps the world's foremost promoter of European unity.

During the 1970s, the military build-up along the Russian-Chinese border was nearly unbelievable. It was estimated that close to a third of Russia's 3.7 million-man army was in the region, enforced by nuclear missiles and a large air force. At the time, China had an armed force of 4.2 million, most of which were also positioned along its northern border, enforced by nuclear missiles capable of reaching most of Russia's major cities.

Many military experts believed this was the largest arms buildup in a specific region that the world had ever seen. Some were certain that war was inevitable. However, by the mid-1970s, the Soviet Union had missed the opportunity to eliminate China's nuclear capabilities, thus bringing the two countries to the state of nuclear deterrence. This stalemate came at the end of the Cold War and provided China with another opportunity to

change and prepare itself for tremendous growth.

The "New China" (1979-2000)

Shortly after Mao's death, the Chinese Communist Party reinstated Deng Xiaoping in 1977 to the post of first deputy premier. By 1978, Deng was in firm control of the Chinese government. He was known to be a moderate reformer and immediately focused on relieving poverty through economic growth. He had once said, "Reform is China's second revolution." Indeed, the social and economic transformation that had been started at this time set China on the general course to becoming the manufacturing giant we know today.

However, bringing that to fruition was primarily left to China's Premier at that time (1980-1987), Zhao Ziyang. Together, armed with the new rationale that "production is to improve the people's livelihood" in contrast to the old dictate that "production is for the revolution," they tackled and reformed agriculture, industry and, most important of all, China's bureaucracy. New foreign technology was imported, foreign investment was courted, students were sent abroad, and military academies were revived and expanded.

In addition, unlike China's previous leaders, Premier Zhao traveled extensively outside his native land. In 1984, he traveled to the U.S., stopping in Washington, New York and San Francisco, emphasizing the issues of trade and investment.

During the final stages of the Cold War, America found China's interest useful in leveraging relations with China against the Soviet Union. However, this was short-lived and quickly became secondary to the trade issue—money overruled strategy and security. This marked the beginning of the trans-Atlantic rift. Culturally, economically, and even strategically, America was drifting away from its traditional European allies and closer to the relatively newer relationships across the Pacific. Consider this in light of current trans-Atlantic relations.

With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, China became the only remaining major world power with a Communist government. Thus, China re-doubled its efforts to ensure that its own system did not follow a similar demise—continued economic liberalization, increased military spending, and all under tight political control (i.e. dictatorship). China's leaders knew that with great economic output comes increased wealth; and with increased wealth comes increased power.

Current Events (2001-2005)—Economic

In just the last few years, China's economy has been simply astonishing—at or near double digit percent increases year after year. Consider these statistics:

■ An October 2002 article in *The Financial Times* indicated that foreign direct investment (FDI) into China for that year was expected to reach a record \$50 billion—making it the world's top investment destination for the first time.

■ A January 2003 article in the *Chicago Sun-Times* showed that China produces 17 percent of all microwaves, 30 percent of televisions and 35 percent of refrigerators, and used more steel last year than the United States and Japan combined.

■ In early 2004, *The Financial Times* reported that China recently surpassed Japan to become the world's second largest consumer of crude oil.

■ That same year, China surpassed the U.S. as Japan's largest trading partner.

■ In early 2005, the Chinese media announced that the EU has "leap-frogged" both the U.S. and Japan to become China's largest trade partner. In addition, they stated that China is the EU's second largest trade partner behind the U.S.

What does all of this mean? How does China's economy relate to or affect others, primarily the U.S.?

Consider the reduction of America's production ability. With the rise of the Far East, and in particular China, as the world's "factory," America's ability to produce goods has been greatly

diminished in the last two decades. What U.S. manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers refer to as “the China price” has driven many to simply shut down their operation. Almost every time, on almost every product, the “China price” beats all others, and by significant margins. Yet, the appearance at the consumer level is little different, and so the general economy can keep operating at relatively normal levels (enormous trade deficits yet to be considered). Recall how important the consumer is to the U.S. economy. Strategically, a reduced production ability or capacity for the U.S. (and a greatly increased one for China) could have far-reaching effects at a time when great world trouble lies just ahead.

Consider also that while American citizens consume more and more inexpensive goods “Made in China,” the U.S. balance-of-payments deficit is nearing a record 6% of GDP. This shortfall—coupled with the U.S. budget deficit—is driving the dollar down, raising fears that cracks will appear in the global financial system. China and the rest of developing Asia now have \$1.4 trillion in reserves, mostly in U.S. dollars. This is more than the combined reserves of the rest of the world (excluding Japan). They do this to keep their currencies from rising against the dollar and therefore keep their exports competitive. The upward pressure on Asian countries’ currencies comes (at least in theory) from them saving too much and not spending enough, while America saves too little and spends too much. In effect, China and Asia are saving on America’s behalf.

However, this can only continue for so long. The American economy cannot continue to grow at its current rate without those foreign savings. The question is whether foreigners will be happy to continue financing this growth with the dollar and asset prices at their present level. The answer is almost certainly not, but the “game” has become so complicated and inter-related that any intended “transition” by any party involved must be made painstakingly slowly—unless, of

course, dramatic circumstances (i.e. a major international event) dictate otherwise.

Current Events (2001-2005)—Strategic

A December 2002 article in *The Globe and Mail* reported that in separate meetings, Russia and China strengthened their “strategic partnership,” while China praised recent increased co-operation between Russia and India. The apparent tri-alliance is an attempt to counter U.S. global dominance and to provide balance to cooperation with Europe. Regarding his trip to Beijing, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, “We’re absolutely certain that the special strategic relationship between Russia and China will not only enable us to solve the problems facing our countries, but also will create a basis for stability in the world.”

After his visit to China, Mr. Putin traveled to India and promptly signed eight major agreements, the most important of which was a declaration for the widening and enhancing of their strategic partnership. Chinese foreign officials hailed the deals saying, “India and Russia are all China’s friendly neighbors. We welcome the development of relations and the friendly cooperation between India and Russia” (www.hinduonnet.com).

The Central Intelligence Agency’s *The World Factbook* confirmed, “China and Russia in 2004 resolved their last border dispute over islands in the Amur and Argun Rivers, but details on demarcation have not yet been worked-out.”

To date, Russia has been China’s primary supplier of weaponry. However, this is all about to change, as Europe prepares to lift military sanctions against China by the end of the year (imposed since the 1989 killing of hundreds of protesters in Tiananmen Square). This has left Russia’s defense industry clamoring to compensate for the expected decline in sales due to new competition for China’s business.

“France and Germany, which are ready to offer to China hi-tech electronic reconnaissance, navigation, communications and target designation systems—the weak points of the Russian

defense industry—already have their sights set on developing this market,” Dmitry Litovkin, a defense analyst wrote in the Moscow-based *Izvestia*” (www.worldtribune.com).

Both Taiwan and North Korea remain useful pawns in China’s chess game with the world, particularly the U.S. In April 2003, *The Washington Post* reported that China had threatened to veto any Security Council statement denouncing North Korea’s behavior. This is to reduce and/or eliminate U.S. influence in the region, while simultaneously (but possibly not intentionally) keeping America’s attention pre-occupied and off the rising powers in Europe, Russia and China. One official has said that the Pentagon has warned for years that the China-Taiwan issue will become critical in the 2005-2008 timeframe.

In April 2001, President Bush stated that the U.S. would do “whatever it takes” to help Taiwan defend itself. Since then, however, political and economic pressures have forced the U.S. to bow to Chinese demands.

Current Events (2001-2005)—Resources

Consider that the average American consumes 25 barrels of oil a year; in China, it is 1.3 barrels per year. However, there are 1.3 billion Chinese, and their economy has been booming and their living standards have greatly increased in recent years. This has resulted in a perceived future shortage of oil and therefore a race now to control supply. So far, China has been the most aggressive, seeking to buy U.S. oil giant Unocal. Venezuela’s President has promised to open up his country’s oil and natural gas fields to China, and Russia has entered into strategic resource agreements with China as well. In addition, China has had a free political hand to gain control of oil resources in “problem” areas such as Iran and Sudan.

The challenge is huge: If China and India’s consumption were ever to reach half of the U.S. level, world oil output would have to double. This is, of course, impossible. Oil is a finite

resource, and many experts believe that global output will soon peak. Amos Nur, a geophysicist at Stanford University, has concluded that “the growing demand for oil is leading to a growing global conflict,” and that recent conflicts (the 1991 Gulf War, the 9/11 attacks, and the current war in Iraq) would “pale in comparison with the looming potential conflict over oil with China.”

Jane's Defence Weekly went further by identifying a competition between China and Japan (historically bitter rival nations) for Russia's oil supplies. It indicated that China's total consumption of energy increased by 12 percent last year, and that it is now a leading oil consumer, second only to the United States. *Jane's Defence Weekly* stated, “One way or another, the growing dependency on oil is rapidly transforming the country's foreign and military policies: China is becoming a true global power not so much as a result of a conscious policy but more out of necessity,” and as such has been “assiduously” courting Moscow for favor.

In addition, Bill Gertz, military/strategic analyst for *The Washington Times*, indicated that China's rapidly expanding navy is directly related to projecting strength abroad and protecting oil shipments from the Middle East. An internal report prepared for U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld described the Chinese as adopting a “string of pearls” strategy consisting of military bases and diplomatic relations along the oil route. The report pointed to significant Chinese projects in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia and Thailand. Recent disputes in the South China Sea are less about territorial claims than about projecting power and protecting resource shipments. Beyond the region, a Chinese company with close ties to the government holds long-term leases on port facilities at both ends of the Panama Canal.

Current Events (2001-2005)—Military

A November 2002 article in *The Washington Times* reported that

Chinese missile technology appears to be far more advanced than what intelligence sources expected, indicating that U.S. dominance of the region is indeed waning. Recent tests of a new anti-ship cruise missile showed a range of twice the distance of what was thought possible. Fired from the air, the increased range of this missile enables the deploying aircraft to remain outside the range of standard anti-aircraft defense systems. Most importantly, this gives China the capability of “over-the-horizon” attacks on naval vessels and, combined with the supersonic speed at which it travels, makes this weapon particularly difficult to stop. It also indicates that land-attack missiles with similar, longer ranges are right around the corner.

In late 2004, the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* reported that in a sign of their ever-growing alliance, China and Russia would hold their first joint military exercise in 2005. The announcement came as Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov visited Beijing and was expected to discuss increasing Moscow's multibillion-dollar annual arms sales to China. “We want...to promote the development of the two countries' strategic collaborative relationship in order to safeguard and promote regional and world peace,” the official China News Service quoted President Hu Jintao as telling Ivanov.

The former Cold War rivals have built military and political ties since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, driven in part by a joint desire to counter U.S. global dominance. China has become Russia's largest customer of military technology and products. The 2004 package was estimated to be worth \$2 billion.

While the U.S. and the EU have banned weapons exports to China since the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, Russia has greatly assisted in advancing and growing the Chinese military, supplying it with high-performance Su-27 fighters and other advanced arms. Ivanov also met with Defense Minister

Cao Gangchuan and Guo Boxiong, deputy chairman of the Communist Party commission that runs China's military. Chinese President Hu Jintao is expected to visit Moscow in May during festivities commemorating the end of World War II.

The Future (2006 and Beyond)

Is China a new superpower? Depending on the technical definition, the answer could be either yes or no. Economically, of course, it currently holds some powerful cards. With Russian and eventually European technology, combined with its own production capacity, in an extremely short time, China could become a military superpower!

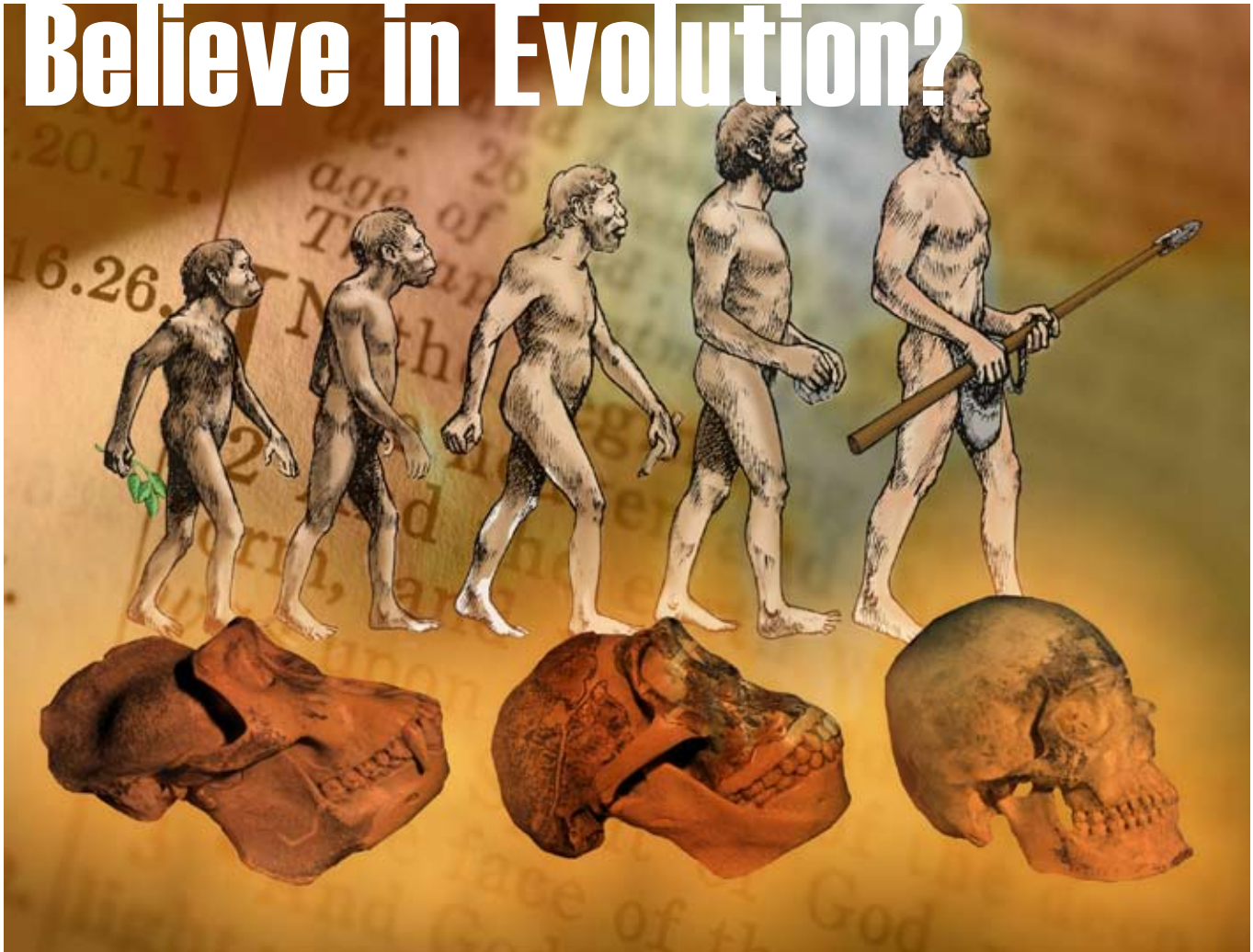
What role then will China play as the end of this age draws to a close?

Bible prophecy (Rev. 9:16; Dan. 11:44) points to the development of a giant Eurasian world power, consisting of a 200-million-man army. This army, which could only be mustered by combining the military forces of Russia and China, plus other Asian neighbors, will initially compete with a European superpower, primarily for control of the Middle East (possibly for oil). Eventually, this Eurasian alliance will destroy the Beast power of the United States of Europe, during which a third of the world's population will be killed.

Will China attack the U.S.? Bible prophecy indicates that this is not likely—when it has been His purpose, God has generally used Assyria (Germany) to punish Israel. However, China may play an indirect role, and will certainly be antagonistic toward the U.S. and its allies. (For more information, read our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY*.)

We have seen China's recent positioning and obvious goals. They, along with most of the rest of the world, will participate in the popular anti-American sentiment. The increasing power of China will play a large part in world events as we near the end. More details on the prophetic future of China will be explained in an upcoming issue of this magazine. □

Can Christians Believe in Evolution?



Many Christians profess the New Testament to be inspired of God. Yet, these same people see validity in some aspects of the theory of evolution. Are these positions compatible? The *New Testament* actually holds the answer to this question!

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

WHEN PEOPLE think of religion, they very seldom link the topic with science. Some even consider these subjects to be polar opposites. Those who profess to be Christian often have no problem believing many of the popular constructs of science. Many theories have been proven—tested—and are considered *laws* of science and physics.

These *proven* disciplines of science have caused many of the world's Christians to assume that evolution is also true. In an effort to “sound” Christian, Creation is fused with evolution to create a hybrid theory. Therefore, many of these same people believe all, or part, of the evolutionary theory. But these concepts are not biblical—nor are they scientific! Seeing this, many are confused.

The result is a wide array of beliefs regarding evolution and religion. Some, unable to integrate the origin of life and the universe into

their religious beliefs, believe certain elements of the theory of evolution. Others assume that science and religion can *never* mix. But nearly all are confused or left in error. This does not have to be the case!

Much of the basis of this thinking can be traced to the modern education system. Decades ago, a belief in God was not accompanied by ridicule and scorn. However, today, even insinuating that a Being had *any* part in designing the universe, and life within it, is met with fiery debate!

People have been indoctrinated with the theory of evolution from a very early age. Notice the official policy of the *National Science Teachers Association*: “There is no longer a debate among scientists over whether evolution has taken place.” Evolution is assumed to be true and taught as such. (To learn more about the theory of evolution, and the shaky pillars upon which it stands, read our brochure *EVOLUTION – Facts, Fallacies and Implications*. It deconstructs this widely believed theory and shows what many disciplines of *science* actually prove! The full topic is too vast for this short article.)

However, the question remains: Can one *be* a Christian and profess to hold to all—or even some—of the theory of evolution? As those who follow Jesus Christ, must Christians believe *all* of His words recorded in the New Testament? And does the New Testament prove the Creation account in the book of Genesis?

It is amazing how much the New Testament—and Christ Himself—records about people and events from the Old Testament. You will never see this subject in the same way again!

Built Upon a Foundation

All buildings have a foundation. This is the base on which the rest of the building stands. Without one, the structure can be easily destroyed. Therefore, the correct foundation ensures longevity. Some may be surprised that the New Testament Church is built upon a foundation. The Bible states that the Church is “built upon the foundation

of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20). In construction, a cornerstone is the *first* stone laid. This verse indicates that Jesus Christ was established *before* the Old Testament prophets and reflects the many Old Testament prophecies foretelling His First Coming. This verse also has another very interesting aspect to it. The teachings in God’s Church come from apostles *and* prophets.

To believe this verse, one must at least believe the teachings and prophecies of the Old Testament. In fact, the New Testament points to the Old Testament much more than most realize. The apostle Paul, in particular, quoted the Old Testament numerous times. In the book of Romans alone, it was quoted 57 times! This is also true of the two epistles to the Corinthians. The first epistle quotes the Old Testament 21 times and the second 10 times. In light of Ephesians 2:20, this should not come as a surprise, since the New Testament is built upon the Old Testament!

But what does this have to do with evolution? How do all the quotes, references and scriptures prove Creation? The link is in *who* the New Testament writers quoted—and the *events* they referenced.

“But Aren’t They All Analogies?”

You may have been taught that many of the accounts in the New Testament are simply analogies—stories—upon which to base your conduct. You may have also learned that because Christ spoke in parables, you cannot *ever* know when he was being literal.

But you should have no doubt as to when Christ was speaking literally and when He was using a parable. In nearly every case, something that is meant as a simile, parable or analogy *is stated as such*. This fact is often ignored because a literal interpretation of the New Testament brings many popular “Christian” beliefs—such as the Creation/evolution hybrid—into doubt.

In Matthew 13, Christ spoke a series of parables. Yet, in each instance, they

are introduced *as* parables. Jesus Christ was always clear and kept things simple! Notice verse 24: “ANOTHER PARABLE put He forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field.” This same pattern is followed in *nearly every* parable in the New Testament.

Christ also clearly references analogies and similes. Notice: “...whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I WILL LIKEN him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock” (Matt. 7:24). You find this pattern repeated over and over in the gospels. Do not let supposed experts confuse a subject that should be very clear.

Parables and analogies *are* used in the New Testament, but for the purpose of making things CLEAR to those whom God has called. They were never meant to be “good principles” or “nice concepts.” Christ wanted such verses to become “real” by applying them to examples to which the audience could relate. But there was another reason Christ used parables: “The disciples...said unto Him, Why speak You unto them [the masses] in parables? He answered and said unto them, because it is given unto *you* to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is *not given*...because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand” (Matt. 13:10-11, 13). Many blur the literal nature of the Bible because “they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.” Will you believe and understand Christ’s words?

The New Testament—and the entire Bible—was recorded for a purpose. II Timothy 3:16 states that *all* Scripture is directly inspired by God. Keep this in mind as we read some verses in the New Testament.

The New Testament Record

There are many verses that directly reference Old Testament *people* and *events*—even the Creation event! The

Please see EVOLUTION, page 26

St. Patrick

More than a Legend?

What is the origin of St. Patrick's Day? How did it start, and exactly who was the person this day supposedly honors? The life of the *real* Patrick is a truly fascinating account.

BY GEORGE C. ROGERS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY is mostly about celebration. It is associated with Irish pride and a legendary figure about whom most people know almost nothing. Regardless of what is known about St. Patrick, the day is always observed in a spirited fashion. The Irish are well known for being a spirited people. Anyone who has visited Ireland readily observes how so many Irish traditionally congregate in local pubs on ordinary evenings in an atmosphere of mirth and enjoyment of life.

St. Patrick's Day has become an annual event, often attracting extensive worldwide media coverage due to the intensity with which this special occasion is celebrated. The celebrants are often equally Irish and non-Irish, since all nationalities enjoy festivities. These celebrations feature the wearing of green clothing, marching in parades and hailing the symbols of shamrocks, leprechauns and other symbols of Irish folklore. Some like to sport green nails and green hair, drink green beer and even paint their faces green.

Why all this honor for St. Patrick? Truly, this icon, who has come to represent Ireland and all things Irish, is virtually enshrined in legend. Could such an individual have ever existed?

Excerpts from an article, "Patrick, Saint," from *The World Book Encyclopedia*, gives us a hint: "...Many legends grew up about this popular saint. One of the best

known is that he charmed the snakes of Ireland down to the seashore so they were driven into the water and drowned. Much else that is told of Saint Patrick is little more than legend. He left a sort of autobiography in his *Confession*, written in crude Latin...Much study has been given to Saint Patrick, but little that goes beyond the testimony of his own writings can be accepted as certain..."

Further study into this topic reveals that the legendary figure is nothing more than a fictitious invention created for the purpose of obscuring the identity of the *real* Patrick and what he represented. We begin this fascinating search by carefully covering some of his own writings along with some observations by reliable historical sources.

Patrick's Background and Youth

From his short autobiography, *Confession*, we find that Patrick's father was named Calpurnius, a deacon in a church of the Christian religion. His grandfather, Potitus, was a presbyter in that same church. Patrick and his ancestors lived in the ancient town of Banavan in the area he called "the Britains." Some sources place the location of this town near the English/Scottish border, while Neander, in his *General History of the Christian Religion and Church*, places the location decidedly in southern Scotland, yet reckoned to the province of Britain. The approximate date of his birth was somewhere between A.D. 360 to 380.

Before continuing with what Patrick disclosed in his *Confession*, one source adds some interesting insight about his family. Patrick's father was a landowner and a decurion—an official in the provisional Roman government (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th ed., vol. 21, p. 933). This meant that Patrick and his ancestors were Roman citizens—a definite badge of nobility. Although his British name was Succat, we will refer to him as Patrick, translated from his Roman name Patricius.

In *Confession*, Patrick explained that he was captured from the farm owned by his ancestors: "I was then almost sixteen years of age. I did not know the true God; and was taken to Ireland in captivity with many thousand men in accordance with our [just] deserts, because we walked at a distance from God and did not observe

His commandments.” Patrick had been kidnapped by pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland, where he remained for six to seven years. During this time, he acquired the Irish dialect of the Celtic language. Being able to communicate in the Irish dialect was crucial in regard to his future work in Ireland.

His years in captivity had intensified his desire to seek the truth. Cathcart, in his *The Ancient British and Irish Churches*, further disclosed that after escaping captivity, he returned home to Scotland, where he remained for about ten years. There, he solidified his convictions by drinking in the words of the Scriptures for which he had thirsted while in slavery.

Patrick's Beliefs—Celtic Christianity

At this point, it is crucial that the distinction be made pertaining to the religion of Patrick and his ancestors, as opposed to the religion that became dominant in the Roman Empire. He and his relatives were deeply committed to Celtic Christianity. They lived during the late fourth century A.D., when the church at Rome had come of age and was opposing original apostolic Christianity, calling it “Judiazing.”

Celtic Christianity had been taken to the British Isles by some of the original apostles and their associates, as recorded in numerous sources, including *Remains of Britain*. Even the Catholic historian Archbishop Ussher acknowledged that the Church in Ireland was established soon after the death of Christ by disciples from the Asian (Judean) churches.

The Celtic Church in the British Isles had maintained the original teachings of the apostles without compromise. It had been insulated from much of the direct intimidation by the church at Rome, which could call upon the state to force all within the confines of the Roman Empire to conform or face deportation or death. Some pressure had been exerted in England and Wales, while Ireland and Scotland were less impeded in their continuation of apostolic Christianity.

“The Celts believed in a literal interpretation of the Genesis account of the creation of man and the universe. Free moral agency was stressed, salvation could not be forced on anyone. Obedience of the Ten Commandments was a vital requirement for one wishing to obtain salvation, but even so, the Celtic Christian did not believe in salvation by works...Sincere prayer was advocated as vain repetition was not acceptable. There was no invocation of saints, angels or martyrs in the early Celtic Church” (*The Incredible History of God's True Church*, Fletcher).

To appreciate the Celtic Church's identification with Sabbath observance before, during and after Patrick's ministry in Ireland, note the following: “It seems to have been customary in the Celtic churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labor. They obeyed the

tion, and the primacy of Peter” (*Truth Triumphant*, Wilkinson, p.108).

Patrick Returns to Ireland

During those years at home, Patrick was in preparation (by intense study of the Scriptures) for what awaited him in the future. Some distorted accounts recorded hundreds of years later claimed that Patrick, some time after his captivity, had gone to a Catholic monastery in Gaul as preparation for his future commission. Such accounts were mere fabrications, since, in his own account, Patrick never mentioned any connection with the Roman Catholics.

Patrick had a realistic dream in which the Irish were beckoning him to come and teach them as they proclaimed, “We pray thee, holy youth, to come and walk again amongst us as before” (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th ed., vol. 21, p. 933). Patrick was determined to answer this commission,

“The fictitious St. Patrick has served well to hide the true identity of Patrick...”

fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week” (*The Church in Scotland*, Moffatt, 1882, p. 140).

The dying words of Columba, a successor of Patrick, follows: “This day is called the Sabbath, that is, the day of rest, and such will it truly be to me; for it will put an end to my labors” (*Lives of the Saints*, Butler, vol. 6, p. 139).

Concerning the training given in the Celtic Church during and after the time of Patrick, we read, “The youth in the Culdee [Celtic Church in Scotland about the 6th century] schools clung to the fundamental Christian doctrines, such as the divinity of Christ, baptism, the atonement, inspiration of the Scriptures, the prophecies connected with the last days. They did not accept the doctrines of infallibility, celibacy, transubstantiation, the confessional, the mass, relic worship, image adora-

tion, and the primacy of Peter” (*Truth Triumphant*, Wilkinson, p.108).

which he regarded as being “from God.” This is similar to the account recorded in Acts 16:9-10, in which the apostle Paul had a vision or dream of a man from Macedonia bidding him to “come over into Macedonia, and help us.” Patrick readily complied, just as Paul had done.

With a number of helpers, Patrick traveled back to Ireland to teach the Irish the same gospel that some of their ancestors had received from the original apostles three centuries earlier. His first destination in Ireland was the very location where he had been held captive. Notice: “Therefore he proceeded immediately to County Antrim in the northwest, where he had endured slavery. While he failed to win his former slave master, he was successful in converting the master's household” (*Truth Triumphant*, p. 85).

For the remaining sixty years of his life, Patrick reinforced apostolic

Christianity in Ireland, which took root and flourished for about 700 years. "The training centers he founded, which later grew into colleges and large universities, were all Bible schools" (Ibid.). Probably the most famous student who would emerge from these schools was Columba, an Irishman of the royal family who dedicated his life to service in Scotland. Interestingly enough, Patrick had been a Scotsman who dedicated his life to service in Ireland.

Patrick (380-472) had been the founder of the Bible schools and training centers in Ireland, some of which developed into colleges. Under the leadership of Columba (521-600), these colleges grew, with some developing into universities in both Ireland and Scotland.

Some historians claim that these schools were monasteries as existed under the Roman church. Others who referred to these schools as monasteries clearly recognized them as being radically different from all forms of Catholic monasteries. For example, the Celtic Church had always advocated stable close-knit families and permitted the clergy to marry, just as it opposed the practice of celibacy.

To Patrick, the churches and schools were inseparable. Neither could exist for long without the other, because true salvation had always been a process of education. He knew that without the underpinnings of a sound education, people could be easily deceived and led into error by false religion.

Concerning the range of subjects studied in these Celtic schools, notice: "The monastery was, in fact, a college where all the branches of learning then known were diligently cultivated; where astronomy was studied; where Greek as well as Latin literature entered into the curriculum; where the sons of kings and nobles received tuition; and where pious and promising youths were training up for the sacred office...But theology was the subject with which the attention of the teachers of the monastery was chiefly occupied; the Bible was their daily textbook; their pupils were required to

commit much of it to memory" (Ibid., p. 108).

Celtic Christianity flourished in Ireland since it was regarded as a wilderness by Rome. Patrick's commission to this island was greatly enhanced by this fact. He truly had led a portion of "the church in the wilderness" (Rev. 12:6) in his lifetime.

After seven centuries of relative freedom, Ireland finally came under the subjugation of the Roman church. The many schools, colleges and universities were taken over. So powerful had been the contribution of Patrick and his successors that it became necessary to invent a fictitious Patrick—one loyal to the church of Rome. In the course of mankind's struggles and wars, "the victors always rewrite history," and the church of Rome was no different.

Rome Obscures Patrick's Work

It is crucial to understand Patrick's rejection of emissaries from Rome: "He [Patrick] never mentions either Rome or the pope or hints that he was in any way connected with the ecclesiastical capital of Italy. He recognizes no other authority than that of the word of God...When Palladius arrived in the country, it was not to be expected that he would receive a very hearty welcome from the Irish [servant of God]. If he was sent by [Pope] Celestine to the native Christians to be their primate or archbishop, no wonder that stouthearted Patrick refused to bow his neck to any such yoke of bondage" (*Ecclesiastical History of Ireland*, Killen, vol. 1, pp. 12-15, as quoted in *Truth Triumphant*, p. 37).

Here are excerpts from an extensive summary of Rome's attempt to cloud the issues: "They [medieval biographers] wrote of his [Patrick's] studying with St. Germain, and of his attending a monastery near the Mediterranean, and finally of his going to Rome and receiving ordination from the pope. All these are mere inventions, and were not put forth till more than five hundred years after St. Patrick's death and all of them are presented without a shadow of proof...In the establishment of his Church, St. Patrick in no instance ever

appealed to any foreign Church, pope or bishop. In his *Epistle to Coroticus* (sect. 1), he simply announces himself as bishop: 'I, Patrick, an unlearned man, to wit, a bishop constituted in Ireland: what I am I have received from God'... These well authenticated statements of St. Patrick concerning himself are wholly at variance with those of Probus and Joscelyn, who, for the first time, put forth their fabrications full five hundred years after his death. In regard to his studying with St. Germain at Tours, and of his going to Rome for ordination, all these stories were invented in the 10th or 12th century (*Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, McClintock and Strong, Vol. 7, pp. 774-775).

Another attempt to connect Patrick with Rome involved an account of legendary proportions: "Sleep came over the inhabitants of Rome, so that Patrick brought away as much as he wanted of the relics. Afterward those relics were taken to Armagh [the location of Patrick's largest school in northern Ireland]...What was brought then was three hundred and threescore and five relics, together with the relics of Paul and Peter and Lawrence and Steven, and many others. And a sheet was there with Christ's blood [thereon] and with the hair of Mary the Virgin" (*Truth Triumphant*, p. 87). Of this mythical theft, one papal writer rebuked Patrick: "O wondrous deed! O rare theft of a vast treasure of holy things, committed without sacrilege, the plunder of the most holy place in the world" (Ibid., p. 82).

Many other attributes were ascribed to Patrick in order to obscure his works. They include such accounts as his luring all the snakes out of Ireland, his illustrating the shamrock to teach the trinity (a doctrine that he never believed) and shamrocks sprouting from his body at the time of his death.

The fictitious St. Patrick has served well to hide the true identity of Patrick from the masses of humanity for many centuries. In spite of all these misleading legends, the truth about "St. Patrick" is far more fascinating than fiction. □

EVOLUTION

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scriptures listed below cover a wide range of topics. Yet, they all have one thing in common. Each is a statement from Christ or an apostle about events and people of the *Old* Testament.

When you read them, ask yourself if Christ and the apostles were confused—or if they blurred the truth to help make a statement. The only other option is to see these quotes for what they are—the inspired Word of God! These verses will help you understand why it is impossible to espouse evolution while declaring oneself a Christian:

■ “For *Adam* was first FORMED, then *Eve*” (I Tim. 2:13-15). This verse is a direct endorsement of the Creation account!

■ “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses...” (Rom. 5:14).

■ “...the *first man Adam* was made a living soul; the *last Adam* [Christ] was made a quickening spirit” (I Cor. 15:45). Christ, as the second Adam, is a type of the first.

■ “For as in *Adam* all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (I Cor. 15:22).

■ “And *Enoch* also, the seventh from *Adam*...” (Jude 1:14-15). Genealogies in the Old Testament are very extensive. When summarized in the New Testament, this validates the detailed renditions in the Old Testament.

■ “So all the generations from *Abraham to David* are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations” (Matt. 1:17).

■ “But He [Christ] said unto them, Have you not read what *David* did...” (Matt. 12:3).

■ “The LORD said unto My Lord, Sit You on My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool? If *David* then call Him Lord, how is He his Son?” (Matt. 22:44-45).

■ “Joseph, you *son of David*, fear not to take unto you Mary your wife...” (Matt. 1:20).

■ “Take, my brethren, *the prophets*, who have spoken in the name of the Lord... You have heard of the *patience of Job*...” (Jms. 5:10-11).

While the previous list is extensive enough that most would not dismiss it as analogy, metaphor or myth, the most telling account is recorded in the gospels. The Old Testament is very clear that Christ would have *direct* lineage from King David. The book of Luke records this in exact detail. In fact, this passage identifies Christ’s lineage all the way back to Adam (3:23-38)! While it is too long to quote here, you may wish to read it. It is ridiculous to believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and, at the same time, dismiss this passage. Further still, the implications of Christ’s lineage to Adam are extremely important. To have been the second Adam and inheritor of David’s throne (upon which Christ will sit at His Second Coming), Christ’s lineage must be clear! Given the importance of this line, would Luke—inspired by God—make a mistake by incorrectly recording it? Was the Creator of the universe unable to ensure the accuracy of this passage? If so, can we trust *anything* written in the Bible?

While not related to the Creation account, there are many more scriptures pointing to Old Testament figures and events. For instance, Christ compared the end of the modern age to “Noah’s day” (Luke 17:26) and Sodom and Gomorrah (vs. 29). These verses alone PROVE two often contested Old Testament events. Either these events happened or Jesus Christ is a liar!

The New Testament also refers to the preachers of righteousness. The lives of these men spanned hundreds of years! Further, Moses is referenced in the New Testament 79 times! Are you beginning to see why the New Testament is built on the prophets—and why evolution is incompatible with true Christianity?

Countless more examples could be given. Each one serves to strengthen

the others. However, we have already gone beyond the Creation event. Simply put, the New Testament without the Old Testament would be as useless as a building without a foundation. It would have no support and much of it would simply not make sense!

If you profess to be Christian, examine your beliefs and analyze *why* you believe what you do.

The Second Adam—And You!

Understanding all that has been discussed carries deeper implications beyond whether or not evolution is true. As we have seen, Christ is referred to as the *second* Adam. In the Garden of Eden, Adam was given a chance to live God’s Way. However, he rejected God, and the world as we know it is the result. Christ’s *First* Coming was part of God’s plan to give all mankind an opportunity for salvation. Christ passed the test!

If the first Adam never existed, there would have been no need for Christ to come and qualify to rule earth. If there was not a first Adam, the reason for Christ’s first coming would not be true! Again, there would be no need for a *second* Adam, because there would have never been a first.

This is one reason why it is important to understand the events of Creation. It is fundamental to the entire Plan of God! (To learn more about God’s plan for *you*, read our book *The AWESOME POTENTIAL of Man.*)

The Bible record is clear. Christ and the apostles were not confused! They understood the importance of the Creation event, and Christ understood that it would become blurred today. So we are left with a record—the Holy Bible. It allows *you* to understand the validity of the Old Testament, the truth of Creation and the implications that this brings.

You are left with a simple choice. And, as we have seen, neither option is compatible with the other: Will you believe the God, and Creator, of the universe, or will you believe the ideas, theories and opinions of men? □

GAMBLING

Continued from page 15

ner” would receive a lesser prize than advertised—or no prize at all! This sparked an eventual nationwide ban on state involvement in gambling, which lasted from approximately 1878 to 1964.

The dry spell ended in March 1964 with the introduction of a “sweepstakes” in the state of New Hampshire. This libertarian state’s avoidance of the term “lottery,” among other clever tactics, enabled lawmakers to evade Federal anti-lottery laws. Other states followed New Hampshire’s example, and a trend

of gambling expansion was underway.

America’s northern neighbor, Canada, has historically paralleled the U.S. in its gambling legislation. In 1817, a law to ban all games of chance failed to pass in Lower Canada (modern Quebec) due to intense popular opposition. However, in 1856, the Act Concerning Lotteries did pass, which banned this particular form of gaming. Interestingly, this law most directly affected the young nation’s Catholic clergy, who had been using lottery profits for nearly a century. Legal gambling returned to Canada in 1969, as the country’s Criminal Code was amended to allow provincial lotteries, casinos, and lottery licenses for

charitable and religious organizations (*North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries*).

Does the Bible address the subject of gambling? Since gambling proceeds are commonly used by churches, may we assume that this practice is biblical? What about scriptural accounts of casting lots?

Were you aware that a well-known Bible hero gambled?

What accounts for gambling’s broad appeal? Why is participation in this activity growing so quickly?

In Part Two of this series, we will answer these questions and look at the root *cause* of gambling’s popularity in modern society. □

NEW

Continued from page 9

Scripture is devoted to prophecy.

God’s Word focuses much of its attention on the city of Jerusalem. And, for the most part, it only addresses other peoples and nations as they relate to, and have contact with, this ancient city. Even in these modern times, Jerusalem, which is home to Judaism, Islam and traditional Christianity, remains the religious and geopolitical focal point of the world.

Psalm 83 reveals a future time of trouble for the modern nation of Israel. Notice: “Keep not You silent, O God: hold not Your peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, Your enemies make a tumult: and they that hate You have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted against Your hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are *confederate* against you” (vs. 1-5).

A confederation of nations will assemble together and conspire against Israel. But who will these nations be?

Let’s continue reading: “The tabernacles of *Edom* [modern Turkey],

and the *Ishmaelites* [Saudi Arabia]; of *Moab* [southern Jordan], and the *Hagarenes* [Syria]; *Gebal* [Lebanon], and *Ammon* [northern Jordan], and *Amalek* [scattered in the mid-east]; the *Philistines* [Palestinian Arabs] with the inhabitants of Tyre [Lebanon]; *Assur* [modern Germany] also is joined with them: they have helped the *children of Lot* [Jordan and western Iraq]” (vs. 6-8).

Though the light of democracy may seem to be shining in the Middle East, this present scenario will give way to a much darker future. These and other verses reveal that a confederation of Islamic states, allied with a German-led United Europe, will rise to take “crafty counsel” against Israel, and capture Jerusalem, its capital (Zech. 14:1-2).

These Islamic nations, which have long held much hatred and envy for Israel, will “clap their hands” with glee as they pass by and survey the state of their fallen enemy: “They hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth? All your enemies have opened their mouth against you: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it. The LORD has done that which He had

devised; He has fulfilled His word that He had commanded in the days of old: He has thrown down, and has not pitied: and He has caused your enemy to rejoice over you, He has set up the horn of your adversaries” (Lam. 2:15-17).

But how could Israel’s staunchest allies, the United States and Britain, allow such a horrible defeat to take place? The Bible speaks of future events regarding the nations of the “east,” “north” and “south”—all from Jerusalem’s perspective. But nowhere does it mention the nations of the “west”—why? Could it be that there will come a time when they will no longer exist? If so, how and when will this come about? God’s Word reveals much about future events involving Jerusalem and the Jewish state of Israel, as well as Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Germany, etc. Yet, it appears to be silent about the fate of America...or is it?

If the Bible is truly inspired by God and one-third of it is prophecy—with about 90 percent of it yet to be fulfilled—then how can it be silent about the fate of the United States, the most powerful nation on the face of the earth, and in mankind’s history?

To learn the answer, read our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY*, and be prepared to be amazed! □

DEMOCRACY

Continued from page 12

The Connecticut statute conflicts with the exercise of this right and is therefore null and void” (*The Oyez Project: U.S. Supreme Court Multimedia*).

In summary, the assumed “right of privacy” was created out of thin air. This decision led to the “right of privacy” being later applied in the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion across the United States: “The Court held that a woman’s right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy (recognized in *Griswold v. Connecticut*) protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision gave a woman total autonomy over the pregnancy during the first trimester and defined different levels of state interest for the second and third trimesters. As a result, the laws of 46 states were affected by the Court’s ruling” (*Ibid.*).

Robert Bork, a Supreme Court Justice nominee, explained the court’s agenda in deciding such cases: “It is almost a matter for regret that Connecticut had not threatened the institution of marriage, or even attempted to prevent anyone from using contraceptives, since that left some admirable sentiments, expressed with rhetorical fervor [by the court], dangling irrelevantly in midair. But

the protection of marriage was not the point of *Griswold*. The creation of a new device for *judicial power to remake the Constitution* was the point” (*The Tempting of America*).

In addition to being a watershed decision, *Roe v. Wade* illustrates how a document’s meaning and intent can be twisted and subverted. A Pandora’s Box of fabricated legal precedents is now spreading corruption and confusion across the social landscape.

Today, there are many powerful influences in America pulling at its foundation. The traditional meaning and status of the family unit is under attack. Marriage—which previous generations understood as *only* a man and woman in holy wedlock—is being redefined to be all-inclusive.

Consider: The homosexual community contends that the Constitution affords it the *right* to openly practice “alternative lifestyles,” *and* with guaranteed equality of the benefits provided to heterosexuals. The terms “right of privacy” and “equal protection” are regularly used to demand what was once unthinkable only a few short years ago: the right to marry.

Radical environmental movements have been successful in working against the document that plainly guarantees personal liberty, private property rights and freedom of commerce.

Texas congressman Ron Paul gave this warning: “Once it becomes acceptable to change the rules by majority vote, there are no longer any limits on the power of government. When the Constitution can be subverted by mere legislative votes, executive orders or judicial decrees, constitutional restraints on the government are eliminated. This process was rare in the early days of our history, but is now routine” (“Sorry, Mr. Franklin, ‘We’re All Democrats Now,’” Jan. 29, 2003).

The Root Cause

The Preamble of the U.S. Constitution reveals the lofty goals that the founders set out to attain: “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Whether called “democracy,” “Constitution-based federal republic,” etc., this system of government is by far the best system of laws and distribution of power that imperfect men could ever devise.

Yet, it is flawed. It has not established permanent and unwavering justice or truly ensured lasting “domestic tranquility.” Although it has pro-



THE WORLD TO COME

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tected Americans from living under a Hitler-like regime, it has also allowed society to degenerate into accepting behavior that was once unthinkable. Despite the founders' noble intentions, democracy has given birth to a society in which "anything goes"—what was once frowned upon is now cheerfully embraced; what was once done in secret is now exhibited for all to see.

The reason is simple. The problems that plague democracy—and all other manmade forms of government—are *spiritual* in nature. It is in each person's nature to decide *for himself* right from wrong, good from evil. God's Word has much to say on this:

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes" (Prov. 21:2).

"All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes" (Prov. 16:2).

"There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (vs. 25).

"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23).

In Galatians 5, God inspired the apostle Paul to describe the depths of human nature (vs. 19-21).

Why is mankind like this? Because it is within man's nature to reject the GREAT LAWGIVER, the One who creates, executes and makes judgment for the *only* laws that can produce true success. Notice: "Because the carnal mind is *enmity* [HOSTILE] against God: for it is *not* subject to the LAW of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). And God's Law is spiritual (Rom. 7:14); it defines and regulates the proper relationship people are to have between themselves and with their Creator (vs. 7; 13:8-10).

Since no two people absolutely agree on *every* standard of behavior and thinking, men are constantly at odds with each other. And without a SUPREME LAWMAKER to lead and direct them, men *cannot* walk and live together in true and lasting peace and universal prosperity (Amos 3:3).

Consider this: President Abraham Lincoln once proclaimed a national day of fasting, calling for the American people to seek their Creator. If the

President did such a thing today, he would be immediately vilified by the news media and political opponents. In a fit of rage, critics would cry, "Separation of church and state! Separation of church and state!"

As the years go by, and generations come and go, societal tastes and values change. What was acceptable and fully embraced in Lincoln's day would now be considered taboo and, for some, a "threat"—all because every man chooses to do what is "right in his own eyes" (Jud. 21:25).

A New Government to Come

Mankind has tried every conceivable form of government—and ALL have been dismal failures, usually ending in bloodshed. History confirms this. America's imperfect republic is degenerating into a secular democracy, resulting in widespread injustice and eventually leading to chaos and violence. Either tyranny will ascend from the ashes—or a more organized and ruthless enemy will conquer a physically, morally—and spiritually—defeated nation. (To learn more, read our book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN BIBLE PROPHECY*.)

But there is GOOD NEWS! A new and far better form of government is just over the horizon. It will replace all governments of men and usher in a utopia of worldwide peace. Notice: "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever" (Isa. 9:6-7).

But how will this occur? Will it be done by the work of imperfect men?

No. "The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (vs. 7). To learn more about the exciting details of things to come, read our book *TOMORROW'S WONDERFUL WORLD – An Inside View!* □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

understand it to this day, I accept it as a revelation of God...To explain and illustrate the Trinity is one of the most difficult assignments to a Christian."

How true! With at least ten recognized versions or definitions—descriptions—of the trinity, no wonder it cannot be understood.

In the world, mystery books are often the bestsellers. Everyone seems to like the proverbial "Whodunit?" Any mystery in which a crime was committed involves several critical elements that must eventually come to light—perpetrator, victim, crime scene, weapon, motive and other evidence. When this happens, there is tremendous satisfaction and excitement. No one would read a mystery book or watch a mystery movie if they knew in advance that the writer or producer of the mystery was not going to solve it in the end.

The mysteries of men's religions are different, however. They always *remain* mysteries. In the end, they are never explained—never solved—and followers of these religions are told they must accept this. This is no truer than when it comes to the concept of a triune god. Why would vast numbers of people be willing to accept, for a lifetime, a mystery *about God*, when they would not accept this of a mere *book* or *movie*? Yet, they do.

(In our new book, *The TRINITY – Is God three-in-one?*, you will see the baffling "mystery" of the supposed trinity god SOLVED.)

If the trinity represents the true God, we could ask: *Why* is there such widespread confusion and division about Him? Why is not the subject of God *clear—plain*—to the common man? The apostle Paul, under inspiration, recorded that "God is not the author of confusion" (I Cor. 14:33). Confusion is not the way of God. He never wants His servants to be in confusion. Why then have so many been willing to accept without question such widespread confusion and disagreement on the nature of God? So many of these

same people readily say, “God just doesn’t seem very real to me.” But they seem willing to let Him *remain* a mystery to them. Not only do the masses on earth today stand in ignorance of life’s most important knowledge, including both the identity of the true God and correct understanding of the many biblical truths that He teaches, most do not appear to care about this. Billions do not even seem to *want* to know—to *want* to solve the mysteries of God and His Word.

All of this said, you may have a certain amount of difficulty understanding some of the contents of our new book. In a sense, that may actually be good! Remember, the supposed god of the trinity has always been deemed unable to be explained or understood—a permanent mystery. This “god” has never made sense—and has never been the teaching of the Bible. It should not be strange then that the parts of this book that discuss the trinity will be somewhat confusing. After all, this is the core of the problem. Perhaps the best description of the trinity is summed up in the words of Winston Churchill, speaking of Russian actions in 1939 in World War II: “It is a *riddle* wrapped in a *mystery* inside an *enigma*.”

As you read, you will see that this famous saying almost perfectly defines the orthodox teaching of the trinity.

But all the Bible’s mysteries can—and should—be understood! What would be the point of God recording the many statements about Himself in His inspired Word so that none could ever grasp their meaning—comprehend them? Perhaps more than any other doctrine, God desires His servants to be able to understand and differentiate Him from all other gods. This means they must know how to carefully identify and separate *Him*—the *true God*—from the endless array of false gods, devised as part of men’s religions.

The baffling “mystery” of the trinity will be *proven* to be a fiction of men—and no part of the Bible’s teachings.

Coded Book

The Bible is a coded book. It is written as a kind of jigsaw puzzle, creating a

series of pictures and an overall picture that only become clear in meaning when one properly pieces together all the various passages on a subject. Isaiah 28:10 describes God’s Word as written “here a little, and there a little.” This is the way we will study this subject. Also, we must let the Bible interpret itself, and this will be done throughout our new “trinity” book. Because professing Christianity has not understood these two points, it has remained deceived, seduced by a counterfeit church, led by the counterfeit god of this world, who has substituted himself in place of the true God.

Again, mankind has been deceived about God’s AWESOME PURPOSE for it. Notice: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him” (I Cor. 2:9). Here then is Paul, under inspiration, explaining how men *can* understand both the truths and mysteries of God: “But God has REVEALED THEM [spiritual things] unto us by His Spirit...” (vs. 10). Take note that spiritual knowledge is not revealed by any supposed third *Person* of the trinity, called the Holy Spirit. Only “God” can reveal the truth of the Bible to those whom He is calling (John 6:44, 65)—and His Holy Spirit is the agent He uses to do this.

Counterfeit Church

You will learn that the teaching of the triune, “three-in-one” god comes from the great, false UNIVERSAL RELIGION, described in Revelation 17:5 as “Mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.” This “woman church” has used the trinity to infiltrate and deceive all of traditional Christianity. Originally introduced with much controversy, she has been able to successfully use this doctrine to limit the true God to a supposed three persons.

Part of this seduction has been then to necessarily introduce “another Jesus” (II Cor. 11:3-4), who becomes the centerpiece of “another gospel” (same passage), taught as a replacement of the *true* gospel of Jesus Christ,

which is the KINGDOM OF GOD. All of this deception in turn is derived from and has been impelled by “another spirit” (also same passage)—that of the god of this world—active throughout this world’s “churchianity” in the form of the counterfeit trinity god. The kingdom of God—Christ’s message—offers the only real future for a world otherwise without hope. Only Christ’s soon-coming, world-ruling SUPERGOVERNMENT will solve humanities worst problems, trouble, evils and ills.

Most assume that the word *trinity* is surely found in the Bible. But even this is not true—the word itself is nowhere in the Bible. The term and its meaning are a complete invention of deceived men. With this invention, the universal church has, in fact, been responsible for literally *disfellowshipping*—EXCOMMUNICATING!—the true God of the Bible from the world of supposed Christianity!

WHO and WHAT then is God? Can He be understood? This book pulls back the veil concealing the true God from mankind and introduces Him to you. It will explain the origin and history of the trinity doctrine—and will cover the principle scriptures often cited to supposedly “prove” it, exposing the logic—actually the illogic—of trinitarian theology. It will explain the nature and role of the Holy Spirit. It will also answer the question, “Who and what was Christ?”—and “Is the Christ of the Bible the same as the one worshipped in popular Christendom?” And it will bring irrefutable contrary *proof*—the TRUTH—from Scripture about the *real* nature of the *true* God of the Bible and Creation. This will open the door to understanding God’s true plan for mankind.

Read *The TRINITY – Is God three-in-one?*, and you will be stunned at what you will learn. The subject is compelling reading and unlike what you might expect on one that *appears* to be esoteric or only able to be understood by intellectuals. In fact, you may also find yourself wondering how anyone could possibly believe a doctrine so easily seen to be of pagan origin. □

WORLD NEWS DESK

AN EDITORIAL ANALYSIS OF WORLD NEWS, TRENDS AND CONDITIONS



GEOPOLITICS, STRATEGIES & ECONOMIES

Neo-Nazis March in Dresden

Thousands of Neo-Nazis marched in Dresden, Germany, disrupting the official 60th anniversary commemoration of one of the fiercest Allied bombing raids of the Second World War. Police estimated that at least 3,000 people joined the march in the eastern German city, and that up to 5,000 had attended a Nazi rally earlier. The Neo-Nazis have seized upon a recent and popular German sentiment that Nazis were also “victims” during World

War III! They have made significant political gains, particularly in the east.

Dresden had remained largely unscathed during the war, but was destroyed by two waves of British bombers on the night of February 13, 1945, followed by a U.S. wave on the 14th. The official death toll from the bombings was 35,000, although many believe the number to be much higher, as bodies were reduced to ashes in the firestorms that followed.

“We expect an official apology from Britain,” NDP (National Democratic Party – a far-right party, made up largely of Neo-Nazis) leader Udo Voigt told *Reuters* on the margins of the march.

Last month, the NDP members who sit in the Dresden-based Saxony state parliament walked out of a ceremony commemorating the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Source: *Reuters News Agency*

Russia-Syria Arms Agreement

Syrian President Bashar Assad recently visited Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, resulting in the signing of a military cooperation agreement that would pave the way for the sale of Russian weapons to Syria. In addition, the countries agreed to resolve the \$13 billion Syrian debt to the former Soviet Union. “The two countries agree to pursue traditional cooperation in the military-technical sphere in keeping with their mutual interests and international obligations,”

the Russian *Itar-Tass* news agency reported. The debt dispute that had been holding up cooperation has now been eliminated: “We have resolved the debt issue on mutually acceptable terms, which gives us the basis for long-term cooperation in the future,” Mr. Putin said.

It is understood that Syria had earlier signed a \$20 million deal to acquire the Russian SA-18 surface-to-air, short-range air defense systems, but the deal was suspended amid

pressure from both the U.S. and Israel. “These are defensive weapons, air defense, to prevent aircraft from entering our airspace,” Mr. Assad said. “If Israel is against us acquiring them, it’s as if it was saying ‘We want to attack Syria but we don’t want them to protect themselves.’” In addition to the SA-18, Syria has also expressed interest in the Iskander-E long-range rocket, anti-tank missiles and the TOR-M1 anti-aircraft defense system.

Source: *The World Tribune*

Prostitution and Unemployment Benefits in Germany

Although prostitution has been legally recognized in Germany as a bona fide “profession” for over two years, the government recently began enforcing welfare reform legislation denying unemployment benefits to women under the age of 55 who

refuse to take jobs in the sex industry: “The government had considered making brothels an exception on moral grounds, but decided that it would be too difficult to distinguish them from bars. As a result, job centres must treat employers looking for a prostitute

in the same way as those looking for a dental nurse.”

The Telegraph also quoted one lawyer as saying, “There is now nothing in the law to stop women from being sent into the sex industry.”

Source: www.telegraph.co.uk

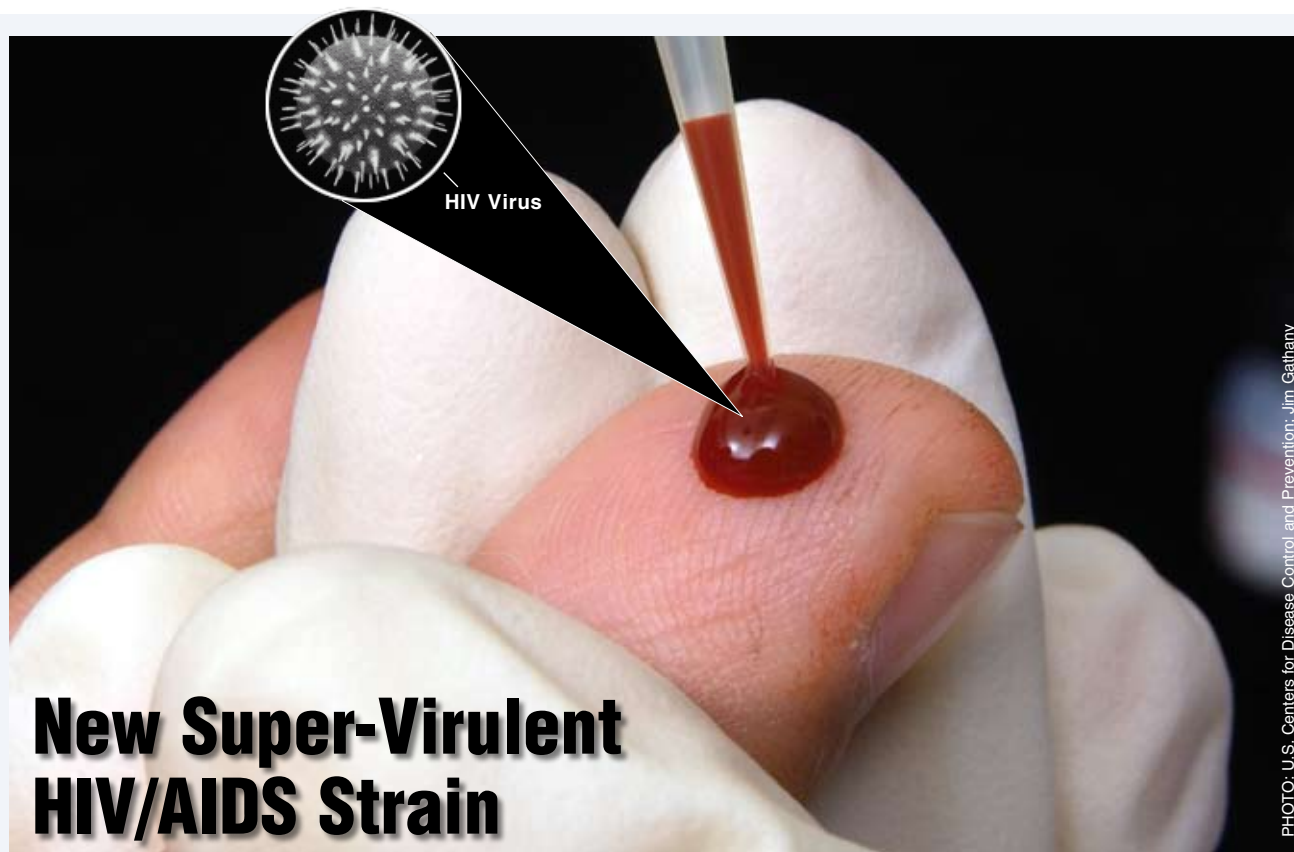


PHOTO: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Jim Gathany

New Super-Virulent HIV/AIDS Strain

A new strain of the HIV/AIDS virus discovered in a homosexual male from New York City has raised alarm around the world. The new strain is resistant to three of the four types of anti-viral drugs, and it also progresses from the usual HIV infection to full-blown AIDS in only two or three months.

"We've identified this strain of HIV

that is difficult or impossible to treat and which appears to progress rapidly to AIDS," said New York City Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden. "We have not seen a case like this before. It holds the potential for a very serious public health problem. It is likely there are others infected with this strain and this individual has infected others," Mr. Frieden said. The case is "extremely

concerning and a wake-up call."

Almost 90,000 citizens of New York City (which has a population of 7.3 million) have been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. This new case also involves a man from San Diego, and it has also been reported that resistant strains in Boston may be identical.

Sources: *Bloomberg*; *The Chicago Tribune*; *The New York Post*

Human-Animal Hybridization

Scientists have begun to further blur the line between humans and animals by creating "chimeras"—a hybrid creature that is part human and part animal. As reported here previously, Chinese scientists had successfully fused human cells with rabbit eggs in 2003. More recently in Minnesota, researchers created pigs last year with human blood flowing through their bodies. It is expected this year that an experiment will proceed in California that will attempt to create mice with human brains.

The premise is that animal-human hybrids will be ideal to test drugs and to "grow" organs (e.g. a human liver) that

can later be "harvested" for transplant into a person. Of course such possibilities raise some troubling questions for society: At what point would you consider the "hybrid" to be human? What rights, if any, would it have?

Some countries have banned the creation of chimeras. Irv Weissman, director of Stanford University's Institute of Cancer/Stem Cell Biology and Medicine in California, is however, against a ban in the United States: "Anybody who puts their own moral guidance in the way of this biomedical science, where they want to impose their will—not just be part of an argument—if that leads to a ban or morato-

rium...they are stopping research that would save human lives," he said. Mr. Weissman is also the director of the mice with human brain experiment. He has already been successful in creating mice that have brains that are 1% human. His goal this year is to create mice that have brains that are 100% human, and then to "look for traces of human cognitive behavior."

Saving human lives, maybe, but also destroying human life. It is another disturbing sign that man has lost all sense of proper judgment and is therefore ready to be brought to his senses.

Source: *National Geographic*

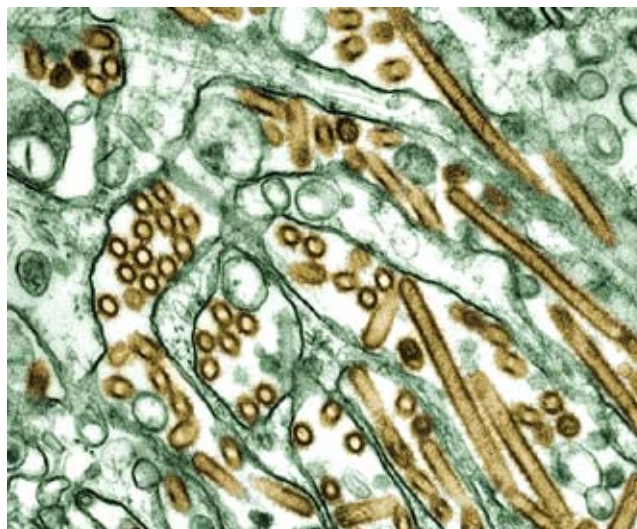
Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Plague Could Happen, Warns CDC

In the past, we reported that the World Health Organization expressed deep concern that the Bird Flu virus could possibly mutate to more efficiently be transmitted from one human to the next. It appears that it is even worse than they first thought. Now scientists believe that it is inevitable “that the virus...will evolve into a pathogen deadly for humans.”

With this currently being the high season for avian influenza in Asia, scientists are expecting to see a host of human cases. They believe that although human-to-human transmissions of the virus are rare, they are still an extremely high threat.

Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had stated that the mortality rate of patients who contract the disease is extremely high—72 percent perish! However, what is even more frightening is the prediction that Dr. Gerberding made: “We are seeing a highly pathogenic strain of influenza virus emerge to an extraordinary proportion across the entire western component of Asia. The reason this is so ominous is because of the evolution of the flu...You may see the emergence of a new strain to which the human population has no immunity.”

Source: www.msnbc.msn.com



■ Colorized transmission electron micrograph of Avian influenza A H5N1 viruses (seen in gold) grown in MDCK cells (seen in green)

PHOTO: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; C. Goldsmith

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Crime Snapshot

■ Americans top the world in the category of crimes. They also have the greatest number of burglaries, car thefts, rapes and assaults.

■ 0.7% of Americans are currently in prison.

■ You are 66 times more likely to be prosecuted in the U.S. than in France.

■ Americans and Russians both lead the world in imprisoning people.

■ Russia has almost twice the number of judges and magistrates as the U.S.—but the U.S. has eight times more crimes committed than Russia.

■ The U.S. puts many more of its citizens in prison than any other nation.

■ Per capita, South Africa has the most assaults, rapes, and murders with firearms.

■ Two-thirds of the world's executions occur in China.

■ Two-thirds of the world's kidnappings occur in Colombia.

■ Venezuela is one of the happiest and most murderous places in the world.

■ There are more than two jails for every 1,000 men in the Maldives.

■ In Colombia, the average criminal sentence length is 137 years.

■ In Australia, about one in three people are victims of crime.

■ Saudi diplomats have 367 outstanding parking fines in Britain.

Source: www.nationmaster.com



RELIGION

Rift Widens in the Anglican Church

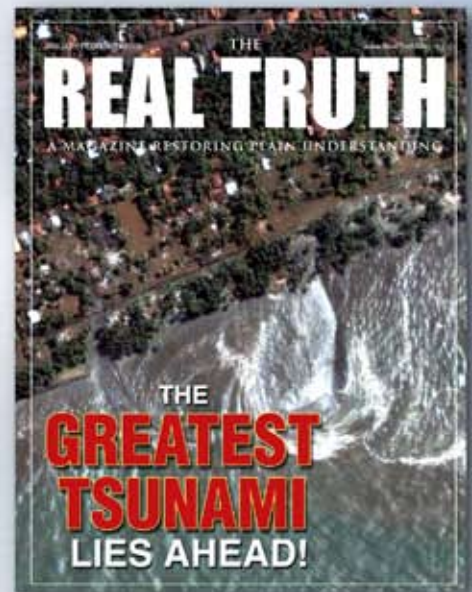
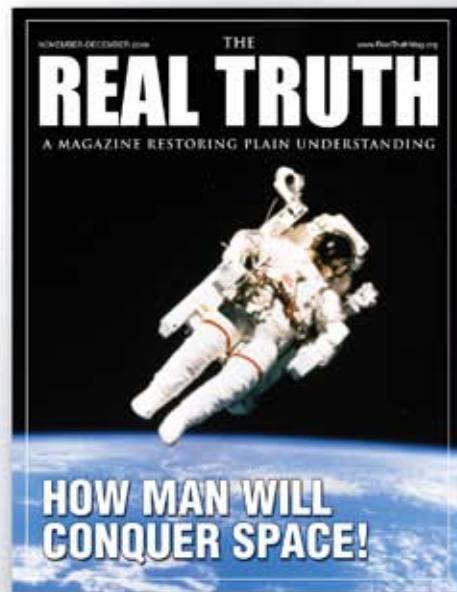
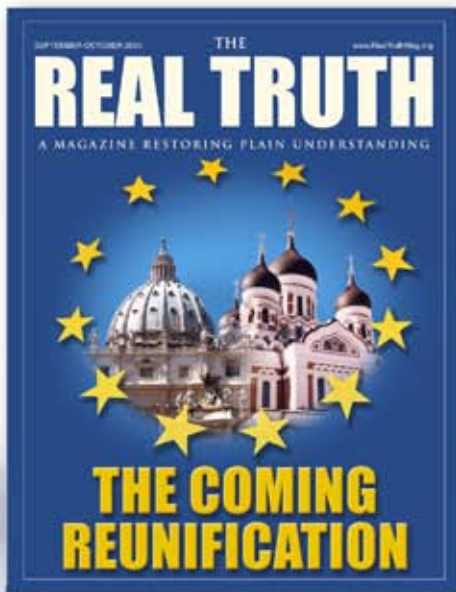
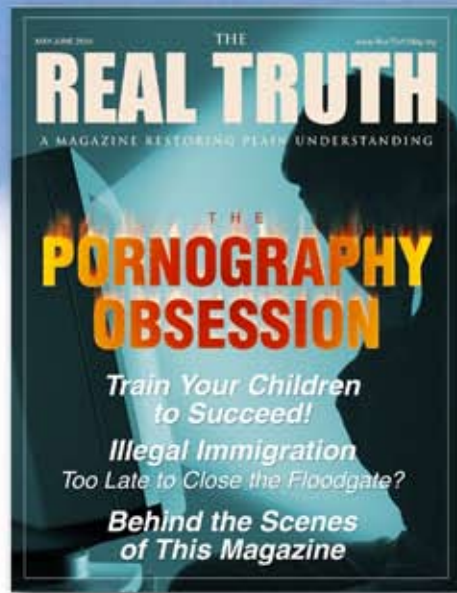
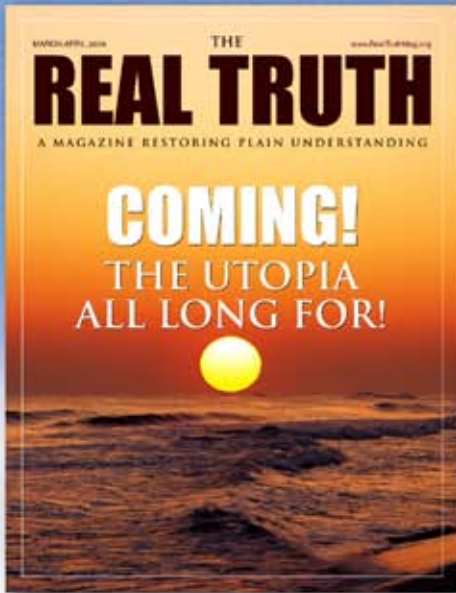
Due to their position on homosexuality, U.S. and Canadian Anglican churches have been asked to withdraw from the Anglican Consultative Council until 2008. The reason for the move is the countries' stances on homosexuality. If you recall, in 2003, the U.S. church ordained a gay bishop. That same year, Canadian churches began blessing same-sex unions. Dr. Williams, leader of the worldwide Anglican Community, has said, “The North American Churches have been told very clearly and directly about the potential cost of the actions they have taken.”

The desired intent is for these churches to “consider their place within the Anglican Communion” and to repent of their mistake. They could refuse the request. But it is likely they will withdraw; and if they do, it could be the beginning of a permanent split.

There is no indication that either side will give in to the other's demands. In all likelihood, the Anglican Church will suffer a split in 2008 when the two sides meet. (You may wish to read our article “HOMOSEXUALITY – Out of the Closet, Into the Mainstream,” published in the January-February 2004 edition of *The REAL TRUTH* magazine. You can freely access it at www.realtruthmag.org.)

Source: www.newsvote.bbc.co.uk

Have you missed out on previous issues?



You can read them online at your convenience!